

**Grand Valley Metro Council  
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, November 20, 2008  
12:00 pm

Grand Valley Metro Council  
40 Pearl Street NW, Suite 410  
Grand Rapids, MI

**MEETING NOTES**

**Present**

Jim Buck  
Daryl Delabbio  
Don Hilton, Sr.  
Kurt Kimball  
Audrey Nevins  
Rick Root  
Carol Sheets

City of Grandville  
Kent County  
Gaines Township  
City of Grand Rapids  
Byron Township  
City of Kentwood  
City of Wyoming

**Absent**

Cy Moore  
Jim Miedema  
Alan Vanderberg

Council Treasurer  
Jamestown Township  
Ottawa County

**Other**

Andy Bowman  
Bob Homan  
Curtis Holt  
Dharmesh Jain  
Gayle McCrath  
Craig Paul  
Don Stypula  
Greg Sundstrom  
Steve Warren

Grand Valley Metro Council  
Plainfield Township  
City of Wyoming  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
Kent County  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
City of Grand Rapids  
Kent County Road Com.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm by Chair Jim Buck.

## 2. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve the October, 2008, GVMC Executive Committee Minutes. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT- Nevins. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 3. Legislative

Don Stypula explained legislative issues and the Michigan Transportation Funding Task Force report recommendations. He stated he was not sure the issue would be taken up by the legislature.

The Legislative Committee authorized Don to move forward and offer assistance on this issue. Don will stay on top of it. He expects nothing to move in Lansing until the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

## 4. Transportation – Amend 2008-2011 TIP

Abed Itani explained the request for the amendment to the 2008-2011 TIP. The amendments would affect the following:

- City of Hudsonville is requesting Surface Transportation Program (Urban) (STPU) funding for a previously submitted project for CMAQ funding in FY 2009. This project was to be funded under the CMAQ program, but was determined ineligible by FHWA and MDOT. The project is located on 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. at the I-196 interchange.
- MDOT is requesting to modify two projects in FY 2009 as well as two cost revisions to existing projects (currently located in the TIP) and add four projects to FY 2009.
- Kent County Road Commission is requesting to add an HPP project to the FY 2009 TIP – Project to connect two trails. It is an earmark and the project will be completed in two phases.
- MDOT has announced the local STP Safety Projects and High Risk Rural Road Programs which need to be incorporated into the FY 2008-2011 TIP.
- ITP is requesting to amend the TIP for FY 2009, 2010, and 2011 adding Section 5309 New Starts funding for the Division Ave. Bus Rapid Transit project.

**MOTION – To Approve the Requested Amendment to the 2008-2011 TIP. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Sheets. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 5. REGIS

Jim Buck welcomed the REGIS Executive Committee and the opportunity to share some thoughts.

Don Stypula reported this meeting is to discuss the interaction between GVMC and REGIS, an agency of the Grand Valley Metro Council. Don passed out the GVMC Bylaws which dictate the relationship between GVMC and its agencies, and what powers the agencies can have.

Don reported there have been some issues regarding how GVMC policy is carried out in relationship to REGIS. As an example he stated the policy in the GVMC Policies and Procedures Manual which gives the Executive Director the discretion of granting an additional employee holiday if a regular work day falls between the holiday and the weekend, as it does this year for Christmas and New Years. Issues have also arisen because of the regular updating of the GVMC salary range (3% this year per the GVMC and REGIS budgets), for all employees (except the Executive Director). After the budgets are passed, the increase automatically goes into effect as of the first of the fiscal year (October 1).

Curtis Holt spoke on REGIS' behalf regarding what the REGIS Executive Board felt were covered under REGIS' powers. There has been confusion regarding hiring, firing, personnel policies, etc. He stated it was important that they (the REGIS Executive Board) are the ones making the decisions regarding REGIS funds. There is a problem because the powers the REGIS Board currently has do not reflect the representation they feel was intended when it was created. He stated he felt it was a stand along agency, and as such should have different roles and responsibilities.

Greg Sundstrom stated they fully understand REGIS is not independent, and they do not want this meeting to be interpreted as an attempt to break away from GVMC. As Don Stypula has pointed out, we may not have the authority we think we have. If we don't, then we should.

Kurt Kimball stated when REGIS was first incorporated, the spirit was to make it under the umbrella of GVMC, but make it as self determined as possible. We understand that Dharmesh Jain is an employee of GVMC, but we want to give him as much empowerment as possible.

Rick Root spoke regarding discussions he has had with Keith VanBeek. The Executive Director has always felt empowered to do certain things; we need clarity on what that authority is. This problem has been boiling. What is the authority overall of GVMC at this juncture? This needs to be addressed.

Curtis Holt stated the GVMC Executive Director is working under policies and procedures developed for GVMC. REGIS has an Inter Governmental Agreement which

spells out the relationship between REGIS members. Maybe we need a document to spell out the relationship between REGIS and GVMC.

Carol Sheets reported REGIS has become very successful. Don Stypula doesn't need to handle the same things the REGIS Board does. However, there needs to be guidelines. GVMC oversees the whole thing, if it starts to flounder, GVMC can step in.

Bob Homan stated at the inception of REGIS it made sense to house it at GVMC and we were gratified to see it. It made sense and it still does. We need to sit down with Don and get some kind of an agreement.

Don Hilton stated he remembered working with Andy Bowman on REGIS. REGIS wouldn't be here if it weren't for GVMC bringing it together. He struggles with this issue and doesn't feel it has been discussed fully with the REGIS Board. We need to be careful and thoroughly discuss. GVMC shouldn't have to be left holding the bag if there is a struggle. If there is an issue between REGIS and the GVMC Executive Director, we need to sit down and talk. If REGIS is under the GVMC umbrella, then they are under the GVMC Executive Director. You can't have it both ways. We need to be careful not to divide ourselves while trying to align ourselves.

Greg Sundstrom stated they were not talking about succeeding, that has not been talked about at all.

Jim Buck added there was a lot of paperwork that needs to be reviewed relative to the current relationship between GVMC and REGIS. He has also spoken to a lot of people who were not aware of the situation. There needs to be a more in-depth look at this as well as discussion with more people.

**MOTION – For the Incoming REGIS Chair, the REGIS Director, GVMC Chair, and GVMC Executive Director to Meet to Discuss an Agreement before 11/18.  
MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Nevins. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **6. Adjournment—1:00 pm**