

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, December 18, 2003
12:00 PM

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

MINUTES

Present

Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Cindy Heinbeck	Alpine Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Mark Knudsen	Ottawa County
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Frank Sessions	Tallmadge Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker

Absent

None

Staff

Priscilla Babcock	Grand Valley Metro Council
Brian Berdanier	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 by Chair Jim Buck.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Buck asked if there were any changes to be made to the November 2003 Executive Committee Minutes. There were none.

MOTION – to Approve the November 2003 minutes of the GVMC Executive Committee Meeting. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Sessions. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Change of Date of January Executive Committee Meeting from 1/15/04 to 1/22/04

Stypula stated that the regularly scheduled date for the January Executive Committee would be Thursday, January 15th, which is the same week as the Board meeting and the Legislative meeting. Since there are five Thursdays in the month of January, Stypula proposed moving the Executive Committee back one week to January 22nd.

MOTION – to support the date change of the Executive Committee meeting from January 15th to January 22nd. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Sessions. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Deborah Olson, New Representative for Cedar Springs for swearing-in at January GVMC meeting.

MOTION – To approve Deborah Olson as the New Representative for Cedar Springs for swearing-in at January GVMC meeting. MOVE - Delabbio. SUPPORT – Knudsen. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Appointment of Sharon Vanderbout as Kent County Representative to REGIS Board.

MOTION – to approve the appointment of Sharon Vanderbout as Kent County Representative to REGIS Board. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Transportation

a. Amendment to Unified Work Plan

Itani summarized that staff is requesting the amendment of the FY2004 Unified Planning Work Program to reflect federal Surface Transportation Program carry over funds from FY2003 under work items Geographic Information System, Pavement Management System, and Congestion Management System. In order for GVMC to retain these funds the FY2004 UPWP needs to be amended. The annual expenditures of the GVMC Transportation Department for FY2004 will not increase due to the FY2003 carry over funds.

b. Amendment to TIP for Interurban Transportation Partnership

Itani explained that ITP is requesting to add several more projects to the list of approved projects included in the FY2004 TIP. This request will not affect the financial constrain of the FY2004 program. In order to receive Federal

Funds for the requested amendment, GVMC approval is required. The Technical and Policy Committees recommend approval.

MOTION – to approve the amendment to the 2004 UPWP and to approve the FY2004 TIP amendment. MOVE – Sessions. SUPPORT – Knudsen. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Buck Creek Section 319 Grant Proposal

Stypula summarized that they have the opportunity to apply for a federal Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant in order to implement some of the recommendations that came from the Lower Grand River Watershed management plan. The goal of this project is to reduce levels of E. coli inputs to meet state water quality standards. The responsibilities of GVMC would have as the grantee for this proposal would be to attend and participate in quarterly meetings (with a time commitment of 24 staff hours over two years), review WMP recommendations to ensure compatibility with GVMC's existing programs, and provide administrative assistance for submitting required reports to MDEQ. This implementation proposal and grant request is due to MDEQ by January 5, 2004.

Heinbeck questioned past discussions regarding the use of a single project manager. She inquired whether WRI would be included along with FTC&H. Bowman clarified that WRI was working on a 319 Grant for Sand Creek and that FTC&H was working on a 319 Grant for Buck Creek. (It was mentioned that the Sand Creek 319 Grant might have fallen through).

Moore questioned what would happen if we did not take this on. Stypula replied that they would have to find someone else to do it. Heinbeck questioned whether this would be going to the Board. Stypula stated that there was not enough time since the deadline is January 5th.

Heinbeck commented that she has been disappointed with FTC&H in the past. Knudsen stated that he was of the same opinion. Knudsen questioned whether we could pay FTC&H to write the grant but then bid out the rest. Hilton voiced that it did not make sense to change firms in the middle of all this when FTC&H has all the information from the Lower Grand Study that they did.

MOTION – to approve the recommendation that GVMC act as an official grantee and enable GVMC staff to work with project participants and project managers at FTC&H to secure Section 319 funds for the Buck Creek Project. MOVE – Sessions. SUPPORT – Kimball. Aays = 7, Nays = 2 (Heinbeck & Knudsen). MOTION CARRIED.

8. Local Government Curriculum – Strategy Recommendation

Stypula stated that they are recommending the production of an interactive video, packaged on a DVD that would be distributed to school systems in all

GVMC communities, and – with additional funding from other sources – to all school systems in the state.

Karen Totterhoff, a professional teacher trainer, has been recommended to conduct the in-service training with a group of teachers. Her 2 – 3 hour session will be scripted and videotaped. This video will then be used to train other teachers.

- Moore questioned whether there would be follow up. Stypula replied that GVMC as well as the other groups involved in this project planned to have some sort of follow up such as a survey.
- Heinbeck question whether the Executive Committee would be able to review the script. Stypula answered that all groups involved would be able to review the script before the videotaping.
- Kimball questioned whether the superintendents of the schools have approved using this approach to train the teachers – do they think it will be effective, or will it just end up in the circular file? Stypula stated that they have spoke with a few superintendents as well as KISD.
- Bowman added that MSU Extension has an educational packet in the lower grade levels and that we might want to link the two projects together.

MOTION – for final approval to authorize GVMC to support the Local Government Curriculum Scholarship strategy. MOVE – Heinbeck. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

9. Blueprint Committee Recommendation - Resolution on Metropolitan Framework

Bowman summarized that the attached resolution has been recommended by the Blueprint Committee and outlines the type of decision that they need from GVMC at this time. As stated in the resolution, a GVMC decision will serve two purposes: (1) allow the use of the plan to function as a regional plan for the Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board in accepting and processing applications for PDR requests, and (2) allow staff to use the draft framework on an interim basis to discuss its current proposals with regional entities and service providers and take comment for future meetings with subregions, local governments and GVMC. Also, as stated in the proposed resolution, this is intended as approval for interim use only.

- Knudsen commented that Jamestown Township and Wright Township would prefer to be removed from the map, but it was ok to include Chester Township. Bowman took note.
- Hilton questioned whether each local government entity was going to need to put their stamp of approval on this? Bowman replied that local

approval was not going to be required, but they will be asked to adopt if they wanted to.

- Knudsen inquired on whether the district definitions would be defined. Bowman stated that he could do this.
- Bowman stated that the Metropolitan Framework was not intended to match local master and zoning plans, rather it be used for a visionary expression of what we can accomplish together.

MOTION – To move the resolution onto the Board for approval. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Legislative Update

a. Issues Update

Stypula reported that we have a budget deal and that they are voting on it now.

- There will be no more cuts to statutory revenue sharing
- They have paused the income tax rollback for 6 months
- \$20 million additional cuts to the general fund
- A significant cut in business taxes, tied to employers' health care plans for employees, was also part of the budget package.

Stypula also commented on legislation regarding mobile home parks. Discussions are continuing with MTA, MML and MAC and legislative leaders, but it appears highly unlikely that any legislation will move through the State House in the near future.

b. Legislative Breakfast Update

Stypula stated that the breakfast went fairly well.

c. Legislative Dinner

Stypula noted that the dinner will be held on January 22nd at the Pen Club.

11. Other Items

Heinbeck question whether someone was working on getting Judy Frey replaced on the Executive Committee. Buck stated that they were working on this.

12. Adjourn

MOTION – To adjourn the Executive Committee meeting at 1:30 PM. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Heinbeck. MOTION CARRIED.