

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

December 15, 2011

11:30 a.m.

Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI

MEETING NOTES

Present

Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker

Absent

Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Alan Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Other

Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. by Chair Jim Buck.

2. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – Approval of GVMC Executive Committee Minutes of November 2011.
MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Transportation

The FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) includes the budget for all federally assisted transportation planning activities that the GVMC Transportation Division, the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), will undertake. Any changes in the federal funding amounts under work items in the UWP warrant a UWP amendment and approval by the GVMC Board.

Staff is requesting the amendment of the FY2012 UWP, to reflect an additional transportation funding grant, and previously obligated unspent transportation planning funds from FY2011. The first item is a State Planning and Research (SPR) grant for US-131 Transportation/Land Use Corridor Study for the amount of \$75,000. The second item is to add previously obligated unspent PL-112 funds in the amount of \$50,000 for the Michigan Street Corridor Study. Both of those changes are related to work item “3.2”- Technical Assistance.

Staff is requesting to amend “Work Item 3.2” for the total amount of \$125,000. In order for GVMC to retain these funds the FY2012 UPWP needs to be amended.

MOTION – To Amend the Unified Planning Work Program as Requested. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Heartwell. MOTION CARRIED.

4. LGROW Grant from Wege Foundation

Don Stypula reported GVMC has received a grant from the Wege Foundation for \$60,000 over a 3 year period starting in February of 2012. These funds will be used for LGROW’s Communications and Business Plan project running during that same period. The project includes several tasks for benchmarking watershed practices, conducting marketing and focus groups for LGROW stakeholders, preparing a communications strategy, and creating an LGROW business plan. As part of this process, several related projects will be conducted including educational efforts for sub-basin members, enhancing LGROW media content, developing a web-based infrastructure for effective communications and an educational strategy to introduce the recently approved Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Grand, particularly to intended WMP users.

The funds provided by the Wege Foundation will allow us to complete long-awaited LGROW work on a broad communications strategy. It will also fund the sub-basin educational efforts and staff-time for project administration. Though details are still being worked out, another \$15,000 is being sought from two other Grand Rapids area foundations to fund the web infrastructure, the Watershed Management Plan education and the creation of the business plan. For this project, LGROW will be partnering with the Center for Environmental Studies, the Community Media Center, and FTC&H. Additional technical assistance will likely be provided as needed for various parts of the project including the LGROW business plan.

5. Emerging Issues Committee

Don Stypula reported there will be an Emerging Issues committee organizational meeting at 9:30 preceding the Board meeting on January 9th at the Prince Center.

Jim Buck stated if GVMC is to go to a new format of Board meeting (rotating regular sessions with work sessions) it is important to do it right. A lot of work needs to go into the work sessions to make sure they are a success. We should hold off initiating the new format until we are ready to make the required commitments.

6. Legislative Advocacy

Don Stypula reported that as of tonight, the legislature will be out of session until January 10. The Governor's transportation funding bills should be introduced on January, although most of the options are dead in the water.

7. Executive Session to Discuss Executive Search

Staff was excused for an executive session. 12:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment – 1:15 p.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Young. MOTION CARRIED.