

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, February 19, 2004
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
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Frank Sessions	Tallmadge Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker

Absent

Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Mark Knudsen	Ottawa County

Staff

Brian Berdanier	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	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 12:15 by Chair Jim Buck.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January Executive Committee were reviewed.

MOTION – to Approve the January 2004 minutes of the GVMC Executive Committee Meeting. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Heinbeck. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Review of Financial Statements

Treasurer Cy Moore stated the audit had been received and the report was pretty straight forward. The new requirement of recording fixed assets on the books raised the fund balance, although no additional cash or receivables were actually added. It has been a pretty good year, with not much changing from the prior year.

Rick Root stated that he is comforted to see such a good report per the notes by the auditor.

Frank sessions questioned the REGIS fund balance.

Brian Berdanier explained that the REGIS fund balance had gone up because of some planned equipment purchases and upgrades, but now was being spent down.

Kurt Kimball questioned whether the indirect rate issue with MDOT had been cleared up.

Leon Branderhorst replied it was cleared up last year and an adjustment has been made to this year.

Rob VerHeulen questioned where the \$88,000 in donations came from.

Cy Moore replied they were from the Frey Foundation to GVMC and from various to Ozone Action funding.

Chairman Jim Buck stated if there was no objection, the audit report would be moved to the agenda of the March board meeting.

4. GVMC Dues Rebate – Recommendation of Work Group

Don Stypula reported a subcommittee had been convened which included himself, Cy Moore, Leon Branderhorst, Gayle McCrath, and Abed Itani, to look at what might be able to be done to help out GVMC members due to the harsh economic conditions and the severe cuts in revenue sharing. It was reported that the subcommittee proposed a 10% rebate this year of the dues paid by each entity. The subcommittee also suggested that if conditions remain the same, the Executive Committee could consider a similar action.

Cy Moore stated that it has just been six months since the fund balance policy has been in place, and the balance has not reached the point at which the policy would suggest disbursement. This is an action being taken due to severe financial circumstances by member communities.

Daryl Delabbio asked whether this would be a rebate, or a reduction in payments.

Cy Moore stated it would be a rebate.

Kurt Kimball stated he appreciated the consideration of the committee and the Metro Council and he expressed his gratitude for the action.

MOTION – To move the proposal to rebate dues to the March GVMC Board Meeting.

MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Proposed Work Agreement between GVMC and the Land Conservancy of West Michigan

Andy Bowman reported on the proposed work agreement between GVMC and the Land Conservancy. It would be for a regional green infrastructure preservation map and would include a tool kit to create natural resource inventories. The work would include regional charrettes and an internet based application tool for the natural features inventory. A portion of the project would be dedicated to REGIS and a portion to Land Planning.

Discussion.

Jim Buck asked if the inventory would include eastern Ottawa County.

Andy Bowman replied that GVMC's work would basically be just for Kent County, with WMSA and MAC working on other areas.

Cindy Heinbeck asked whether the GIS department in Ottawa County had been contacted.

Andy Bowman reported yes, we are working with them, although they do not have nearly as many layers of information as REGIS does.

MOTION – To move the work agreement between GVMC and the Land Conservancy to the agenda of the March 2004 GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Sessions. SUPPORT – Heinbeck. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Transportation – Safety Project Amendment to the FY 2004 – 2006 TIP

Abed Itani reported MDOT notified us of approval of 7 safety projects. They will need to be included in the TIP to receive funding. The communities receiving these projects will need to send their projects to MDOT as soon as possible to obligate the funds, as funds are running out fast.

MOTION – To move approval of the TIP amendment to the GVMC Board Meeting agenda. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Sessions. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Request for Proposals for Land Use Market Study

Andy Bowman reported on the request for approval of a contract with Zimmerman/Volk Associates, Inc. for work in conjunction with the Blueprint II project. Funding has been set aside for this project. The project is described as a market study which would show the present and future economic and social demand for non-standard housing types located in traditional urban centers, towns and neighborhoods.

MOTION – To move request for proposals for land use market study to March 2004 GVMC Board agenda. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

8. City / Township Cooperation Committee / Strategic Planning Date

The Executive Committee members reviewed dates and decided on Marcy 19 and May 21 from noon – 3:00 for the GVMC Strategic Planning.

9. REGIS

Brian Berdanier explained the REGIS Board has approved a reduction to the budget of 20%, resulting in an 11% reduction in the fund balance. Total requested member contribution revenues have been reduced from \$1,564,750 to \$1,250,927.

Cy Moore stated REGIS may want to look at revenue from real estate companies. REGIS could be a great tool for these types of ventures.

Brian Berdanier responded that they are trying to build interest through associate membership, non-profit and schools and subscription services to consulting firms.

MOTION – To move the amended REGIS budget to the GVMC March board agenda. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Heinbeck. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Change in Distribution Method of Agenda Packets

Gayle McCrath reported that for efficiency and cost effectiveness, Executive Committee, Board Meeting and Legislative Committee agenda packets will be distributed electronically, either through email or fax.

11. Legislative Update

Don Stypula reported that SEMCOG no longer lobbies in Lansing as its organization cannot agree on positions.

The “front loading” of tax collection for counties has been nixed, so the previously reported revenue sharing proposal is off the table and it is likely this could result in cuts to all entities.

TEA21 – Will be no reauthorization before the election. There has been an extension of current funding for 5 months.

Working on a bill to define commerce centers.

Senator Johnson has suggested looking at reducing transit funding.

12. Request from MDOT to Present 5-Year Capitol Improvement Plan at March Board Meeting.

The committee agreed to a short presentation by MDOT at the March Board meeting.

13. Other – None

14. Adjourn – 1:30

MOTION – To adjourn. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Heinbeck. MOTION CARRIED.