

**Grand Valley Metro Council  
Executive Committee Meeting**

February 28, 2013  
12:00 noon  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave. NW, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Minutes**

**Present**

Jim Buck  
Matthew Butts  
Daryl Delabbio  
Mike DeVries  
Brian Donovan  
Curtis Holt  
Bob Homan  
Rich Houtteman  
Cindy Janes  
Alan Vanderberg

City of Grandville  
City of Grandville  
Kent County  
Grand Rapids Township  
City of East Grand Rapids  
City of Wyoming  
Plainfield Township  
City of Kentwood  
Cascade Township  
Ottawa County

**Absent**

George Heartwell  
Don Hilton, Sr.  
Cy Moore  
Michael Young

City of Grand Rapids  
Gaines Township  
Council Treasurer  
City of Rockford

**Other**

Chris Brown  
Abed Itani  
Dharmesh Jain  
Gayle McCrath  
John Weiss

Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council / REGIS  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Jim Buck called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the January Executive Committee Minutes. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **3. Finance Report**

Chris Brown reviewed the financial report which was included in the agenda packet. Everything is looking good for all four funds. The LGROW fund is higher than usual as NPDES funds are now being run through this account. This will deplete over the year as payments are made to Fishbeck.

**MOTION – To Approve the Finance Report and Forward it to the GVMC Board. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **4. March Board Meeting & Quarterly Luncheon**

The next GVMC Board Meeting will be Monday, March 11, 10:30 a.m. at the Prince Center. The Quarterly Luncheon will follow at noon with Congressman Bill Huizenga as the featured speaker. Huizenga will also attend the GVMC Board Meeting.

## **5. Other**

The Truscott – Rossman Strategic and Crisis Communication seminar will be offered March 14 at 10:00 a.m., at the East Grand Rapids Community Center. Sixty-five people are expected to attend from a broad range of backgrounds.

The Street Summit is scheduled for April 8 with Rob VerHeulen co-hosting. It will start at 9 a.m. at the Kent County Road Commission. A subcommittee is responsible for the route. Abed Itani reviewed the proposed route and will provide a map to anyone requesting one. Each segment of the course will have its own speaker narrating. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce is setting up business owners to comment on how bad roads affect their ability to receive & deliver goods, as well as service customers. The event will not advocate any particular method of raising transportation funding, but rather just fix the roads.

March 17-19 John will be attending the Governor's Economic Summit, and in April will travel to Washington D.C. with the Chamber of Commerce.

## 6. March Executive Committee Meeting & April Board Meeting

John explained there are scheduling difficulties for the April GVMC Board meeting including spring break, the Street Summit, and the unavailability of the County Chambers on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not there was business to be taken care of which would require an April meeting and the preceding Executive committee meeting in March.

**MOTION – To Move to the GVMC Board the Recommendation to Cancel the March Executive Committee and April Board Meetings. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 7. REGIS Discussion

Jim Buck opened the discussion. He stated there has been a lot of talk about the REGIS Memo of Understanding (MOU). We are very, very pleased with what has been going on at GVMC and would like to extend our congratulations to John for making that happen. The GVMC Executive Committee has extended an invitation to the REGIS Executive Committee to discuss the MOU. What may have been pertinent at one time is not so now.

Brian Donovan stated there has been good movement in REGIS financially and operationally. GVMC is also heading in a good direction. Things have changed for both organizations. Can we work together as one organization?

Curtis Holt reported he doesn't have a lot to add to what Brian said. He has had many conversations with John. The past concerns are no longer valid. GVMC has made great gains under John's leadership. It is important for him to be able to operate and synchronize communications and cooperation between all groups. The MOU may be in the way at this point. Curtis has studied the MOU in-depth and the only change it appears to make in the GVMC / REGIS relationship is that the REGIS Director reports to the REGIS Board and they set his compensation. He asked the group, "Is there truly relevance in the MOU? Does it make a difference? Is it needed?" He said, "I don't think so".

Rich Houtteman stated he agreed with the previous comments. Instead of there being a distancing of the two entities, they should come together and try to be better partners.

Al Vanderberg said he supported removing the MOU. The document has a unique history. It was basically a work around for a leadership problem we were having. It is time to let the MOU go and let the organization function the way it was intended.

Matt Butts reported he has been thinking about the issue for a long while and believes it is time to rethink the MOU. By getting rid of it the organization would become more efficient.

Bob Homan stated he believed the MOU was created at a time when the offices were moving and there was conflict over allocation of space. When REGIS was created, it made sense for

it to be under GVMC, and it still does. What would abolishing the agreement accomplish? Shouldn't that decision be a mutual one? It would be a good idea to bring the issue back to the REGIS Board.

Cindy Janes said she agreed the MOU is ineffective and is no longer needed.

Daryl Delabbio stated he agreed.

Mike DeVries said he hoped there would be more inclusion with the REGIS Board, but that it should still fall under the same management. We need to make sure there is no lack of information flowing from GVMC to REGIS.

Curtis Holt stated he agreed the issue should be discussed with the REGIS Board and that it should be a mutual decision. The MOU was created as a work around. However, we no longer need that. John needs the freedom to manage the entire organization.

Brian Donovan suggested Bob Homan bring the issue to the REGIS Board, have them move on it and then get back with GVMC.

Mike DeVries added that Both REGIS and GVMC would be strengthened by John's leadership, communication skills and salesmanship.

John Weiss said he wanted to assure Bob the Executive Committee never intended elimination of the MOU as a unilateral action. The Executive Committee has been talking a long time about getting together and taking up the issue.

Bob Homan asked if the REGIS Board moved to eliminate the MOU, would it be complying with the wishes of the GVMC Executive Committee.

He was told yes, it would.

**8. Adjourn 1:25 p.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Janes. MOTION CARRIED.**