

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

July 18, 2013

12:00 noon

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

Minutes

Present

Jim Buck
Mike DeVries
Brian Donovan
George Heartwell
Don Hilton, Sr.
Cindy Janes
Cy Moore
Alan Vanderberg
Michael Young

City of Grandville
Grand Rapids Township
City of East Grand Rapids
City of Grand Rapids
Gaines Township
Cascade Township
Council Treasurer
Ottawa County
City of Rockford

Absent

Daryl Delabbio

Kent County

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 May Executive Committee Minutes. MOVE – DeVries.
SUPPORT – Janes. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Addition of Ada and Withdrawal of Sparta and Sparta Township

John Weiss reviewed the resolution to change the GVMC Articles of Incorporation to allow for the addition of Ada Township and the withdrawal of Sparta and Sparta Township.

Gayle McCrath explained the process for amending the Articles which includes approval of a resolution by the GVMC Board; public notice; unanimous approval by the legislative bodies of all GVMC members; and filing the new Articles with Kent County and the Michigan Secretary of State.

It was questioned whether the process should be shortened, which in itself would require an amendment to the Articles. Gayle will check the enabling legislation to see if the current process is mandated in the legislation, or if it can be shortened through a change to the Articles. (Research later showed the process is mandated in the enabling legislation).

MOTION – To Move the Resolution to Amend the GVMC Articles of Incorporation to Add Ada Township and Withdraw Sparta and Sparta Township to the August GVMC Board Agenda. MOVE – Janes. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.

4. GVMC 2013/2014 Budget Preview

John Weiss explained the GVMC budget calendar. The Transportation and REGIS budgets have been approved by their respective committees and Boards. Many people have been involved in the process. This is the preview of the budget which will be available for review until September 5 when it will go to the GVMC Board for final approval.

Michael Young asked about funds budgeted for NPDES contracts, LGROW and Strategic Initiatives. John Weiss explained we are evaluating current contracts and evaluating the possibility of hiring an additional person and/or persons to cover these areas. It was discussed that these areas might not be best served by the same person. Al Vanderberg suggested hiring a city manager type person for the Strategic Initiatives area.

John Weiss explained that in REGIS, dues are currently covering about 75% of operating expenses. Moving forward, this amount will increase to an anticipated 90% in 2015. Increases in revenues will need to take place over the next 5 years. A group of REGIS Board members is looking at changing the pricing model and bringing Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids back.

Michael Young reported REGIS took over the city of Rockford's website. It has been fantastic and has saved the City money.

MOTION – To Forward the 2013/2014 GVMC Budget to the August GVMC Agenda for First Review. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Heartwell. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Membership Discussion: GVMC/REGIS/LGROW/MPO

A discussion took place on the topic of whether or not entities which are eligible to be members of GVMC should be allowed to be members of REGIS, LGROW or the MPO without being GVMC members and paying full dues. GVMC to some extent subsidizes these entities. When member communities withdraw from GVMC but retain membership in the other groups, it ends up costing full members more. Some communities have used this tactic to deliberately “cherry pick” the services without paying GVMC dues. For quite some time, the policy that if a community retains membership in the MPO, but not GVMC, it must pay what would be the full GVMC dues, but those dues are then allocated entirely to the MPO. There is also concern about communities strategically leaving the MPO and then rejoining when they need a project funded.

Al Vanderberg suggested having three different categories.

Michael Young suggested those who are eligible to be GVMC members should be required to be or pay the full GVMC dues.

Brian Donovan suggested a pricing structure for LGROW which included member, non-member and those who are eligible to be members but choose not.

John asked Al Vanderberg if his committee on committees would take on this question also.

Al stated yes they would.

Abed Itani added we need to have a policy on communities which leave the MPO and then rejoin when they want a project funded. He suggested a policy of back payment of dues plus interest.

6. August Presentations

John Weiss explained that Roger Safford of MDOT will be presenting at the August board meeting.

7. Executive Committee & Officers 2013/2014

Jim Buck explained as of November 11, he will no longer be Mayor of Grandville and no longer a member of the Metro Council. Therefore, GVMC will have to elect a new Chairman.

Gayle McCrath reported a community’s representative to the Metro Council must be either a member of their legislative body or its chief appointed administrator. GVMC officers can be anyone who is a GVMC representative; elected official, appointed official, or At-Large member.

Discussion ensued on the topic including the option of Jim Buck being nominated as a representative for either Kent County or as an At-Large member.

George Heartwell stated he felt it would be best if the Chairperson did not come from one of the three largest members, as he would like to avoid the perception that they were dominating the Council. The Council might want to consider term limits for the Chair as well as alternating between a city, township and county.

It was determined the Human Resources committee would put forth a slate of recommended officers, Executive committee members and At-Large members as well as review structure and term limits. The Executive committee will undertake the recommendation of the new Chairperson.

John Weiss would like to block time in the August and September Executive committee meetings to address this.

8. Adjourn 1:25 p.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Janes. MOTION CARRIED.