

**Grand Valley Metro Council  
Executive Committee Meeting**

April 21, 2016

12:00 noon

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

**Minutes**

**Present**

Daryl Delabbio  
Mike DeVries  
Brian Donovan  
Cy Moore  
Jack Poll  
Alan Vanderberg  
John Weiss

Kent County  
Grand Rapids Township  
City of East Grand Rapids  
Treasurer  
City of Wyoming  
Ottawa County  
Grand Valley Metro Council

**Absent**

Alex Arends  
Rosallynn Bliss  
Jim Buck  
Don Hilton, Sr.

Alpine Township  
City of Grand Rapids  
Secretary  
Gaines Township

**Other**

Abed Itani  
Gayle McCrath  
Jason Moore  
Wendy Ogilvie  
Chris Brown

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair Al Vanderberg called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

## 2. Six Month Financial Report

John Weiss reported financially GVMC is doing extremely well in all departments.

Chris Brown added the financials are very solid. The fund balance currently appears inflated due to two issues:

- the influx of RPI funds (\$235,000) which will be depleted as the year continues
- the receipt of the year's dues which will be spent down by fiscal year end through normal operating expenses

REGIS is on the plus side and reflects a strong stance. A major upgrade was accomplished using the salary savings realized from the reorganization and other cost cutting measures.

Environmental programs are financially strong and growing. Additional communities are joining the NPDES program. Environmental education is going very well. The Spring Forum will be held on May 6 at the Wisner Center of Cascade Township.

Transportation has finished the public involvement phase of the TIP. Data collection has been started for the roads. Several communities outside of the MPO are contacting with us for data collection.

Transportation, REGIS and Environmental Programs are also working on the single source program.

## 3. At-Large Appointment

Mark Lemoine has resigned his At-Large appointment as he has left employment at Spectrum Health. Candidates to fill this position were sought with a background in health care, as GVMC has sought representation from the health care field for this position previously.

Micki Benz from Mercy St. Mary's applied for the spot. Several of the Executive Committee members are familiar with Micki and her qualifications.

**MOTION – To Recommend the Appointment of Micki Benz as an At-Large Member to the GVMC Board. MOTION – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 4. Regional Prosperity Initiative Funding Resolution

John Weiss reported funding for the Regional Prosperity Initiative has been removed from the Senate version of the State budget for next year. It is still in the House version of the budget. The RPI has been very successful in West Michigan, bringing over \$700,000 to fund very successful projects including the Muskegon Port, Connect Michigan (broadband) and the Clean Water Initiative. Region 4 has been recognized statewide for its leadership, innovation, collaboration, cooperation and success in the RPI.

**MOTION – To Recommend to the GVMC Board the Approval of a Resolution in Support of Continued State of Michigan Funding for the Regional Prosperity Initiative. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Poll. MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. 10 Cents a Meal Resolution**

John Weiss reported on the 10 Cents a Meal pilot program which has been added to the State of Michigan School Aid bill (\$500,000). It supports local agribusiness, schools, and childhood nutrition in West and Northwest Michigan by rebating schools up to 10 cents a meal for locally sourced food. GVMC would receive up to 10% of funding distributed in Region 4 for acting as the fiduciary and administering the program.

**MOTION – To Recommend to the GVMC Board Approval of a Resolution in Support of the 10 Cents a Meal Program and GVMC’s Involvement in the Program. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Poll. MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. Center for Michigan – Community Conversation**

John Weiss reported the Center for Michigan would be holding a Community Conversation at the next GVMC Board Meeting.

**7. Other**

- a. Next Meeting – May 19** – Al Vanderberg reported at the next Executive Committee Meeting Strategic Planning would be reviewed.
- b. Property Tax for Non-Profits** –Daryl Delabbio and Mike DeVries discussed the difficulties facing municipalities due to property tax exemptions for non-profit entities. With the abundance of non-profit medical facilities in the area, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the tax base. Issues also arise for Michigan as a whole as the State budget makes up for school aid funds lost due to non-profit property tax exemption. The MML and MTA are working on the issue and Mike DeVries would like GVMC to work to open a dialogue with legislators also.

**8. Adjourn – 1:00 p.m.**

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