

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, June 17, 2010
12:00 pm

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
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Alan Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker

Absent

George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood

Other

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 p.m. by Chair Jim Buck.

2. Legislative

Don Stypula reported that of the 73 legislative candidate surveys that were sent out, about 30 have been returned. Almost all of the serious contenders returned their surveys. Today he will do an e-mail reminder. The results will then be compiled by district.

On July 12th we will have a candidates forum instead of our traditional Quarterly Luncheon. Lunch will be a buffet and the forum will be an informal meet and greet.

Jim Buck added that is important we make a presentation of the GVMC goals and issues at the start. The tables will be broken down according to districts and questioning can go on at each table.

Don Stypula stated Rick Root and Mike DeVries will make the presentations.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – Approval of GVMC Executive Committee Minutes of May 2010. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT - Fox. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Transportation

a. Presentation and Approval of the new FY 2011-2014 GVMC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Abed Itani explained the FY2011-2014 GVMC Transportation Improvement Program. Every three years the TIP is done again. It includes local, ITP and MDOT projects. Environmental justice and air quality analyses have been performed and two public meetings have been held to gather input.

MOTION – To Approve the FY 2011-2014 GVMC Transportation Improvement Program. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED

b. Presentation and Discussion only of the GVMC FY 2010-2011 Transportation Department Unified Planning Work Program and Budget

Don Stypula reviewed a graph of the GVMC revenue sources and allocation. He explained the utilization of GVMC and Transportation dues. Seventy-nine thousand dollars of GVMC dues was used as local match for transportation expenses this year.

The GVMC FY 2010-2011 Unified Work Program reflects what Federal Highway demands. The question is, can we continue to take funding from the general dues to subsidize the transportation local match or should we consider an alternative. We had a good discussion at the Policy committee. Next Tuesday a subcommittee will meet to discuss various Transportation dues scenarios. A recommendation will come back to the Executive committee.

Abed Itani explained in past years the policy has been to use GVMC dues to pay the local match for transportation funding. This has been applied to the administrative services performed by GVMC on behalf of Transportation. If Transportation dues were to pay for their own administrative services, then the GVMC dues could be used for other things.

Abed Itani reviewed a summary of three options for Transportation dues calculation. The first is to leave as is. The second option is to shift some of the cost for the townships to the Road Commission. The third option is a pay-for-play option with a \$1,000 base and a benefit fee. Those communities who have a project in the works for a particular year would pay the benefit fee in that year. This system is self sustainable and takes the population factor out of the equation.

The proposed budget is fiscally constrained, does not include a salary increase, and the Transportation department has not added staff in several years even though the requirements have become more technical. There is no fat to cut in the budget.

Rob VerHeulen asked what happens if a member withdraws from the Metro Council.

Don Stypula explained per policy set over 10 years ago, if a member withdraws from Metro Council but stays a member of the MPO, they continue to pay full GVMC & Transportation dues, but the dues are entirely allocated to Transportation.

Rob VerHeulen asked if the MPO could make whatever dues structure and policy it wanted?

Abed Itani indicated yes, it could.

Don Stypula asked the committee if we are headed in the right direction in developing a way to use Transportation dues to entirely fund Transportation and not dipping into the general fund to subsidize.

Al Vanderberg stated yes.

Jim Buck asked what the Policy committee's response was.

Don Hilton stated the City of Grand Rapids and the Road Commission were not happy with the options but it prompted a motion for a subcommittee to study it. The intention has a lot of merit.

Daryl Delabbio said no matter how you argue the issue, some people are not going to be happy. It is a no win situation. I don't know what is most equitable, but this seems fairer than the current system.

Abed Itani added the MPO now has a policy in place which does not allow PE to be used from federal funds. Our ratio of local match for federal funds currently is 65/35 or 70/30. If we go to 80/20, we will save on local match. We are looking at a lot of innovative options. We are open to look at different possibilities or a hybrid system. In Muskegon the townships don't pay anything. The Road Commission pays it all.

Daryl Delabbio asked if the City of Grand Rapids was supportive.

Abed Itani replied he doesn't know the City's exact position, but the Road Commission was most vocal against.

Cy Moore asked if it could be phased in.

Abed Itani stated it is the Council's decision.

Rob VerHeulen said this system seems fairer.

Al Vanderberg said it is fairer not to subsidize transportation, but not everyone wins.

Abed Itani informed the committee the Policy subcommittee would be meeting Tuesday if anyone wanted to attend.

Jim Buck commented there seemed to be enthusiasm for spreading it out over a number of years.

Don Stypula stated GVMC dues haven't been increased since about 1997, while the cost of living has risen every year since.

Abed Itani explained the original budget was \$60,000 higher and the costs were cut to show members fiscal restraint.

Don Stypula stated he would relay the feelings of the Executive Committee to the Policy subcommittee next week.

5. Results of Membership Survey on Goals and Objectives

A special meeting will be held Wednesday, June 23, at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the results of the membership survey. Don will e-mail Daryl Delabbio's letter to everyone for their review.

6. Next Meeting – June 23, 2010, 3:30 p.m.

7. Adjournment – 1:30 p.m.