

# **Grand Valley Metro Council Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, September 13, 2007  
12:00 PM

Grand Valley Metro Council  
40 Pearl Street N.W., Suite 410  
Grand Rapids, MI

## **MINUTES**

### **Present**

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Don Hilton Sr.	Gaines Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township

### **Absent**

Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Alan Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Rick Root	City of Kentwood

### **Other**

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Chairperson Jim Buck.

#### **1. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion – To Approve the August, 2007, GVMC Executive Committee Minutes. MOVE – Nevins. SUPPORT – Kimball. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **2. Report from Nominating Committee**

Kurt Kimball reviewed the recommendations of the Nominating committee for the GVMC 2007-2008 officers. He reviewed the process and also brought up the subject of limited tenures for those serving as officers. He reported that there appeared to be no enthusiasm at this time for limiting tenure. He also discussed the possibility of adding an additional at-large member to the Board.

The proposed officers:

Chairperson:	Jim Buck
Vice Chairperson:	Don Hilton
Secretary:	Kurt Kimball
Treasurer:	Cy Moore

**MOTION – To Approve the Nominating Committee’s Recommendations for GVMC Officers for FY 2007-2008 and Move the Slate on to the GVMC Board for Approval. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Nevins. MOTION CARRIED.**

Jim Buck opened the discussion on the possibility of adding a 4<sup>th</sup> at-large member.

Questions included what process was followed last time; what process should be followed this time; should we review the areas of expertise represented and recruit someone from an area we are deficient in such as the education sector.

Gayle McCrath will investigate who were the other candidates when the last at-large member was added and what process was used.

Kurt Kimball will mention the possibility of adding an at-large member at the next GVMC Board meeting to solicit comments and ideas.

### **3. Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds**

Don Stypula updated the group on the Lower Grand watershed activities and reviewed the recommendations of the workgroup:

- A relationship between the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds and GVMC would be most ideal.
- Draft membership model.

Andy Bowman stated a lot of work has been done on the LGROW and there has been a lot of input from interested parties. He discussed the process and reviewed the recommendations. The organization would be designed to be an agency of GVMC and be able to spin off on its own at some point.

Don Stypula stated there would be no cost to GVMC. In fact, LGROW would subsidize GVMC. There currently is about \$20,000 left from the UBC grant. Creation of this organization would bring in more private and public sector funds. We will not be adding another full time person, possibly only a contract worker if funds permit.

Don Stypula stated he would like to invite Brian Donovan to answer questions at the next meeting.

Kurt Kimball asked if the creation of the LGROW agency would require an amendment to the GVMC bylaws.

Don Stypula stated he believed it would.

Kurt Kimball asked if the purpose is for the agency to eventually leave GVMC, how is this accomplished. If it would be permissible for LGROW to spin off, shouldn't it be possible for REGIS to also?

Andy Bowman stated that it's not that it is created that way in the bylaws, but designed that way organizationally.

Don Hilton asked if the intent is to have it stand on its own, why go through the moves of bringing them in to GVMC?

Don Stypula stated they are looking down the road to a structural format which would allow it to stand on its own. There would be no commingling of funds.

Jim Buck asked to see a rough draft of the articles at next month's meeting.

#### **4. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Grant Agreements**

Don Stypula reviewed the DEQ grant for the e-coli project. The DEQ has granted two requests for funding. The program would include public information pieces such as a flyer in the press. Don will bring a sample press insert to the next Board meeting.

**MOTION – To Move Approval of the DEQ Grants to the October GVMC Board Agenda. MOVE – Nevins. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.**

Jim Beelen asked if there was a relationship with these grants and LGROW. Would accepting these grants force GVMC to approve LGROW?

Don Stypula stated there would be a two year arrangement with LGROW.

Jim Beelen stated the Council should be sensitive to making a commitment to these grants before LGROW comes into existence.

**5. Legislative Issues**

Don Stypula reported on the Legislative committee meeting which focused on transportation funding. The group decided to form a study group which will bring back recommendations to the full committee.

No news on the state budget.

Townships are contacting MTA to request help from their legal defense fund to fight the Consumers Power rate increases.

**6. Other**

Jim Buck stated there was question at the September Board meeting from Michael Young and Al Vanderberg regarding the strategic work plan which was expected to be presented with the budget. Michael and Al will meet with Don to discuss the document.

**7. Adjourn – 1:30 p.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Beelen. SUPPORT – Hilton.  
MOTION CARRIED.**