

**Grand Valley Metro Council  
Executive Committee Meeting**

September 15, 2011

12:00 noon

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

**MEETING NOTES**

**Present**

Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Alan Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Michael Young	City of Rockford

**Absent**

Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
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**Other**

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. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – Approval of GVMC Executive Committee Minutes of August 2011. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Fox. MOTION CARRIED.**

### 3. Response to Phase II MDOT Commission Audit

Don Stypula reported the proposed response to the MDOT Phase II audit is \$159,305 using the same methodology as with Phase I. The original amount due was \$445,000.

Abed Itani reported REGIS' response is a proposal to have their entire obligation forgiven.

**MOTION – To Move to the GVMC Board the Proposal to Authorize the Transmittal of the Above Mentioned Resolution Offer to MDOT. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Root. MOTION CARRIED.**

Al Vanderberg stated GVMC also needed to get a written recommendation on record retention from our auditors. We need someone to tell us how long to keep them.

Abed Itani stated GVMC just signed a new master agreement and it stipulates records must be held for three years. If a contract is still open, records must be kept until it is closed. We also need to know the IRS record requirements.

Don Stypula stated he would get a recommendation from the GVMC auditor.

### 4. Strategic Initiatives

Jim Buck reported on the new Human Resources committee with Michael Young as Chair and Al Vanderberg as Vice Chair. Twelve people will be on the merged committee which includes a good cross section of cities, townships, etc.

Jim asked how we appoint members to the Emerging Issues committee. Have open solicitation for anyone?

Don Stypula brought up the idea of having Tom Wesorick from ICMA and/or Arnold Weinfeld of the MML speak on cost sharing.

Andy Bowman said if the new formats gets enacted early enough, a good topic could be the statewide handling of regional councils. Right now the state is redoing all laws regarding these. It would be detrimental for that legislation to get ahead of us in our ability to comment. GVMC has a grant pending for next year for which this legislation has implications.

Rick Root asked if it wouldn't make sense to close out old business in December and start new in January.

Al Vanderberg said we have always had the ability to talk about items through the regional cooperation committee. If regional councils legislation is moving, we don't need to make the schedule fit the topic. A good format would be to get two experts for a pro & con forum. The Emerging Issues committee can start a new schedule as of the first of the year.

Cindy Fox stated she agreed with Al Vanderberg.

Jim Buck clarified by reiterating a “work session” would be put together for December and the formal meeting will be held in January. In the meanwhile, we will work toward aligning the committees.

Al Vanderberg said if something is coming up in regional planning, that meeting can always be held before January.

Don Stypula asked if the first “work session” meeting is in December, what topic would that be?

Jim Buck stated we should solicit participation in the Emerging Issues committee & that committee can develop the topic idea.

## 5. Legislative

Don Stypula reported Andy Johnston from the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce spoke at the last Legislative committee meeting. He said they are understanding of the impact the elimination of the personal property tax would have on locals and are dedicated to working with us to find solutions. The Chamber is putting together a concept paper. It is a complex calculation and involves changing distributions and taking school aid out of the mix. There is no reference to counties in the document. They will be making a joint request to the Senate and House fiscal agencies to get an analysis. The Governor is interested in phasing out the ppt and is understanding of our concerns.

Rick Root said the question is what will the phase in be? No one has any clue where the money is coming from. There is lots of uncertainty. The only thing for sure is the elimination.

George Heartwell stated they met with the Lt. Governor yesterday. He defused a lot of concerns. They have a plan, but want to keep it confidential. The replacement source will represent 60-85% of what is lost. He came away more optimistic. There is no way we will get constitutional protection.

Don Stypula reported on the resolution of support on the bridge to Canada.

Rob VerHeulen stated he was concerned on why all legislators are not supporting the bridge.

George Heartwell stated at the Chamber of Commerce meeting last week, virtually all of the legislators were in support.

**MOTION – To Move the Resolution of Support of the New Bridge to Canada to the October GVMC Board Agenda. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Root. MOTION CARRIED.**

Don Stypula reported a bill has been passed to extend transportation funding to March 2012.

**6. Executive Session**

Staff was excused for an executive session.

**7. Adjournment – 1:45 p.m.**