

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, April 17, 2008
12:00 pm

Grand Valley Metro Council
40 Pearl Street NW, Suite 410
Grand Rapids, MI

MEETING NOTES

Present

Jim Buck
Don Hilton, Sr.
Alan Vanderberg
Rob VerHeulen

City of Grandville
Gaines Township
Ottawa County
City of Walker

Absent

Jim Beelen
Daryl Delabbio
Kurt Kimball
Cy Moore
Audrey Nevins
Rick Root

Allendale Township
Kent County
City of Grand Rapids
Council Treasurer
Byron Township
City of Kentwood

Other

Andy Bowman
Andrea Faber
Abed Itani
Dharmesh Jain
Don Stypula

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:17pm by Chair Jim Buck.

2. Approval of Minutes

Being that there was not a quorum, the March, 2008 minutes could not be approved.
Thus, approval of these minutes will be added to May's Executive Committee agenda.

3. Transportation Department

a. Amendments to the GVMC FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program

Stypula informed the committee that the City of Wyoming and the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP-The Rapid) are seeking several amendments to the GVMC FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These amendments are to account for adjustments on several projects, including Wyoming's FY2009 project to replace the 44th Street Bridge over U.S. 131 and cost updates for ITP approved by the Federal Transit Administration.

With the absence of a quorum and the knowledge that both amendments had been approved by the Transportation Technical and Policy Committees, the Executive Committee agreed to move both TIP amendments forward to the GVMC Board.

b. Amendments to the GVMC FY2008 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program for the Interurban Transit Partnership

Stypula stated to the committee that ITP-The Rapid is requesting an amendment to the GVMC FY2008 Unified Planning Work Program to add \$250,000 for continuing work on the Bus Rapid Transit project on South Division Avenue. Discussion continued under Item 3C.

c. Amendments to the FY2008 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program for GVMC Transportation Planning Activities

Stypula continued on this subject, stating that the GVMC Transportation Department is also requesting amendments to the GVMC FY2008 Unified Planning Work Program to utilize unspent previously obligated federal funds from FY2007 to support several transportation planning-related activities including Geographic Information Systems, the Ozone Action program, the Pavement Management Systems, and the Congestion Management System. Itani clarified that this was essentially a bookkeeping request.

With the absence of a quorum and the knowledge that both amendments had been approved by the Transportation Technical and Policy Committees, the Executive Committee agreed to move Items 3B and 3C forward to the GVMC board.

4. Lower Grand Organization of Watersheds

a. Update on DEQ's Proposed New Permit for Phase II Storm Water Discharges

Stypula again addressed the committee, stating that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is preparing to issue a new type of storm water permit for county agencies that are embroiled in and under the Phase II program. This new storm water permit is currently set to come into effect on May 1, 2008 and will put more stringent controls on governing the runoff from storms and melting snow. This will impact GVMC's member organizations and builders within their communities. Although Stypula desires to pursue an administrative challenge to this new permit, he is currently working with Fred Cowles at Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, Inc. to bring together all of the partners in the GVMC Collaborative Storm Water Phase II Compliance Initiative to discuss this new permitting strategy and the steps that must be taken to comply. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 13 from 1:30pm to 4:30pm at Walker City Hall.

Bowman suggested training soil erosion experts to learn about this new permit.

b. Senate Bill 1249 – Allow Creation of Municipal Storm Water Utilities

Stypula passed out a copy of Senate Bill 1249, which allows municipalities to establish a utility charge assessed on property owners to defray the costs of complying with U.S. EPA's Storm Water Phase II requirements. The bill establishes specific criteria under which a municipal storm water utility can be established and meets the requirements set forth by the Michigan Supreme Court in the Alexander Bolt v. City of Lansing decision from December, 1998. The bill also allows a community to establish a storm water utility. Although this is good news, there is currently only one sponsor for the bill. The next step in moving forward is gaining the approval of the Senate Majority Leader.

Hilton asked how this bill dovetails along with the storm water permit process previously discussed by Stypula. Stypula responded that this bill would allow the opportunity for communities and municipalities to work with people within individual jurisdictions and market the concept of a storm water utility system to voters. Additionally, if this bill does not pass, there will be no recourse for municipalities to defray the costs of complying with the DEQ's proposed new storm water permit.

5. Legislative Advocacy

a. Proposed State Environmental Cleanup Bond for November Election Ballot

Stypula stated that the Governor has agreed with the recommendation of Steve Chester, the Director of the MDEQ, to place a proposal to sell up to \$1 billion in state general obligation bonds on the November 2008 election ballot. The bond sales would be used to finance a number of environmental projects and programs. The actual amount of bonds sold will likely be between \$600 and \$650 million dollars, and the bonds would be sold over a period of 20 years. Placing such a proposal on the ballot would require a 2/3 vote of both the House and Senate by

July 7. If this is approved, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce will lead the campaign to get voter approval of the bond sale. There are no specifics as to which projects these bond sales would fund at this time. Since there is nothing to officially endorse on paper, Stypula asked the committee to simply consider the issue. Discussion followed.

b. Issues Update

Bowman provided an update on the Growing Communities Conference. So far, the conference is coming along well and all of the speakers are already lined up.

Buck stated that information from the Personnel Committee regarding the annual review for the executive director should go to all committee members. Personnel Committee Chair Michael Young will attend the next Executive Committee to brief them on the methodology for conducting the executive director's annual review.

6. Other Business

Buck asked the Committee Members to mark their calendars for the next GVMC Executive Committee on Thursday May 15 as Stypula will be bringing a recommendation for a new location for GVMC. If the Committee approves the executive director's recommendation, it will go to the Board and be voted on at their June Meeting.

7. Adjournment—1:03 pm