

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**January 11, 2012**

**8:30 a.m.**

GVMC Offices  
678 Front Ave., Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order**

Legislative Committee Chairman Rick Root called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Sam Bolt	City of Wyoming
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Dave Pasquale	
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Keith Van Beek	Ottawa County
John Weiss	Grand Valley Metro Council

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the December, 2011 GVMC Legislative Committee. MOVE – Arends. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **4. Lansing Update with Bill Anderson – MTA**

Daryl Delabbio reported legislation regarding the elimination of the PPT is likely to be introduced by Mike Noffs as a Senate proposal with almost full revenue replacement. However, ultimate distribution of funds will be hammered out in the legislature. If it gets tied up in the legislative process, it will probably be put off until after the election. They may be focusing on the industrial part rather than commercial and utilities. The fact that the money will not go directly to locals is concerning. The Governor may highlight this in his State of the State address.

Bill Anderson stated legislatively, it is not as stressful as last January and February. The PPT is probably the biggest issue for local government. We are still unsure on the timetable. They still are focusing primarily on the industrial, making PPT cuts on what is likely to enhance economic development.

Rick Root asked about the bridge to Canada.

Bill Anderson reported there is nothing going on now. Some thought the Governor would do it without the legislature.

Rick Root asked if there was any word on the Right to Work issue.

Bill Anderson said the Governor really doesn't want to go there. If it does come up, it will be in the Senate rather than the House.

John Weiss stated it appears that given the Governor's recent comments on Right To Work, that the Grand Rapids, State and Detroit Chambers of Commerce are unlikely to make it their top legislative priority.

Bill Anderson reported they are spinning their wheels on transportation funding.

Don Stypula asked if the kick in of health care reform in 2014 is of concern.

Bill Anderson reported there has been no buzz. The issue does not seem to have a large affect on townships.

Rick Root asked if Bill is sensing any rules or administrative changes in the DEQ or EPA.

Bill Anderson stated administratively, there is discussion on the approval of liquor license evaluation. What are the criteria for approval? Also running the approval process concurrently at the local and state level.

Alex Arends asked if electronic publication of public notices is gaining traction.

Bill Anderson said they strongly support internet publication. However, legislators are worried about what newspaper editorials will say about them if they support it.

## **5. Issues GVMC Must Engage on**

**PPT** – Don Stypula said Daryl Delabbio briefed us on this earlier.

**State Transportation Funding** – Bills will be introduced today as joining concurrent resolutions in the House and Senate. Being an election year, it may be difficult to get action on.

**Federal Transportation Funding** – Little movement on the federal level. There is a push to reauthorize funding for at least two years. There may be a slight decrease in funding. Abed Itani will be watching the issue.

**Federal Healthcare Law** – Most provisions kick in in two years. Don Stypula said some of the implementation provisions are concerning to him.

**Regional Councils Act** – Proposals came out earlier that would combine the acts. There hasn't been any movement.

Denny Hoemke asked what is being done on the latent transit needs study. The study was completed, and now it has just seemed to disappear.

Daryl Delabbio stated he thought GVMC was supposed to follow up with recommendations.

Don Stypula said his people worked on it. GVMC helped assemble the money and worked with the consultant. Now it is at the stage where a political decision has to be made. Don will ask Abed Itani where the issue is.

Daryl Delabbio said he was under the impression a formal proposal was to be delivered to the county.

Jim Buck asked how the Regional Councils Act would affect Muskegon and Holland MPOs.

Don Stypula stated there may be possibilities for consolidation with both of those MPOs. However, Muskegon would be difficult as the director would not be amicable to the idea.

Dennis Kent used SEMCOG as an example of one large organization with smaller MPO areas within for what may be possible in this area under the Regional Councils Act.

#### **6. Executive Director's Parting Remarks**

Don Stypula said he has enjoyed his time at GVMC and thanked everyone for the opportunity.

The committee expressed its thanks to Don and gave him a standing ovation.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting would be February 8. However, with the change in Executive Director, this may change. More information will follow.

#### **8. Adjourn – 9:40 a.m.**

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