

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

October 12, 2011

8:30 a.m.

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

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

GVMC Chairman Jim Buck called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Sam Bolt	City of Wyoming
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Jay Hoekstra	Grand Valley Metro Council
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Keith Van Beek	Ottawa County

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the September, 2011 GVMC Legislative Committee. MOVE – Arends. SUPPORT – Burns. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Jason Mancini of the MML

Jason Mancini of the MML phoned in to discuss legislative issues in Lansing.

Personal Property Tax – We expect to see a bill in the next couple of weeks. The MML would like to see revenue replacement guaranteed. The Governor spoke Thursday at the MML conference and said he won't guarantee every dollar. He may use expiring battery credits to offset. On the MML website is a sample resolution, talking points, etc. on the issue. It could be a 5 to 10 year phase out process. They are still working on how to find replacement revenue. The phase out would affect just industrial not commercial or utilities.

Transportation Funding – The Governor should give his message on Oct 24 or 25. He will probably propose revenue enhancement. We might see regional registration fees option, closing regulation loopholes, or a wholesale gas tax.

SB8 – The proposed ability to levy 5 mills is the current concern. They are making some progress, but nothing is definite at this time.

(Mike DeVries took over as Chair of the meeting)

5. Update on Infrastructure Financing

Don Stypula reported the Governor is focusing on transportation infrastructure with funding possibly through a local option fee for registration or wholesale gas tax (which would be more stable). Also there is the possibility of dedicating part of the sales tax from the general fund and moving it to the transportation fund.

On the federal level, Senator Mika has given the green light to look at options to increase revenue for transportation. They need \$18 billion to make the transportation trust fund whole. There is a movement to reauthorize funding for two years. If they wait until next year, nothing is likely to happen due to the election cycle.

Mike DeVries reported there is a rumor of a proposal to eliminate the state gas tax and add 1% to the sales tax. It would make a huge impact.

6. Michigan Regional Councils Act

Andy Bowman reported on the regional planning proposal. It includes two different types of councils. One kind is generic, can cover a wide range of services and stakeholders, and would be built around the duties and responsibilities it was created

to handle. It could only handle planning as it is related to these services. The other is a regional planning council which would create a regional development framework. There are proposed to be no more than sixteen and no more than three in the Upper Peninsula. They must cover three or more counties. The Governor's office would mandate how to handle the councils. The first year the geography would follow that of current regions. After that, it would be open to suggestion and change every five years.

The Governor is willing and capable of moving fairly fast on his proposals. Our current structures (MACC, GVMC, MPOs, etc.) really don't fit into proposed structures.

Jay Hoekstra added, if this passes, GVMC will not exist any more.

Haris Alibasic said it would be good to look at how homeland security is working with the current regions. Will there be any funding tied to it? Is the legislation patterned after the Minnesota situation?

Andy Bowman said it is patterned after the Metropolitan Councils Act, which was patterned after Minnesota. It contains provisions for fees for services, dues, etc.

Keith Van Beek asked about further regionalization, health departments, etc., on an even grander scale.

Jay Hoekstra stated at this point, they don't know how far the plan could eventually reach.

Alex Arends said he was concerned about the regional council taking land use into its own hands rather than the locals.

Don Stypula stated he would keep track of the progress of the proposal.

7. Other

8. Adjourn – 9:55 a.m.