

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 9, 2008

8:30 a.m.

GVMC Offices
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Chuck Bloom	Cannon Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

3. Call to Order

Chair Rick Root called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

4. Approval of Minutes from February, 2008

The minutes of the GVMC February, 2008, Legislative Committee meeting were accepted into record.

5. Legislative Breakfast Review

The format, turnout and issues of the legislative breakfast were reviewed. It was determined future events should follow the same format.

6. MDEQ Proposed Environmental Bond

Don Stypula discussed the proposed 2008 statewide environmental bond proposal. He asked if members of the legislative committee felt there should be a bond question on the ballot.

Haris Alibasic stated the brownfield program has been a very successful and valuable tool for the City of Grand Rapids.

Chuck Bloom commented that the environmental aspects of Michigan are its crowning jewel. It is very important to maintain environmental quality.

Jim Buck stated the Michigan Municipal League Board of Trustees went on record as supporting the bond effort.

Don Stypula reported they have until the end of June to get the issue on the ballot. He stated the Michigan Chamber of commerce supports it, as does the Home Builders and Michigan Manufacturing. He will talk with Steve Chester tomorrow and bring back information for everyone.

Mike DeVries pointed out that a bond is basically a mortgage that has to be paid back at some point. They need to be careful to create a comprehensive program.

Don Hilton stated he agrees, and that getting the money could be very difficult in these times. He would support it if it will move the economy forward. The DEQ running the program may be problematic.

7. Other

PEG Channels

Don Stypula updated the committee on AT&T and PEG channels. The program would include new technology and require users to rent the T1 lines from AT&T at about \$700 per month.

Mike DeVries stated he understood they could send their signal to GRTV or WKTV, who would then run it through their system.

Rick Root stated that the intent and spirit of the law is that PEG channels are a free community service. Now there is an investment involved and some may chose to discontinue coverage.

Enforcement of Speed Laws

The group discussed the problem with enforcement of speed laws due to a recent (1994) law aimed at stopping speed traps. Municipalities can adjust speed zones up but not down. Unless a speed zone is in a special area (school, etc.), people can basically get away with driving 55.

Mike DeVries asked for a summary of the issue.

Don Stypula stated he would get one to everyone.

Bill Holland stated Terry Tobias has a very good paper on the issue.

8. Adjourn – 10:00.