

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**April 21, 2009**

**8:30 a.m.**

GVMC Offices  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order**

Vice Chair Mike DeVries called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

**3. Approval of Minutes from March 2009**

The minutes were approved by a consensus of those attending

**4. State Fiscal Issues**

Mike DeVries reported state sales tax is down by approximately 25%. Revenue sharing will continue to go down. Cities will get the brunt of it as counties and most townships are already out.

The stimulus funds are geared toward cities, however they might just put off the

inevitable spending cuts

## **5. Transportation Funding**

Don Stypula reported behind the scenes something has been agreed upon to address transportation funding. There has been talk about increasing the gas tax including diesel. Don is going to a meeting today in the Governor's office to talk about the issue. GVMC was the only MPO invited. They will also be looking for "efficiencies" and will likely increase vehicle registration fees.

At the federal level, a bill is to be introduced in the house to extend SAFET-LOU.

High priority (pork) lists have been requested by both Ehlers' and Hoekstra's office. The final list has been created.

Don Stypula reported his future son-in-law is going to work in Stabenow's office starting next Tuesday and will be able to provide inside information.

## **6. Legislative Luncheon**

Mike DeVries asked committee members to give their ideas about what they wanted to accomplish with the Legislative Luncheon.

Jim LaPeer – Wants to learn how things work in Lansing and how to make our ideas and needs known.

Jerry Alkema – Wants to observe the process, learn how it works and how to be effective in lobbying.

Cindy Fox – Would like to get to know legislative staff members

Rick Root – The House and Senate will be in session in mid morning, and that will be a good time to talk with legislators' staff. He will also try to hit the MML office, visit with Senate and House legislators and attend the luncheon.

Don Hilton – The MTA will be in Lansing tomorrow. After attending that he will have more ideas of what other issues GVMC should address there.

Haris Alibasic stated we need to present a unified voice and focus on preventing cuts in revenues sharing and opposing SJR B. They need to look into more comprehensive tax reform. SJR B would hurt schools more than cities.

Mike DeVries reported per the minutes of the March meeting, topics which will be addressed are: SJR B; revenue sharing; GVMC priorities / intergovernmental

cooperation; and transportation funding (which we might want to put on the back burner at this point).

Don Stypula will send out a reminder on the luncheon today. He will follow up that with an electronic package containing maps, etc. He suggested everyone meet in the Anderson House Building. Everyone will need a picture I.D. This packet will go out on Thursday.

Don Stypula asked if we should have a briefing in a designated place before hand, maybe at the MML. Would it help to have a few quick pointers from the MML, MTA, & MAC?

Mike DeVries asked if there are any handouts we should leave with legislators and their staff.

Don Stypula stated he would make handouts for everyone on our issues.

Cindy Fox said the handouts should be e-mailed to everyone so they can be printed at their offices.

Mike DeVries added the packet should include a description of GVMC and a map of its region.

## **7. Adjourn – 10:00**