



GVMC Legislative Committee

8:30 a.m. Wednesday January 11, 2012 – Metro Council Offices

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order by Chair**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from the December 16, 2011 Committee meeting (attachment)**
- 3. Lansing Update – a look-ahead to the second session of the 96th Michigan Legislature with Bill Anderson, Legislative Liaison, Michigan Townships Association**
- 4. Issues that we MUST pay attention to and continually engage on**
 - a. Personal Property Tax – phase out and replacement for lost revenue.**
 - b. State Transportation Funding – Governor’s proposals and ideas from key lawmakers to boost transportation funding currently distributed through Act 51.**
 - c. Federal Transportation Funding – Reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU surface transportation act.**
 - d. Federal Health Care Law – Impacts on county and local governments and employees**
 - e. Proposed Regional Councils Act – Impacts on GVMC and other regional planning organizations**
- 5. Final thoughts by retiring executive director**
- 6. Other Issues**

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 14, 2011

8:30 p.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:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Sam Bolt	City of Wyoming
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Keith Van Beek	Ottawa County
Don Van Doeselaar	City of Hudsonville

3. Approval of Minutes

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

4. Lansing Update

Don Stypula reported all of the Governor's transportation funding proposals will be introduced in January, although most are likely to be dead on arrival.

In Washington they will wrap up work this week. The extension of the payroll tax will probably only be until February 14.

Nothing is going on at the federal level regarding transportation funding. There is a continuing resolution that runs through the end of March.

Andy Shore of the MML updated the group on legislative issues in Lansing. He reported the Urban Cooperation acts have been signed by the Governor. They were able to get an unfavorable amendment to the brownfield act pulled out and now the bill is on the Governor's desk.

Not a lot has been happening other than that. Negotiation is ongoing on transportation funding.

Regarding the Hildenbrand PPT bill SB883, Andy has yet to study it. The administration has a plan that hasn't been publicly distributed. They had expected to release it two weeks ago. The plan will phase out the PPT in 10-15 years and using expiring credits and new money coming in to replace the PPT, but not one for one. Utilities have been taken off the table. The MML continue to push for a constitutional amendment to guarantee the replacement of the funds through whatever method is decided.

Next legislators will start work on the state budget.

5. State Transportation Financing

Don Stypula reported that as of 9:00 p.m. last night, bills to make changes to county road commissions did not have the votes to pass and will likely be back in January.

Don referenced the information he gave at the beginning of the meeting on funding and said nothing more would likely pass until 2012. He asked what GVMC could support.

Discussion ensued regarding the benefit of GVMC taking a position on various options of the transportation financing proposals.

As discussed by Keith VanBeek, Haris Alibasic, Carol Hennessy and Sam Bolt, it was decided it would be best if GVMC would put forth a statement saying it supported a statewide comprehensive approach.

Don Stypula reported he would get the language that SEMCOG used in their position and customize a message to bring to the Board on January 9.

6. Adjourn – 9:45 a.m.