



November 6, 2015

## GVMC Forms

### Regional GIS Users Group

As part of our on-going efforts to promote collaboration and cooperation, GVMC hosted the first regional meeting for GIS leaders. Over 20 GIS leaders from both the government and the private sector attended. Attendees were from our region as well as from Ludington and the Detroit area.

Jason Moore, our GVMC/REGIS GIS Manager organized the first meeting and invited his colleagues to attend. Presentations were made to the group on current hot topics by Shane Pavlak from Ottawa County and Ed Dempsey of Prein and Newhof.

The first meeting was a great success and the group plans future meetings to share ideas, collaborate and look for future opportunities for enhanced cooperation.

Our feedback regarding this new collaborative initiative was very positive and included:

*"I attend various GIS-centric meetings throughout the year. Most of them are hosted in larger cities across the nation (Houston, Pittsburgh, San Diego). It was nice to see individuals collaborating close to home. While I'm based out of our corporate office in Ludington, MI, we expanded to Grand Rapids in January. In learning about this group, not only did we see it as a development opportunity for our*

*staff based in GR, but we saw it as a great opportunity to network locally, as well as share resources/ideas across industries. Often, we get caught up in attending conferences that pertain strictly to the industry we live and breathe in – we often fail to see the commonalities in applications across sectors. While most of the attendees at this meeting represented the public/government sector, there is no doubt in my mind that we can learn from each other when it comes to efficiencies. I look forward to seeing where this goes."*

Heather Kinnunen, GIS Manager  
Western Land Services

*"It was a pleasure presenting to the West Michigan GIS User Group Meeting. It is always good to share successes and to discuss struggles that we all may be facing in the GIS community."*

Shane Pavlak, GIS Supervisor  
Ottawa County

*"West Michigan GIS is an excellent vehicle for sharing regional GIS talent and promoting collaboration. Kudos to GVMC for organizing its inaugural meeting. Great things are sure to result."*

Paul Gerndt, IT Supervisor  
City of Wyoming

### You are Invited to GVMC Luncheon

**Valerie Brader, Executive Director**

**Michigan Agency for Energy**

**November 18, 2015**

**12:00-1:30 pm**

**GVSU**

**L. William Seidman Center**

**50 Front Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

**RSVP Required by November 9, 2015**

**Cost is \$25**

**Register at <http://gvmc.org/payment.shtml>**

