



December 13, 2013

GVMC Hosts Update On Grand River Restoration Project

As part of our continuing efforts to inform our members about emerging community issues, GVMC recently hosted a meeting with 35 local officials. The purpose of the session was to provide an update on progress that has been made on the river restoration project. GVMC Board Members, along with representatives of the business community, the Urban Metro Mayors and Managers Association and the Kent County Supervisor's Association all attended.

The meeting was held at the ROC, the meeting space at the new Rockford Construction Corporate Office.

In recent months the project has gained a great deal of support and enthusiasm at both the state and national levels. The Grand River Project has been named one of only eleven newly selected locations for the nation's Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This new high priority designation will mean

the federal government's efforts will be coordinated by the White House Domestic Policy Council and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Also involved will be the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and America's Great Outdoors Initiative. As you may recall, the project was also recognized earlier this year in Governor Rick Snyder's State of the State Address.

On October 30th, eight federal agencies gathered in Grand Rapids to review the project and offer their technical assistance. The project has been endorsed by the federal and state governments along with the City of Grand Rapids. It is now time to begin the public involvement process.

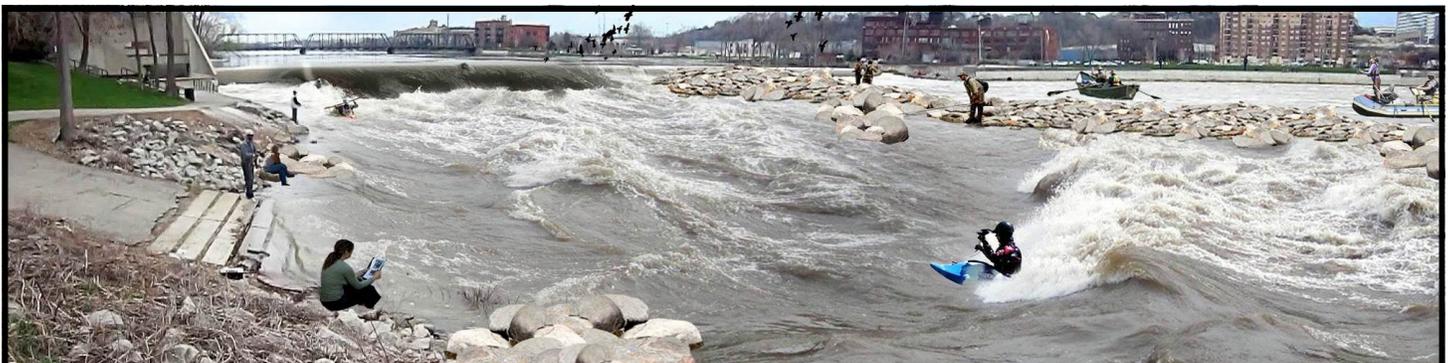
Beginning in January, the process will move to the public and we thought this was a good opportunity for the leaders of our region to hear the details first. Also, it was great opportunity for our area leaders to get

together and discuss a topic of regional significance.

Jay Steffen, Asst. Planning Director for Grand Rapids stated, "the regional implications are huge. The four mile section of the river is uniquely suited, due to the eighteen foot drop, to provide and exciting urban recreation amenity unparalleled in the lower peninsula."

Jay added, "Grand Rapids White-water, Grand Valley Metro Council, the City of Grand Rapids and Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. will be working in collaboration with our surrounding communities to set the table for more community conversation."

We will keep you informed of any updates on this exciting new project for our region.



Artist Rendering of a Section of the Completed Restoration Project.