



Proposal 1 Press Conference

On Tuesday morning Michigan Citizens for Strong and Safe Communities held a press conference at Constructive Sheet Metal Company in Grand Rapids. Attending the event representing local government in addition to myself were Daryl Delabbio, Eric DeLong, Curtis Holt and Alex Arends. Also, Rick Baker from our Board of Directors spoke at the event on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce.

Proposal 1 is the critical final step in Personal Property Tax reform. It guarantees 100% reimbursement to local government for lost revenues and takes the reimbursement out of the annual legislative appropriations process. Both of these were major victories for local government. In addition it eliminates a business tax that has been on the books for generations while ensuring funding for critical municipal services.

Tim Dye from Michigan Citizens for Strong and Safe Communities also announced a state-wide competition where the group is looking for the oldest working piece of equipment that is still being taxed. Tab DeJonge, owner of the company toured the group through his facility highlighting equipment that has been used since the 1950s.



West Michigan Regional Issues Council

This morning, I had the opportunity to present GVMC, Proposition 1 and the work being done as part of the Regional Prosperity Initiative to business and government representatives from throughout West Michigan. The Regional Issues Council chaired by Lew Chamberlin of the West Michigan White Caps is part of the West Michigan Chamber Coalition composed of Chambers of Commerce from our area.

I want to thank GVMC Board Members Daryl Delabbio and Mark Lemoine for attending the event. Also, Josh Lunger from the GR Chamber and the Regional Issues Council for their interest in GVMC, Proposition 1 and Regional Prosperity Initiative.

Welcome New GVMC Stormwater Coordinator



The Department of Environmental Programs now has a full-time Stormwater Coordinator. Bonnie Broadwater joined GVMC on June 9, 2014, to manage the NPDES Stormwater Program for the 22 communities with stormwater permits in Kent and Ottawa Counties. She comes to GVMC with 9 years of experience as the Engineering Programs Coordinator at the City of Walker.

She has a Master of Science in Environmental Science from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Michigan. Many of you already know Bonnie through her work with the West Michigan Soil Erosion Control Network. She is a welcome addition to the team and brings a wealth of knowledge in both environmental science and regulatory compliance. In her spare time, Bonnie enjoys making cold process soap, cooking and sailing with her husband and son.