

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

February 4, 2010

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

Members Present:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Sandi Frost Parrish	Kent County
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Phil Van Noord	Village of Middleville
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Randy DeBruine	City of Belding
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia

Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
TaiWo Jaiyeoba	ITP
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Erick Kind	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Marcia Small	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the January 2010, GVMC Board Meeting.
MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Swearing in of New Board Members

Mary Hollinrake administered the Oath of Office to Sandi Frost Parrish of Kent County and Phil Van Noord of the Village of Middleville.

5. Transportation Department

In preparation of the FY2010 Section 5307/5309 grant applications, The Rapid is Requesting an amendment to the FY2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY2010. The Rapid is requesting the change in order to update Activity Line

Items. (See report enclosed in agenda packet). The Technical and Policy Committees have already approved this TIP amendment.

Also requested to be added to the TIP is the list of FY2010 projects to be funded with the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds. Staff is requesting to add these projects to the FY2008 – 2011 TIP. MDOT and FHWA have determined that all the projects (see list in agenda packet) provide an air quality benefit to the region. In order to receive Federal Funds for the requested approval, GVMC Board approval is required. The Technical and Policy Committees have already approved this TIP amendment.

The Rapid is requesting an amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY2010 to reflect three section 5307 projects that have been amended. (See list in agenda packet) The Technical and Policy Committees have already approved this UPWP amendment.

MOTION – To Amend FY2010 of the FY 2008-2011 TIP for the Requested ITP Activity Line Items and CMAQ Projects. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION – To Amend the Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2010 Per The Rapid’s Request. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.

Abed Itani gave an update on the Pavement Management Van.

6. Request from Grand Valley State University to Join the Metro Council as a Dues-Paying, Non-Voting Member Organization (Discussion Only)

Don Stypula explained the request by Grand Valley State University to become a member of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council. They have a sincere desire to be a good neighbor and partner in the community and this request is a reflection of that. GVSU has a lot of resources and has been a partner on many issues with GVMC. They are requesting to be a dues-paying non-voting member. The request has been evaluated by Jim Brown of Mika Meyers. For them to become a regular member it would require an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation. Other options include becoming part of an advisory committee or taking a seat as one of GVMC’s four At-Large positions. Concerns include that GVMC was created as a council of governments and letting in other nongovernmental entities would dilute that; GVMC could be inundated with requests for memberships from various organizations and businesses; and that the Metro Council could end up serving the agenda of special interest groups rather than its intended membership as originally formed.

Daryl Delabbio stated GVSU has a lot of resources. If they are dues paying and nonvoting, how could that hurt?

George Meek asked who would represent the university.

Don Stypula reported it would be the university’s General Counsel, Tom Butcher.

Jim LaPeer asked how it changes GVMC. Are we a council of governments or more a land planning group. Those who are representatives on the Council now are mainly elected officials or appointed administrators. We are accountable to our constituents. If they don't like what we are doing they can remove us. Letting in other groups would mean a change in accountability and could end up serving special interests.

Chuck Porter said Jim's point is well taken, although GVSU has served the region well. Do we have an At-Large position available?

Don Stypula reported GVMC has four At-Large positions. The term of the positions is two-years, although the Nominating Committee has not been diligent in enforcing that. The Nominating Committee will be reviewing those positions shortly. If there was an opening, GVSU could take that position which would be non-dues paying.

George Meek asked if the By-Laws allow for GVSU to become a dues paying member.

Don Stypula reported Jim Brown has determined they don't, but they could be amended by a majority vote of the Council to create a separate category of membership. In the future GVMC could be on a Higher Education Advisory Committee if other universities wanted to join.

George Heartwell spoke in favor of GVSU stating the Council has had a long relationship with them and they are a significant employer and player in the region. We can't go wrong having them participate, especially as they would not have a vote since they are not a governmental entity.

Don Hilton questioned GVSU's connection with the West Michigan Strategic Alliance.

Don Stypula reported GVSU initially housed WMSA and provided administrative support. They eventually moved, however they maintain a relationship. A GVSU representative serves on the WMSA Board.

Don Stypula said he would do more research on the GVSU and WMSA relationship and bring the information back to the Executive Committee.

Discussion also included the option of GVSU as an At-Large member; whether an At-Large member could pay dues; and whether the Metropolitan Act could and/or should be amended.

It was determined an At-Large member could offer voluntarily to pay dues, but it wouldn't be advisable to single just one out; and that GVMC could ask the legislature to amend the Metropolitan Act. However, it is an election year so the legislature probably wouldn't move on it and if they did, we would have no control over the final outcome.

John Helmholdt stated this is a healthy discussion to have and that there is great benefit in bringing in a diverse membership. GVMC is important to the region and we should look at how to take it to the next level and redefine what GVMC means to the region.

Jim Buck added that the Nominating Committee would take a look at the terms of the At-Large members and get their input. This will then be brought back to the Executive Committee.

Don Stypula stated one of the main roles of this entity is to assist members in sharing services, collaborating and cooperating. The Governor and legislature are willing to move forward in removing impediments. Don will talk with the local government group to bring in a consultant to help the GVMC administrative staff aggressively pursue.

John Helmholdt asked how GVMC compares to other metropolitan councils. Are they playing the same role?

Don Stypula stated he will research this and discuss it at the next director's meeting.

This is the only Metro Council in the state. Soon there will be another in the Lansing area which is being lead by the business community. The Holland area has MACC which is just an MPO and the organization is different. SEMCOG is different also and does much more than we do.

Milt Rohwer reminded the Council that GVMC originated from a committee at the Chamber of Commerce which didn't want to create another SEMCOG. There is value in outside voices. It distinguishes us.

Jerry Alkema added in his experience, GVSU wants to be a good neighbor and are great to work with. GVMC should take advantage of what they have to offer.

7. Legislative Advocacy

Rick Root explained and reviewed the resolution of support for the findings and recommendations of the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates.

MOTION – To Approve the Resolution of Support for the Findings and Recommendations of the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates. MOVE - Root. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.

Don Stypula will take the resolution and recraft it into a succinct document which he will use to talk with legislators and lobby against unfunded mandates.

John Helmholdt stated it is a noncompliance with the Michigan Constitution issue which has gone unnoticed by the public. He asked what GVMC is doing proactively with the media to be more aggressive on this.

Don Hilton added that not only should they look at funding, but also the rational of a regulation and if it is needed at all.

Rick Root reviewed legislation which would enact changes to enable more collaboration and cooperation. He pointed out concern with changes added by Senator Richardville.

8. Other

George Meek asked for a report on the pavement management van next month along with a spread sheet.

9. Adjourn – 9:40 a.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION ITEMS

- ⇒ Don Stypula will send a copy of the GVMC Articles of Incorporation to Phil Van Noord of the Village of Middleville.
- ⇒ Don Stypula will take the resolution on unfunded mandates and recraft it into a succinct document which he will use to talk with legislators and lobby with.
- ⇒ George Meek asked for a report from Don on the pavement management van next month along with a spread sheet.
- ⇒ Don Stypula stated he will research this and discuss it at the next director's meeting how GVMC compares to other metropolitan councils.
- ⇒ Don Stypula said he would do more research on the GVSU and WMSA relationship and bring the information back to the Executive Committee.
- ⇒ Don will talk with the local government group regarding sharing services; collaboration and cooperation; and bringing in a consultant to help the GVMC administrative staff aggressively pursue such activities.