

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 8, 2003
9:30 a.m.**

40 Pearl St. NW Ste. 410
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by GVMC Legislative Chairman Ted Vonk.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Jim Day	Kent County
Cindy Heinbeck	Alpine Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jared Rodriguez	Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August meeting were reviewed.

MOTION – To approve the minutes of the August 2003 GVMC Legislative Committee meeting. MOVE - Hilton. SUPPORT – Buck. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Legislative Breakfast Update

Gayle McCrath reported on the September 29 Legislative Breakfast at the Pen Club. The meeting was had the highest attendance yet for a legislative breakfast. Attendees sat at round tables and legislators were asked to respond to questions on issues including recall,

land use recommendations, mobile homes and start of the school year. The forum resulted in very relevant dialogue on the issues between legislators and GVMC members.

3. Legislative Event Schedule

The proposed legislative breakfast schedule includes events on December 15, April 26 and September 27.

The Legislative Dinner was proposed for January 29, however this conflicts with an MTA event. Gayle McCrath will look into rescheduling it on January 22.

3. Revenue Sharing

Don Stypula reported a revenue estimating conference is scheduled on October 14. He encouraged everyone to attend and to make their position known to legislators.

Revenues coming in to the State are down substantially from projection, and it is likely revenue sharing will take a big hit.

Mr. Stypula encouraged members to make personal phone calls to legislators and to encourage their board/council members to do the same.

Mr. Stypula stated that lawmakers have cut everything to the bare bone and are even contemplating taxing to cover the \$800 million projected hole.

Mr. Stypula suggested that the Governor could propose substantial cuts to revenue sharing in order to cause fervor with local officials, who will then call legislators to action.

Bonnie Shupe questioned whether computers for schools were still in the budget and Mr. Stypula confirmed they were. Ms. Shupe stated that in times of budgetary crisis, all of the extras should be cut.

Jim Day suggested that as calls are made to legislators regarding the budget, members also give suggestions regarding where the budget could be more appropriately cut, i.e.: school computers.

4. Land Use Council Recommendations

A discussion was held on strategy relating to the 150 recommendations in the Governor's Land Use Council's report.

Initially it had been stated that the strategy would be both proactive and reactive. Members

were asked to review the report and bring with them to the meeting the issues they feel are most urgent, the ones they would like to approach legislators to initiate action on. The strategy also included reaction, positions taken, and lobbying on bills as they are proposed by the legislators.

The Governor's meeting on November 3rd was also discussed, and it was determined that the Legislative Committee would wait until after that meeting to judge the reaction of the attendees and determine action to be taken on the recommendations.

NPDES Permit Fees

Don Stypula reported that the NPDES permitting fees legislation is done. It started at \$7.2 million and now is down to \$3 million. Mr. Stypula reported the inequity in fees from the east side of the state to the west has been eliminated. Legislators are working to give local units of government the ability to pass along fees associated with stormwater and create stormwater utilities.

Ballast Water

Don Stypula reported on exotic species legislation that would require ships to empty their ballasts of water before entering the Great Lakes in order to prevent the spread of exotic species.

Mr. Stypula asked for a motion to support work toward this end and to aggressively pursue.

MOTION – To support legislation to address exotic species proliferation in the Great Lakes. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Shupe. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourn – 10:45 a.m.