

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
**Regional Environmental Planning Agency**

**Wednesday, October 8, 2003**  
9:00 AM

Kent County Road Commission  
1500 Scribner  
Grand Rapids, MI

Minutes

**1. Call to Order:**

Chair John Koches called the Regional Environmental Planning Agency to order at 9:03 AM. An attendance sheet was passed around and the following committee members were present:

**Members Present:**

Aaron Bodbyl-Mast	Ottawa County Planning & Grants
Ray Bruggink	At-Large
Paul Geerlings	Ottawa County Drain Commissioner
Curt Kemppainen	Kent County, Public Works
Ken Krombeen	City of Grandville, City Manager
John Koches	GVSU – Annis Water Resources Institute
Roger Laninga	Kent County Drain Commission
Robb Meeuwsen	Zeeland Farm Services
Corky Overmyer	City of Grand Rapids – EPSD
Jim Szejda	Ottawa County Health Dept.
Janice Tompkins	MDEQ, Surface Water Quality Division
Ken Zarzecki	Ottawa County Road Commission

**Members Absent:**

Curtis Holt	City of Wyoming, City Manager
George Haga	Utility Advisory Board/Ada Township
Michael Knapp Jr.	Knapp Law Firm
Dale Kraker	Eastbrook Homes
Tom Leonard	West Michigan Environmental Action Council
Erika Rosebrook	Kent County
Joe Stapf	City of Wyoming, Public Utilities
Lynn Thomas	Byron/Gaines Utility Authority

**Others Present:**

Priscilla Babcock	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Chuck Hersey	SEMCOG
Jim Smalligan	Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, & Huber
Priscilla Walden (for Bob Homan)	Plainfield Township

**2. Minutes:**

**MOTION** by Laninga, **SUPPORTED** by Bruggink, to approve the minutes for September 19, 2003.  
**MOTION APPROVED.**

### **3. Staff Updates:**

#### **A. Rogue River Watershed Project – John Koches & Andy Bowman**

- Amendments to both the Rogue I/E and Rogue CMI projects have been granted. The Rogue I/E project has been extended to February 28, 2004 and the Rogue CMI has been extended to June 30, 2004.
- A panel discussion made up of representatives from the Rogue, Muskegon, Clinton, and Pere Marquette took place on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the panel was to see how these groups became established, how they have sustained, and the methods they use to be successful. This will help the Rogue Council in establishing visions and goals.

#### **B. Stormwater Ordinance – Roger Laninga**

- There are 24 potential townships (plus some cities) that have, or can adopt this ordinance. Ten have adopted it already, eight are looking at it, and six are not interested (of which most are located in Northern Kent County).
- Koches inquired whether REPA should be proactive to get these communities to adopt the ordinance. Laninga replied that we should wait and see for now.
- Koches asked if it was too soon for amendments. Smalligan replied that some are amending as they go.
- Overmyer suggested that we educate. Tompkins stated that they would like to conduct workshops with area engineers to discuss the categories, standards, and criteria. Tompkins also suggested developing evaluation criteria. Overmyer suggested having a workshop for those communities that have already adopted the ordinance to discuss what's working, etc. GVMC to follow up.

#### **C. NPDES Phase II – Jim Smalligan**

- There will be a meeting at Ottawa County on November 4<sup>th</sup> with participating communities to discuss where we are going and what we have done.

#### **D. Kent County Septage Management Plan**

- Koches stated that Dave Karker is meeting with the Kent County Board of commissioners. It was noted that there was a rumor that the Septage plan was put on the back burner because of the zoo project. Need to inquire with Erika Rosebrook.
- Overmyer stated that he was still waiting reply from GVMC on funding for the Septage Dewatering Geotubes. Bowman stated that he would check into this.

#### **E. Bio-Fuel Project – Corky Overmyer**

- The project is completed and was successful.
- Currently can only use for off-road use.
- There is one pump for bio-fuels which is located at the Crystal Flash on Alpine Avenue.
- Can use bio-fuels instead of diesel but it is more expensive. Need to get others to use.
- Koches inquired about involving REPA on an educational process. Overmyer replied that materials are out there already and they have done workshops - just need to keep getting the word out.
- It was suggested to check into getting tax incentives for using bio-fuel as an alternative. Chuck Hersey of SEMCOG said that this is not very likely at the federal level. You might have a better chance with the state.
- Koches stated that he would call GVSU Engineering to discuss their interest and involvement.

#### **F. West Nile Virus**

- Szejda noted that the threat of the West Nile Virus is almost over. There were birds that test positive both in Kent and Ottawa County this year, but no horse or human positives or deaths. Theories of why there were differences in the numbers from last year include

immunity and weather differences. It remains to be seen on what will happen next year, but we can't let our guard down.

- Overmyer suggesting having a workshop for people that did larva sitings to discuss what they did right and wrong and what to do next year.
- Overmyer commented that they spent \$65,000 to treat basins twice this year.
- Szejda said that Ottawa County put out 16 mosquito traps per week, but not one positive mosquito was found. However there were two positive birds.
- Krombeem stated that Grandville spent 6 – 10 thousand dollars to treat basins.
- Koches questioned if catch basin treatments was successful and/or needed. Overmyer replied that it probably has some impact, but the basins are not located in areas in which mosquitoes would typically go.

#### 4. Work Session: SEMCOG - Chuck Hersey

- Hersey distributed and discussed a bulleted list regarding SEMCOG.
  - SEMCOG represents 7 counties with approximately 148 members.
  - Participants serve on one or both of the policy-making bodies — the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. Voting is not population based.
  - Prior to policy adoption, technical advisory councils provide the structure for gaining input on transportation, environment, community and economic development, data analysis, and education. These advisory councils are made up of broad-based representation from local governments, the business community, environmental organizations, and other special-interest citizens' groups.
  - Members include government (elected officials and staff), interest groups, and the private sector.
  - Designations include: MPO, Air Quality, 208, and Solid Waste.
  - Have several plans in regards to Planning. These include:
    - a) Water Quality Management Plan
      - Started in the 1970's
      - Re-worked in the 1990's
    - b) Putting Southeast Michigan Water Quality Plan into Action: Summary of Problems, Policy, and Action Steps.
    - c) Opportunities for Water Resource: Protection in Local Plans, Ordinances & Programs.
      - Workbook that asks yes or no questions regarding plans and policies, development and redevelopment, and stormwater programs. As a result of this SEMCOG held workshops on planning process of water quality management, zoning, and site plan review.
    - d) Investing in Southeast Michigan Quality of Life: Sewer Infrastructure Needs.
    - e) Components of a Basement Flooding Projection Program: Insurance Projection.
      - Need better definition of liability. Now statute provides more protection on liability.
    - f) Comparing 2000 Census and 2030 Regional Development Forecast by Watershed
    - g) Managing Fertilizer to Protect our Water Resources
    - h) Options for Local Government Water Quality Activities
    - i) Land Use Tools & Techniques Report
  - Essential Functions of SEMCOG include:
    - Assisting local governments in planning for common needs and in recognizing regional opportunities.
    - Facilitating cooperation among local governments, educational institutions, and state and federal agencies for mutual benefit.
    - Advocating for changes in public policy when state or federal legislative action is necessary.

- SEMCOG receives it's funding from:
  - MPO.
  - Membership dues
  - Designated Management Agencies.

Overmyer suggested that GVMC look into receiving DMA funding.

**5. Other Items of Business:**

None

**6. Future Agenda Items/Meeting Date:**

- Stormwater Ordinance
- Goals & Objectives of REPA

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2003 at 9:00 AM at the Kent County Road Commission.

**7. Adjournment:**

With no other issues before the Regional Environmental Planning Agency, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.