

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Regional Environmental Planning Agency

Tuesday, July 13, 2004
10:00 AM

GVMC Offices
40 Pearl St. NW, Ste. 410
Grand Rapids, MI

Minutes

1. Call to Order:

Chair John Koches called the Regional Environmental Planning Agency to order at 10:00 AM. The following committee members were present:

Members Present:

Ray Bruggink	At-Large
Paul Geerlings	Ottawa County Drain Commissioner
Curt Kemppainen	Kent County, Public Works
Corky Overmyer	City of Grand Rapids – EPSD
John Koches	GVSU – Annis Water Resources Institute

Members Absent:

Aaron Bodbyl-Mast	Ottawa County Planning & Grants
George Haga	Utility Advisory Board/Ada Township
Dale Kraker	Eastbrook Homes
Ken Krombeen	City of Grandville, City Manager
Roger Laninga	Kent County Drain Commission
Robb Meeuwsen	Zeeland Farm Services
Janice Tompkins	MDEQ, Surface Water Quality Division
Joe Stapf	City of Wyoming, Public Utilities
Ken Zarzecki	Ottawa County Road Commission

Others Present:

Priscilla Martin	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jim Smalligan	Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, & Huber
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Minutes:

MOTION by Overmyer, **SUPPORTED** by Kemppainen, to approve the minutes for June 2, 2004.
MOTION CARRIED.

3. Staff Updates:

A. NPDES Phase II – Jim Smalligan

No Updates

B. Lower Grand River Watershed Project – John Koches

- Almost complete
- Asking for extension to finish I & E

C. Stormwater Ordinance

Geerlings noted that more Ottawa County communities have adopted, or are looking at the stormwater ordinance.

4. Work Session: Strategy Session

Membership

- Suggestions for potential additional REPA membership:
 - Overmyer suggested the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum and an Industry representative and Kemppainen mentioned the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce.
 - Stypula noted that NKSA should be added under Regional Utilities, and the Byron/Gaines Authority should be added under Other Utilities.
 - Curtis Holt will be removed from Regional Utilities under Wyoming due to lack of attendance.
 - For Other County under Other Utilities Stypula suggested the New City Manger of Wayland. Overmyer suggested someone from Ionia since the Lower Grand is being included.
 - Need replacements for Erika Rosebrook and Jim Szejda under Country Representatives. Geerlings to look into the name of Szejda's replacement as well as adding Steve VanHoeven.
 - Lynn Thomas of Byron/Gaines Utility Authority and Gene Baxter of Greenville will be removed as rural communities members due to lack of attendance.
 - Tom Leonard of WMEAC will be removed as a member under Environmental/Non Profit due to lack of attendance. A suggested replacement was Rick Sullivan of the Center for Environmental Study.
 - Michael Knapp will be removed from the At-Large membership due to lack of attendance.
- Overmyer suggested that the REPA group come up with a new membership framework. Possibly have a steering committee organize this.
- Stypula questioned whether realtors should be included. Koches stated that they have been invited to other meetings in the past but never attended.
- Koches suggested adding industry members under the At-Large category.
- Stypula questioned whether The Right Place Program should be asked to be a REPA member.
- Stypula to contact NKSA, Byron/Gaines, Wayland about membership. Overmyer to contact the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum.

Sub-Committees/Quarterly Meeting

- Subcommittees suggested at last months meeting included:
 - Watershed Management
 - Utilities
 - Development Issues
 - Steering Committee for quarterly meetings, etc.
- Overmyer suggested having a business subcommittee to include WMSBF, realtors, Home Builders, Right Place Program, etc.
- Koches stated that we need to focus our attention – that it all seems to be getting to big.

- Stypula suggested combining watershed and development into one subcommittee and/or have the utilities subcommittee include wastewater and stormwater.
- Geerlings questioned how we would tie in industry and bio-fuels.
- Bruggink questioned whether PDR discussions should be included in REPA as well.
- Koches commented that we can't predict the future of REPA and that the group should stay flexible to accommodate change.

Bylaws

- Geerlings suggested reducing the number of people that are required to be in attendance for a quorum. He suggested maybe having a quorum be the majority of the members present.
- Koches, Martin and Stypula to work on changes to the bylaws as suggested at the June's meeting.

Stypula noted that decisions on REPA's future will need to be made at the August meeting so a recommendation can be passed onto the Executive Committee and GVMC Board.

5. Other Items of Business:

None

6. Future Agenda Items/Meeting Date:

The Regional Environmental Planning Agency will meet next on Tuesday, August 24, 2004 at the Kent County Road Commission at 10:00 am. Agenda items include organization of REPA.

7. Adjournment:

With no other issues before the Regional Environmental Planning Agency, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.