

NEWS RELEASE



**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
40 PEARL ST. NW ST. 410
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503**

Contact: Jim Buck 530-4982 or Michael Young 866-1537	For Immediate Release July 7, 2003
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Grand Valley Metropolitan Council to Confirms Appointment of Donald J. Stypula as Executive Director At July 7, 2003, Board Meeting

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN – The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council will voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Donald J. Stypula as Executive Director at its July 7, 2003 Board meeting.

Don Stypula currently is the Manager of Transportation and Environmental Affairs for the Michigan Municipal League – the state association of Michigan’s cities and villages. Based since 1990 at the League’s State and Federal Affairs Division in Lansing, he manages environmental, transportation and infrastructure issues in both the State legislative and U.S. Congressional arenas in Lansing and Washington. He also interacts directly with state and federal regulators and provides direct assistance to Michigan communities struggling with environmental compliance challenges.

Educated at Schoolcraft College and Michigan State University, Don has worked in a variety of professional capacities around the State Capitol for 29 years. He is involved in dozens of boards and advisory panels at the state and national level, and is active in the American Water Works Association, the Michigan Water Environment Association and the American Public Works Association.

Don also serves as a member and past-chair of the City of Lansing Public Services Board and is a co-founder and director of the Washington, D.C. – based National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals.

The Executive Director Search Committee (comprised of the GVMC Personnel Committee and Officers) reviewed over 65 applications for the position. After a grueling schedule of interviews and a public reception, the Search Committee voted to recommend Mr. Donald J. Stypula to the Board as the new Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Executive Director.

“We interviewed many highly qualified candidates,” said Michael Young, Rockford City Manager and Chairman of the GVMC Search Committee. “We feel Don brings many strengths to the table and we look forward to continuing GVMC’s legacy under his leadership.”

“The process the Search Committee went through was intense,” said Jim Buck, Mayor of Grandville and GVMC Chairman. “We are fortunate to be able to recommend a candidate who is of the caliber of Don Stypula. We feel confident that we have chosen the best candidate to take over the helm of the Metro Council and lead it to new opportunities.”

Mr. Stypula’s first official day as Executive Director will be July 28, 2003.

The Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) is a regional organization dedicated to promoting cooperation and coordination among local governments in the metropolitan Grand Rapids area. Created in 1990, its membership now includes 33 local governments, representing nearly 665,000 people. For more information on GVMC go to www.gvmc.org

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