



## Spreading the Word about GVMC and our Programs

Over the past few weeks your GVMC staff have been busy leading and participating in many opportunities to spread the word about GVMC and our programs

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, **Jason Moore** our GIS Manager made a presentation at the **Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE)** Conference in Ann Arbor. MSPE includes members that are professional engineers from all disciplines



Jason was the speaker in the “*Innovations for Urban Systems*” track at the conference and gave an overview of the unique collaborative GIS model that is GVMC’s REGIS. During the presentation on screen demonstrations of the web based online GIS tool called “eREGIS” were provided. For example Jason gave a demo of the utility finder in eREGIS that provides a quick and easy way for local government engineers to access engineering drawings via the online GIS.

From May 8-11, our community hosted the **River Rally** an international event sponsored by the River Network. Over 450 participants attended the three day event to learn more and share ideas about rivers and their critical importance.



GVMC staff played a significant role in organizing and leading the conference. **Bonnie Broadwater** from our staff and **Aaron Vis** from the City of Wyoming presented a program on “*Collaborative Approaches in Stormwater Management*”. While the room was set up for about 30 people over 50 people joined the session. They focused on our GVMC approach to collaboration in stormwater management.



The main program for Thursday morning was a panel discussion on “*Rethinking our Relationship to Urban Rivers*”. Participating in the program were **Wendy Ogilvie** our Director of Environmental Programs, **Mayor Rosalynn Bliss** of Grand Rapids, **Mark Van Putten**, President of the Wege Foundation, **John Green**, President of Founders

Brewing, **Joe Jones**, Grand Rapids City Commissioner and President of the Grand Rapids Urban League and **Chris Muller**, co-founder of Grand Rapids Whitewater.

On May 18, Grand Rapids hosted the **Michigan Infrastructure Conference**. This conference of municipal, corporate and consulting engineers was focused on Michigan’s Infrastructure. A panel discussion was held with **John Weiss** of GVMC, **Eric Delong**, Deputy City Manager of Grand Rapids, **Mary Palkovich**, Vice President of Energy Delivery for Consumers Energy and **Erick Kind**, Grand Region Engineer for MDOT.

Later in the day our **Wendy Ogilvie** and **Matt Chapman** of Grand Rapids Whitewater presented at a breakout session the “*Grand River Revitalization and Rapids Restoration Project*” to the group.

All these events were well received with many positive comments as we spread the word about GVMC.