



Resolution Number:	F-19-03	Sponsored By:	Senator McKenzie Gamage Senator Gavin Marlowe
Introduced On:	17 October 2019		
Voted On:	24 October 2019		
Result:	Passed		
Vote Count:	38-0-2		

A RESOLUTION TO: Oppose the Grand River Waterway Project.

Recognizing, Grand Valley State University and Grand Valley Student Senate’s efforts in preserving our local environment and furthering our goal of being a sustainable community; and

Recognizing, the proposed channelization of 22.5 miles of the Grand River, spanning from Fulton Street in Grand Rapids and Bass River State Recreation Area near Eastmanville, will directly affect the Ravines ecological area, GVSU students, infrastructure, and surrounding community;¹ and

Recognizing, the immense risk of substantially increased erosion of the Ravines, reduced water quality in the Grand River and Lake Michigan, the threat of the destruction of fish populations residing in the Grand River and that these environmental effects outweigh the economic gains from increased tourism, which only a limited number of people will see the benefits from;¹²and

Recognizing, that in 1978 a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study investigated similar projects and found that channel dredging would be detrimental to fish spawning habitat and Michigan DNR’s Wildlife Action Plan and Grand River Assessment note that dredging for river channelization poses a major threat to sensitive species and river fisheries; and

Recognizing, precedence of formal opposition to the Grand River Waterway Project by Ottawa County,³ environmental groups,⁴ and other West Michigan municipalities such as the townships of Crockery, Park, Spring Lake, Grand Haven, Robinson, and Polkton and the cities of Grandville, Ferrysburg and Grand Haven, and the Village of Spring Lake⁵ are firmly opposed to dredging the Grand River;⁶ and

Whereas, the Student Senate of Grand Valley State University condemns the Grand River Waterway Project; and

¹ [Eric Snyder Lower Grand River dredging proposal is a bad idea](#)

² [Summary of Research Related to the Potential Physical and Biological Impacts of Dredging to Channelize the Grand River](#)

³ [Ottawa County challenges state’s right to pursue Grand River dredging project](#)

⁴ [WMEAC opposes Grand River Waterway](#)

⁵ <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/local-governments-weigh-in-on-grand-river-waterway-dredging-project-that-would-destroy-fish-habitat-msg19-okeefe19>

⁶ [Local governments weigh in on Grand River Waterway dredging project that would destroy fish habitat](#)

Whereas, these environmental impacts will be detrimental to students' learning environment and available curriculum due to loss of species and ecosystem available for study in the Grand River; and

Whereas, the GVSU Rowing Club will have to compete with larger watercraft that can capsize their shells with swells of only six inches; and

Whereas, the significant negative environmental impact that the Grand River Waterway Project poses to the greater West Michigan and to the Lake Michigan ecosystem;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, opposes the Grand River Waterway Project and requests that other University actors join the Student Senate in opposition.

Furthermore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate hereby requests that Grand River municipalities take up this matter and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the charter townships of Tallmadge, Allendale, and Georgetown and the cities of Walker and Grand Rapids.