



# Lower Grand River Watershed Project

## MEETING MINUTES

<b>Project:</b>	Lower Grand River Watershed	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	March 16, 2004
<b>Subject:</b>	Grand River Forum	<b>Meeting Start:</b>	9:30 a.m.
<b>Meeting Site:</b>	GVSU Eberhard Center	<b>Meeting Adjourn:</b>	11:30 a.m.
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Mr. Jason E. Buck	<b>Project No.:</b>	G02408
<b>Attending:</b>	Grand River Forum Members		

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

- a. Mr. Andy Bowman welcomed the attendees to the sixth quarterly Grand River Forum (Forum).
- b. Attendees introduction.

### 2. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Urban, Rural, and Technical Subcommittees
  - Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie gave an update of the Urban, Rural, and Technical Subcommittees on the progress they are making on the Best Management Practice (BMP) Selection Tool.
  - The Urban and Rural Subcommittees provided a list of recommended BMPs to the Technical Subcommittee. This list was exported into an interactive database that water resource planners would be able to use to select BMPs to address specific sources and causes of pollution.
  - Ms. Ogilvie is working with the City of East Grand Rapids, and Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld is working with the Morrison Lake Improvement Board to use these watersheds as pilot demonstrations for the BMP Selection Tool. A workshop will be held in April 2004 to display the watershed tools and Watershed Guidebook (Guidebook). This workshop will be open to the public.
- b. Information and Education (I&E) Subcommittee
  - Ms. Nederveld informed the Forum that the I&E Subcommittee has completed the tasks in the scope of work for the brochures and newsletters.
  - Currently the I&E Subcommittee is developing a public outreach strategy for the Lower Grand River Watershed (LGRW). This strategy will be included in the Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan (WMP).
  - The I&E Subcommittee is interested in the development of a Watershed Education Center. Funding sources and partnerships are being researched.



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## 3. Watershed Management Plan

- a. Mr. Jason E. Buck provided the Forum with an update on the progress of developing a WMP for the LGRW.
- b. A draft of the WMP's "Table of Contents" and Chapter 2 were delivered to the Steering Committee. The WMP must meet the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's requirements for projects funded with Section 319 monies. However, since the LGRW is so large, there will be unique outcomes for this project.
- c. The WMP will contain a Guidebook and interactive planning tools. Using these products, water resource managers will be able to develop a WMP for a subwatershed within the larger LGRW or communities will be able to use these tools when developing their Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiatives. The BMP Selection Tool and the Watershed Interactive Tool are examples of the planning tools that will be available.
- d. Drafts of the WMP will be placed on the LGRW website for public review and comment.

## 4. Watershed Planning Tools

- a. The LGRW project will be producing a series of data manipulation and decision support tools as part of the WMP. Ms. Abigail Matzke took the Forum on an on-line tour of these planning tools.
- b. Watershed Interactive Tool (WIT)
  - The WIT is an on-line education system that is designed for two user groups. The first group is students and teachers. Teachers can find lesson plans on the WIT that conform to the Michigan educational standards. These lesson plans were developed through the project Water Education for Teachers and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Students can find supporting documentation to complete these lesson plans on the WIT website.
  - The second group of users for the WIT is local municipal officials. The government information section of the WIT will be very useful for developing a community Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative or for land use planning.
  - The WIT will also contain links to historical documents, research on the Grand River, and interesting environmental webpages.
  - Ms. Matzke would like input on the WIT content. If you have ideas for useful information that could be included in the WIT, please call (616) 331-3994.
- c. Watershed Interactive Mapping (WIM)
  - Ms. Matzke demonstrated the on-line Geographic Information System (GIS) that is being designed for the LGRW. The WIM will contain all the information that was gathered for the pilot project areas (Buck Creek and Sand Creek) and the data located in the Watershed Matrix.



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- The WIM uses ArcIMS software that any on-line user can use to manipulate GIS data to zoom in, activate, identify, and print map features without having expensive GIS software on their home or office computer. This software is very data intensive and would require a fast internet connection for efficient operation.
- Mr. John Koches noted the difficulty and tremendous amount of time that the Annis Water Resources Institute had with getting the servers working with the new software. He offered to help any agency with solving these problems on their networks if they would like to house the WIM and WIT in the future.

## **5. Vision Committee Update**

- a. Mr. Bowman provided the Forum with an update from the Vision Committee. He shared the revised vision and mission statement and explained how these relate to the needs of the Watershed project.
- b. The Vision Committee has been diligently assimilating the comments heard in the Forum and the focus group discussions. These comments were incorporated into a strategic plan for the LGRW. The strategic plan is divided into three categories: public awareness, data management, and organizational structure. Each of these categories has a series of components that outline how the watershed organization will be maintained.

## **6. Strategic Needs Activity**

- a. The strategic plan developed by the Vision Committee has identified needs to ensure that the components of the watershed organization are successful. The types of needs were categorized as partnerships, communications, technology, infrastructure, financing, skills, and evaluation.
- b. The Forum was asked to divide into groups representing public awareness, data management, and watershed organization. These groups brainstormed the needs for their category. The results of this brainstorming activity will be incorporated in the final strategic plan that will be included in the WMP.

## **7. Next Meeting**

- a. The LGRW grant officially ends June 30, 2004. Project staff would like to hold the next Forum meeting before this deadline to hear final comments on the WMP.
- b. The next meeting will be held in May 2004. The exact date, time, and location will be announced as soon as possible on the LGRW website at <http://www.gvsu.edu/wri/isc/lowgrand/meetings.htm>.

## **8. Adjourn**

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