



# Lower Grand River Watershed Project

## Meeting Minutes

**PROJECT:** Lower Grand River Watershed **MEETING DATE:** May 8, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Grand River Forum **MEETING START:** 9:30 a.m.

**MEETING SITE:** Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Eberhard Center **MEETING ADJOURN:** 11:40 a.m.

**PREPARED BY:** Mr. Jason E. Buck **PROJECT NO.:** G02408

**ATTENDING:** Ms. Jane Secord - Center for Environmental Studies  
Mr. Jim Beelen - Allendale Township  
Mr. Jim Holtvluwer - Georgetown Township  
Mr. Mark Rambo - City of Walker  
Mr. Mike Deem - Cascade Charter Township  
Mr. Myron Erickson - City of Wyoming  
Ms. Patricia Pennell - West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC)  
Mr. Shawn Wessel - WMEAC  
Mr. Scott Conners - City of Walker  
Mr. Steve Kushion - Ada Township  
Mr. Tom Doyle - Barry County Drain Commissioner  
Mr. Dan Wolz - City of Wyoming  
Ms. Arlene Spalding - Ionia County and Morrison Lake Improvement Board  
Ms. Bonnie Shupe - Cannon Township  
Ms. Cheryl Mendoza - Lake Michigan Federation  
Mr. Denny Hoemke - Algoma Township  
Mr. Corky Overmyer - City of Grand Rapids  
Mr. Dennis Beers - Wade-Trim  
Mr. Greg Rappleye - Ottawa County Administration  
Mr. Steve VanHoeven - Ottawa County Road Commission  
Mr. Todd Sterner - Kent County Parks and Recreation  
Mr. James E. Smalligan, P.E. - Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTC&H)  
Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie - FTC&H  
Mr. Jason E. Buck - FTC&H

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Mr. Andy Bowman, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC), introduced himself as the acting director for GVMC and coordinator for the Lower Grand River Watershed (Watershed) project. Mr. Bowman asked all the attendees to introduce themselves and explain their connection to the Watershed project.

### 2. Overview of Project

- a. Mr. Bowman provided a brief synopsis of the Watershed project.



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## 3. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Ms. Abigail Matzke presented an update on the Information and Education (I&E) Subcommittee.
  - New updates to website
    - <http://www.gvsu.edu/wri/isc/lowgrand/index.htm>
  - I&E Publications
    - Brochure - designed to inform township and municipal officials about the Watershed project.
    - Handout - explanation of watershed concepts.
    - News insert - 4,000 copies are available for distribution to townships and municipalities. The news insert is designed to inform the public about the Watershed project, water resource concerns, and to share stories and fond memories of the water resources in the Watershed.
- b. Ms. Matzke described activities of the Rural Subcommittee
  - A list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) suitable for rural areas in the Watershed was developed in the first Rural Subcommittee meeting. The Technical Subcommittee has reviewed the list and has requested a list of managerial BMPs.
  - A tour of the Sand Creek Watershed, Pilot Project Area, is being planned by the Rural Subcommittee. To participate, please contact Ms. Matzke at (616) 331-3994.
- c. Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie provided an update on the progress of the Urban Subcommittee
  - A list of BMPs for urban areas was developed at the first Urban Subcommittee meeting. The Technical Subcommittee reviewed the urban BMP list and requested a similar list for managerial BMPs.
  - The Urban Subcommittee evaluated pilot project watersheds to determine if they are meeting the State's Designated Uses of water resources (a table showing these designated uses is available on the website in the Urban Subcommittee meeting minutes).
- d. Ms. Ogilvie stated the outcomes of the first Technical Subcommittee meeting
  - The Technical Subcommittee has reviewed the lists of BMPs from the Rural and Urban Subcommittees.
  - A Decision Support System will be developed with input and review from this committee.



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4. Ms. Ogilvie presented information about the Pilot Project Areas selected for developing Watershed Management Plans (WMPs).
  - a. Rural Pilot Project Area
    - Sand Creek Watershed
      - Strong partnerships between local organizations and communities.
      - Local interest has driven much of the efforts.
      - Considerable amount of water quality data has been collected.
        - Herman Miller volunteers completed a road/stream crossing inventory
        - GVSU completed a macroinvertebrate study
        - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Biological Surveys
        - MDEQ hydrology data
  - b. Urban Pilot Project Areas
    - Buck Creek Watershed
    - Grand City Watershed (formerly known as Grand River #14 89)
    - Millennium Park Watershed (formerly known as Grand River #14 97)
      - NPDES Phase II communities are included within watershed boundaries.
      - Total Maximum Daily Load of pollutants are a concern in the watersheds.
      - Significant amounts of water quality data exist from MDEQ biological surveys and local water quality monitoring programs.
5. Ms. Jane Secord, Center for Environmental Study, presented an overview of the statewide I&E media campaign and an explanation of how other educational programs will be integrated.
  - a. Statewide Storm Water I&E Campaign
    - Develop a consistent theme for the entire state to address general education about our water resources and storm water.
    - Hold workshops for NPDES Phase II communities on how to use this educational material in their Public Education Plans (PEPs).
  - b. NPDES Phase II PEP
    - Develop partnerships and incorporate existing programs into a PEP to increase awareness, education, and stewardship of water resources.
    - Focus of plan is storm water related.
    - Plan will incorporate the Statewide Education Campaign and the Lower Grand River Watershed I&E Strategy.



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## c. The Lower Grand River Watershed I&E Strategy

- Increase awareness of the Watershed project.
- Develop a strategy to create opportunities to education the public about water resource issues. This strategy will focus on watershed protection.
- The I&E Subcommittee is charged with the task of creating the I&E Strategy.

## d. Integration of the Educational Programs

- Statewide Storm Water I&E campaign will develop a general strategy for incorporating a consistent message into NPDES PEPs.
- The NPDES PEPs will be detailed local strategies based on the Statewide Storm Water I&E campaign for public information and outreach programs to meet NPDES Phase II Storm Water Discharge permit requirements.
- The Lower Grand River Watershed I&E Strategy will build upon the NPDES PEPs and Statewide Storm Water I&E campaign to reach the target audiences.

## 6. Mr. Jason E. Buck reported on the status of the Upper Grand River Watershed Project.

### a. Goals

- Development pressures created a need for communities in the Upper Grand River Watershed to create a strategy to respond to inter-watershed transfers of water, wetland loss, and loss of open space.
- Create a “snow ball effect” of watershed management from the Upper Grand downstream.

### b. The Upper Grand River WMP has been submitted to the MDEQ for approval.

### c. The Jackson County Drain Commissioner has spearheaded the WMP effort. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the WMP, a Watershed Council will be created under the Rivers Management Act.

## 7. Mr. Buck requested additional information to complete the Subwatershed Information Matrix (Matrix).

### a. Additional Information is needed in the following categories:

- Master Plans addressing water quality
- Wellhead protection areas
- Storm water and watershed studies
- Conservation organization projects
- Adopt-A-Stream groups

### b. The Matrix will become a component of an interactive tool for watershed management.



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## 8. Mr. Bowman explained the restructuring of the Sustainability Subcommittee

### a. Varying interpretations of "sustainability"

- Sustainability of the Watershed project
- Sustainability of the Watershed ecosystem

### b. Vision vs. Mission Statement

- Vision is an ultimate dream of the future and the mission is how to organize to accomplish the vision.
- Developing a vision was not in the scope of work of the grant.

### c. Restructuring the Sustainability Subcommittee

- The tasks of moving the project forward will be transferred to the Steering Committee.
- The task of developing a vision of the Watershed will be accomplished by the Sustainability Subcommittee.
- The Sustainability Subcommittee will be renamed the Vision Subcommittee.
- Membership in the Steering Committee will be reassessed.
- Additional members for the Vision Subcommittee are needed. For more information, please contact Ms. Janice Tompkins at (616) 356-0268.

## 9. Future Meetings

### a. Please see the Watershed website for a list of upcoming meetings.

- Rural Subcommittee - May 13, 2003, at 9 a.m., at the Wyoming Clean Water Plant.
- I&E Subcommittee - May 13, 2003, at 10:45 a.m., at the Wyoming Clean Water Plant.
- Vision Subcommittee - May 19, 2003, at 1:30 p.m., at FTC&H.
- Steering Committee - May 27, 2003, at 11 a.m., at the Georgetown Township Hall.
- Urban Subcommittee - June 5, 2003, at 9 a.m., at FTC&H.
- Technical Subcommittee - June 5, 2003, at 10:45 a.m., at FTC&H.

### b. The Grand River Forum will meet again in September 2003.

### c. An evening public meeting may be scheduled in November 2003.

## 10. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

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By e-mail

### DISTRIBUTION:

Planning Committee



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