



Lower Grand River Watershed Project

MEETING MINUTES

Project:	Lower Grand River Watershed	Meeting Date:	September 11, 2003
Subject:	Grand River Forum	Meeting Start:	9:30 a.m.
Meeting Site:	GVSU Eberhard Center	Meeting Adjourn:	11:30 a.m.
Prepared By:	Jason Buck	Project No.:	G02408
Attending:	Grand River Forum Members		

1. Welcome and Introduction

- a. Mr. Andy Bowman introduced Mr. Don Stypula, the new Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) Executive Director. Mr. Stypula comes to the GVMC from the Michigan Municipal League where he was involved with transportation and environmental issues.

2. Subcommittee Updates

a. Urban

- Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie gave an update on the watershed inventory. The physical inventory has been completed in the Buck Creek Pilot Project Area (PPA). The Grand City and Millennium Park Watersheds are in progress. Inventory is being performed by Kent County Road Commission and Drain Commissioner interns, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), West Michigan Environmental Action Council, and FTC&H staff.
- The Urban Subcommittee is developing a list of structural and managerial Best Management Practices (BMPs). A tour of Urban BMPs is being held September 12, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. at the Grandville Department of Public Works. A series of presentations will be scheduled with municipal boards and committees to gather input for feasibility and realistic goals of BMPs.
- The MDEQ has been preparing wetland maps to assess opportunities for wetland restoration in urban areas.

b. Technical

- The Technical Subcommittee members have been reviewing lists of BMPs developed by the Urban Subcommittee. Ms. Ogilvie informed the Grand River Forum (Forum) that BMPs are being evaluated for cost effectiveness and costs per unit of pollutant removed. This same evaluation will be conducted for rural BMPs.
- Innovative BMPs and alternative design strategies will be evaluated by the Technical Committee and assessed to determine their applicability to the Lower Grand River Watershed (LGRW).



ABIGAL MATZKE
(616) 331-3994
matzkea@gvsu.edu



ANDY BOWMAN
(616) 776-3876
bowmana@gvmc.org



WENDY OGILVIE
(616) 464-3915
ewogilvie@ftch.com



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ABIGAL MATZKE
(616) 331-3994
matzkea@gvsu.edu



ANDY BOWMAN
(616) 776-3876
bowmana@gvmc.org



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ewogilvie@ftch.com



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c. Rural

- Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld reported to the Forum that the physical inventory of the Sand Creek PPA has been completed.
- A list of rural BMPs will be created and delivered to the Technical Committee for review. Rural BMPs will be evaluated by the Technical Committee to determine their appropriateness for the LGRW and to assess their cost effectiveness.

d. Information and Education (I&E)

- A strategic plan was developed by the I&E Subcommittee. This strategy outlines methods the I&E Subcommittee will use to evaluate future publications to determine target audiences and suitable messages.
- A second newsletter insert has been completed and will be delivered to the MDEQ for approval. The newsletter insert is scheduled to be printed in early October.

e. Vision

- Mr. Bowman and Ms. Janice Tompkins updated the Forum on the vision development progress.
- A long-term vision is needed to direct the project and its future sustainability.

f. Evaluation Team

- The Evaluation Team met for the second time on July 30, 2003.
- Ms. Nederveld explained how the evaluation will consider the project's effectiveness and make recommendations for evaluating the project outcomes.

3. Watershed Organizations

- a. The LGRW project will develop a recommended organizational structure to sustain its long-term progress. There are several examples of effective watershed organizations in our state that may serve as models for the LGRW.
- b. The Rogue River Watershed Council is also evaluating its organizational structure and is holding a discussion panel to ask other watershed groups how their structure is effective or ineffective of meeting their group's needs. The LGRW project Steering Committee has become involved in the discussion panel and is cosponsoring this event. The Steering Committee requested that the Forum formulate a list of questions for the discussion panel.
- c. The Steering Committee members, Ms. Kristine Huizen, Ms. Erika Rosebrook, Mr. Corky Overmyer, and Mr. Brian Donovan, led the Forum in small group discussions to develop lists of questions to ask the Discussion Panel. The questions fell into categories of funding, participation, organizational structure, and government involvement.
- d. The questions formed by the Forum and the Steering Committee will be added to the list for the discussion panel on September 30, 2003, at the Algoma Township Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



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4. Announcements

- a. Ms. Janice Tompkins announced to the Forum that two publications are now available for local agencies and governments.
 - The *Landscaping for Water Quality* booklets are a three part series of home landscape improvements that eliminate impervious turf areas and replace them with vegetation that allows storm water infiltration filtration. These booklets are available to anyone. If you require more than 150 copies, a distribution plan is required.
 - The *Filling the Gaps: Environmental Protection Options for Local Governments* is only available to local governments who are actively developing water quality protection ordinances. This book outlines most of Michigan's environmental laws and how they apply to local environmental protection issues.
- b. West Michigan Strategic Alliance (WMSA)
 - The WMSA has a Green Infrastructure Committee that has a watershed subcommittee.
 - WMSA is publishing a report and recommendations for regional land use planning in West Michigan.
 - Copies of this publication should be available shortly.
- c. Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
 - The district MDNR office is moving the Grand River Watershed fishery study ahead one year to align schedules with the LGRW project.
 - This plan will study and recommend fishery management options for the entire basin.
- d. Section 319 Request for Proposals (RFP)
 - The MDEQ's Nonpoint Source Pollution Program is expected to announce a RFP for Section 319 grant monies on October 1, 2003.
 - There are four priority areas for the RFP.
 - Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies
 - Innovative Urban BMPs
 - Innovative Rural BMPs
 - Long-term implementation of approved watershed management plan recommendations

5. Prioritization of Funding Interests

- a. The Forum was asked at their second meeting to provide input on their desires for high priority issues in the Grand River Watershed. These priorities were delivered to the Steering Committee for review



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- b. The Steering Committee concluded that the best projects should have:
 - Local interest
 - Likelihood of success
 - Matching funds
 - Demonstration opportunities
- c. Multiple watersheds may be eligible for funding if they have the same issues.
 - Many of the Section 319 approved watersheds have TMDLs for *E. coli* and poor fish communities.
 - There may be the possibility of addressing many watersheds under one Section 319 grant if they could serve as demonstrations for either of these TMDLs.
- d. There are a number of watersheds within the LGRW that have approved Section 319 Watershed Management Plans. These watersheds are eligible for long-term implementation.

6. Questions and Discussion

7. Upcoming Events

- a. Subcommittee Meetings
 - Rural: October 21, 2003, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at the Wyoming Clean Water Plant.
 - I&E: September 16, 2003, at 10:45 a.m. to Noon, at the Wyoming Clean Water Plant.
 - Urban: October 2, 2003, at 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at FTC&H.
 - Technical: October 2, 2003, at 10:30 a.m. to Noon, at FTC&H.
 - Vision: October 16, 2003, at 2:15 p.m. at the Kent County Road Commission Office on Scribner Avenue.
- b. Watershed Organization Discussion Panel: September 30, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Algoma Township Hall.
- c. Lake Michigan, State of the Lake 2003: October 21 through October 22, 2003.
 - (see http://www.gvsu.edu/wri/statelake_conf.htm for more details).
 - Register by October 14, 2003.
- d. Grand River Forum: Next meeting to be announced.

8. Adjourn

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DISTRIBUTION:

Attendees