



# Lower Grand River Watershed Project

## Rural Subcommittee Minutes

**Meeting Date:** January 21, 2003

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** 1500 Scribner, Grand Rapids

**Prepared By:** Laurie Beth Nederveld

Attending: Gregory Ransford, Mary Ledford, Melissa Eldridge, Paul Geerlings, Rob Zbiciak, Wendy Ogilvie, Janice Tompkins, Laurie Beth Nederveld, and Abigail Matzke.

**Item 1: Introduction.** To begin the meeting, introductions were made by all subcommittee members present.

**Item 2: Goals and Objectives.** Ms. Matzke gave an overview of the goals and objectives of the Rural Subcommittee. It was requested that the watershed map created by FTC&H be displayed at future rural subcommittee meetings. Also, an explanation of the committee organization diagram was given. The diagram illustrates how the Lower Grand River Watershed Subcommittees interact.

**Item 3: Land Use Concerns.** Ms. Matzke and Ms. Ogilvie explained the subwatershed matrix being created by FTC&H to subcommittee members. The matrix contains water quality, watershed planning, land use planning, local participation, and regional planning information for each subwatershed in the Lower Grand River Watershed. The information in the matrix will be used by the rural subcommittee to select a rural pilot project area. It was requested that a hardcopy of the subwatershed matrix be displayed at the next meeting.

The online resource library was also shown to subcommittee members. This library will provide necessary information about the whereabouts, and content of Lower Grand River Watershed resources to anyone interested. Members were asked to turn in information about any pertinent documents their organization might possess to Ms. Matzke. The following are examples of appropriate items to include in the online resource library: Reports on insects, fish, or stream quality, studies done on the effects of temperature, sediment testing reports, historical pieces of river life.

**Item 4: Use of Water Resources in Rural Areas.** Subcommittee members discussed use of water resources in rural areas. Irrigation, recreation, industry, tile line, and cattle watering were a few of the uses mentioned. The eight designated uses for surface waters in the state of Michigan was also discussed and explained. These designated uses as defined by MDEQ are: agricultural, industrial, public water supply, navigation, warm or cold water fishery, partial body contact, total body contact (May to October), and other indigenous aquatic life and wildlife.

**Item 5: Implementation of Programs in Rural Settings.** It was decided that the Farm Bureau would be essential to future implementation efforts. Also, the committee will seek interested persons within the Ionia Commissioner's Board and farmers from Barry and Ionia Counties.

**Item 6: Additional members.** Ms. Ledford asked to add Julie Kuhn to the rural subcommittee member's list.

**Item 7: Next Meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for February 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at

City of Wyoming  
Clean Water Plant  
2350 Ivanrest Avenue  
Wyoming, MI 49418

To note, the subcommittee decided to meet monthly for the next 5 to 6 months.

Before the next meeting subcommittee members were asked to:

- Think about and select criteria needed to establish a rural pilot project area
- Come up with names of people who may be of service to us (i.e. farm bureau members and area farmers)
- Begin submitting information for the online resource library