



Lower Grand River Watershed Project

Meeting Minutes

PROJECT: Lower Grand River Watershed Project **MEETING DATE:** May 27, 2003
SUBJECT: Steering Committee **MEETING START:** 11:30 a.m.
MEETING SITE: Georgetown Township Offices **MEETING ADJOURN:** 1 p.m.
PREPARED BY: Mr. Jason E. Buck **PROJECT NO.:** G02408

ATTENDING MEMBERS: Mr. Tom Doyle - Barry County Drain Commissioner
Mr. Jim Beelen - Allendale Township
Mr. Brian Donovan - City of East Grand Rapids
Mr. Jim Holtvluwer - Georgetown Township
Mr. Paul Geerlings - Ottawa County Drain Commissioner
Ms. Kristine Huizen - Frey Foundation
Mr. Corky Overmyer - City of Grand Rapids

MEMBERS ABSENT Mr. Scott Connors - City of Walker
Mr. Chris Kenyon - City of Ionia
Mr. Tom Leonard - West Michigan Environmental Action Council
Ms. Erica Rosebrook - Kent County Administration

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE Mr. Andy Bowman - Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Mr. John Koches - Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI)
Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld - AWRI
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. Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie began the meeting at 11:30 a.m.
2. The first items for discussion were updates from the subcommittees.
 - a. Information and Education (I&E) Subcommittee
 - Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld informed the Steering Committee that the newsletter insert was completed and 4,000 copies were being distributed throughout the Lower Grand River Watershed (Watershed), especially in Pilot Project Areas (PPA).
 - Work has begun on a Watershed Interactive Tool that will be used by planners and students to learn about the Watershed.
 - Ms. Ogilvie presented a brochure that was distributed at the May 8, 2003, Grand River Forum meeting. The brochure detailed how the Watershed project will incorporate the Statewide Stormwater Education Campaign and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Public Education Plan.

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- Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 2003, at 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at the Wyoming Clean Water Plant.

b. Rural Subcommittee

- Ms. Nederveld discussed the Sand Creek Watershed PPA. The Sand Creek Watershed group has been meeting for over a year and has had the involvement of the Ottawa County Drain Commissioner, Herman Miller, GVSU, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and many local volunteers and elected officials.
- The Rural Subcommittee has begun a list of designated uses of the Sand Creek Watershed and the known and suspected pollutants that are impairing these uses. A list of desired uses for the Sand Creek Watershed's resources will be a topic at the next Rural Subcommittee meeting.
- A tour of the Sand Creek Watershed is being planned for Friday, June 13, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ms. Nederveld at (616) 331-3979.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 2003, at 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at the Wyoming Clean Water Plant.

c. Urban Subcommittee

- Ms. Ogilvie presented a map of the three Urban PPAs; the Grand City Watershed, tributaries of the Grand River mainly within the Grand Rapids city limits, the Millennium Park Watershed, tributaries flowing through Millennium Park, and the Buck Creek Watershed.
- At the last Urban Subcommittee meeting, the attendees created a list of designated uses for each watershed. The known and suspected pollutants that are impairing the designated uses were also listed for each watershed.
- A list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for use in urban areas was delivered to the Technical Subcommittee. The Technical Subcommittee has also requested a list of managerial BMPs.
- Next meeting: Thursday, June 5, 2003, at 9 a.m., at FTC&H.

d. Technical Subcommittee

- The Technical Subcommittee had its first meeting last quarter. This meeting was primarily to discuss the role and responsibilities of their subcommittee. Mr. Jim Smalligan informed the Steering Committee that the Technical Subcommittee's first goal would be expert review of the rural and urban BMPs.
- A tour of urban storm water BMPs is being planned for the Technical Subcommittee. Mr. Brian Donovan expressed an interest in this tour and requested further information about Green Roof systems in the Grand Rapids area. Mr. Corky Overmyer informed the Steering Committee that an impervious surface reduction workshop might be held in June or July. This workshop may be open to the Technical Subcommittee.
- Next meeting: Thursday, June 5, 2003, at 10:30 a.m., at FTC&H.

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3. Pilot Project Areas

a. Watershed Management Plans (WMP)

- Ms. Ogilvie discussed how the PPAs would receive WMPs that will be Section 319 approvable.
- The WMPs will be specific for the each watershed and will make recommendations that apply to their unique characteristics and needs.
- An example outline of a WMP for Buck Creek was distributed and explained by Ms. Ogilvie.

b. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiatives (SWPPI)

- Ms. Ogilvie explained how NPDES Phase II communities would be able to use the PPA WMPs in developing their SWPPI. The PPAs will benefit many communities in the Watershed since so many share their borders with one or more PPA.
- Phase II communities that are outside of the PPAs will be able to use the tools developed for the entire Watershed for developing their SWPPI.

4. Steering Committee Tasks

a. During the April 15, 2003, Steering Committee meeting, the issue was raised about developing a vision for the Watershed.

- Mr. Andy Bowman discussed the outcome of the subsequent Sustainability Subcommittee meeting. The Sustainability Subcommittee decided to differentiate the grant tasks from the tasks of developing a vision. The Sustainability Subcommittee will handle vision development and the tasks associated with project continuity will be the responsibility of the Steering Committee. The Sustainability Subcommittee has decided to change the name of their committee to the Vision Subcommittee.
- Mr. Bowman explained the importance of having a vision for the Watershed to guide the operations of the Steering Committee and possibly other agencies or watershed groups in this region.

b. Steering Committee Responsibilities

- Ms. Ogilvie discussed the grant requirements for project sustainability as integrating the WMP into existing programs and agencies, securing funding alternatives, and creating a watershed organizational structure.
- Ms. Ogilvie distributed an example of how the Rouge River Watershed project began the process of creating a watershed organization. Mr. Overmyer asked if we should brainstorm some goals for this organization before we decide what type of organization model is selected.

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c. Watershed Organization Structure

- Mr. Bowman discussed the Rogue River Watershed Council formation and its relationship with the GVMC. The GVMC may be able to similarly sponsor the Lower Grand River Watershed Council.
- Mr. John Koches informed the Steering Committee that the West Michigan Strategic Alliance is interested in developing a work group to deal with watershed management, and this may be the arena to host the Watershed. Mr. Koches suggested that the Watershed organization that develops the work group needs to have a direction before it begins branching out into the Upper Grand River Watershed.
- Mr. Koches brought up the prospect of having a Watershed Retreat for the Steering Committee to brainstorm how this organizational structure will be developed. Mr. Donovan suggested that more details are needed.
- Mr. Bowman requested that examples of other watershed organizations be presented at the next Steering Committee meeting.

d. Additional Members

- The Steering Committee membership was meant to be limited to a small group of hand-selected individuals. It was the desire of the Steering Committee to sustain the small group dynamics. However, with the additional responsibilities of project continuity, the Steering Committee decided to add Mr. Jim Oosting, Coldwater River Watershed Council. Mr. Oosting will join both the Steering Committee and the Vision Subcommittee.
- Mr. John Hardy, Maple Row Dairy, will be asked to serve on the Technical Subcommittee to represent agricultural communities in the Watershed.

5. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 30, 2003, at 11:30 a.m., at FTC&H,

6. Adjourn,

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DISTRIBUTION:

Attendees

Ms. Janice Tompkins - MDEQ
Mr. Scott Connors - City of Walker
Mr. Chris Kenyon - City of Ionia
Mr. Tom Leonard - West Michigan Environmental Action Council
Ms. Erica Rosebrook - Kent County Administration

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