



Lower Grand River Watershed Project

MEETING MINUTES

Project: Lower Grand River Watershed Project Meeting Date: June 24, 2004
Subject: Steering Committee Meeting Start: 11:30 a.m.
Meeting Site: FTC&H - Grand Rapids Office Meeting Adjourn: 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 2C1
Prepared By: Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie Project No.: G02408
Attending: Mr. Corky Overmyer - Grand Rapids
Ms. Kristine Huizen - Frey Foundation
Mr. Brian Donovan - City of East Grand Rapids
Mr. Tom Doyle - Barry County Drain Commissioner
Mr. Scott Conners - City of Walker
Mr. Jim Holtvluwer - Georgetown Township
Mr. Don Stypula - Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC)
Mr. Andy Bowman - GVMC
Ms. Janice Tompkins - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld - Grand Valley State University (GVSU), Annis Water Resources
Institute (AWRI)
Mr. John Koches - GVSU, AWRI
Mr. James E. Smalligan, P.E. - Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTC&H)
Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie - FTC&H

1. Lower Grand River Workshop

- a. Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie reviewed the summary sheets that were filled out by the participants at the Watershed Assessment Matrix (WAM) and Watershed Action Plan (WAP) sessions. The comments reflected a positive experience for the participants. The hands-on training was the most useful to all of them. Ms. Ogilvie distributed a draft of the *Tools Guidebook* and requested that the Steering Committee members review the tools (at www.gvsu.edu/wri/isc/lowgrand/wit) and provide comments on the *Tools Guidebook*. Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld reviewed the summary sheets for the Watershed Interactive Tool (WIT) and the Watershed Interactive Mapping (WIM) sessions. The participants were impressed with the amount of information available and accessible through the WIT. The technical improvements suggested to the WIM have been completed and the WIM will be more user friendly once the system is upgraded to the newest version of ArcIMS.
- b. Mr. Don Stypula opened the discussion to the members for additional comments and thoughts about the workshop.



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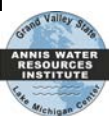
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2. Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan (WMP)

- a. An excerpt from Chapter 3 of the Lower Grand River WMP was presented, which describes the goals and objectives for the Lower Grand River Watershed (LGRW) (attached). Table 3.6 offered a summary of the goals for the Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) and other watershed management plans that have been developed in the LGRW. The overall goals for the LGRW were based on these other plans and previous discussions at the various committee and subcommittee meetings. Comments and revisions to the goals were recorded. Table 3.7 defines the goals and objectives as they relate to the pollutants that are impairing the designated uses in the LGRW. The members commented that both point and nonpoint sources should be addressed to have a complete WMP. Combined sewer overflows will be included as a source for pathogens. The cause of unstable hydrology will be revised to be “a lack and inconsistency of comprehensive, holistic storm water management rules”. Storm water practices of storm sewer systems and other practices that change hydrology will be added as a cause of unstable hydrology. Trash and debris will be added as a known pollutant in the LGRW.
- b. Final review and comments from the Steering Committee are due on July 6, 2004. Final draft to the MDEQ by July 30, 2004.
- c. Mr. Stypula recommended that this project have a media event to promote the cooperation and achievements that the communities have developed as a result of this project. Mr. Corky Overmyer suggested that the media event be tied into the Grand River cleanup that the Mayor of Grand Rapids is organizing for this August. Mr. Stypula will contact the Mayor to discuss the event and possible coordination of events.
- d. The members discussed other possible outreach efforts to get more awareness and participation in celebrating the water resources of the area. Ideas offered included: workshops, overlapping with committees' existing activities and organizations through GVMC, coordinating with the Phase II Public Education Plan, having the Lower Grand as a breakout session at the Growing Communities conference, and providing generic newsletter inserts that communities can put in their newsletters.

3. Grant Submittal

- a. Mr. John Koches distributed a preproposal that was submitted for the Assessment and Watershed Protection Program grants (attached). The preproposal describes a project that is intended to build on and complement the Lower Grand River WMP. Several interactive tools were created in the WMP, including an internet-accessible Geographic Information System. The project will assess and further enhance existing tools, create visualization and simulation techniques that complement the enhanced suite of tools, create a technical support center, and provide training to decision-makers to foster community-based efforts to achieve water quality standards for rivers, lakes, and streams.
- b. Ms. Janice Tompkins announced other projects that were upcoming in the LGRW around the Thornapple River, and the monitoring report card being developed through The Nature Conservancy.



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4. Watershed Organization

- a. Mr. Stypula explained that GVMC is committed to this project and has devoted funding to contract with AWRI for a part-time staff person to oversee their environmental programs, including the continuation of the Lower Grand River project. Mr. Stypula asked the members if they would give a personal commitment to continue with the project. A letter will be sent to all Steering Committee members and other subcommittee members thanking them for serving on the committees and making this a successful project. The letter will also explain where the project is heading and what to expect in the future.

5. Criteria for Project Prioritization

- a. A list of criteria that the Steering Committee could consider for prioritizing projects within the LGRW was distributed (attached). The criteria are very general, assuming that the Interim Committee will define and revise as necessary as their roles develop and projects are submitted for review and recommendation.

6. Next Meeting

- Thursday, July 29, 2004, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. , FTC&H - Grand Rapids Office

7. Adjourn

Attachments
By e-mail

Distribution:

Attendees

Mr. Paul Geerlings - Ottawa County Drain Commissioner
Mr. Karl Hausler - Michigan Department of Agriculture
Mr. Jim Oosting - Bowne Township Planning Commission
Mr. John Hardy - Maple Row Dairy
Mr. Chris Kenyon - City of Ionia
Mr. Jim Beelen - Allendale Township
Mr. Tom Leonard - West Michigan Environmental Action Council
Mr. Jason E. Buck - FTC&H



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