



# Lower Grand River Watershed Project

## MEETING MINUTES

**PROJECT:** Lower Grand River Watershed Project      **MEETING DATE:** November 13, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Steering Committee      **MEETING START:** 11 a.m.

**MEETING SITE:** East Grand Rapids Municipal Building      **MEETING ADJOURN:** 1:30 p.m.

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

**ATTENDING:** Mr. Brian Donovan - City of East Grand Rapids  
Mr. Corky Overmyer - City of Grand Rapids, Environmental Protection Services  
Ms. Kristine Huizen - Frey Foundation  
Mr. Paul Geerlings - Ottawa County Drain Commissioner  
Mr. Tom Doyle - Barry County Drain Commissioner  
Mr. Jim Oosting - Coldwater River Watershed Council  
Mr. Andy Bowman - Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Ms. Janice Tompkins - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)  
Mr. John Koches - Grand Valley State University - 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. Welcome and Introductions

### 2. Subcommittee Updates

#### a. Urban Subcommittee

- Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie informed the Steering Committee that the Urban Subcommittee has not met since the last Steering Committee meeting. They have been providing comments on the Buck Creek Watershed Management Plan (WMP) via e-mail. Ms. Ogilvie will meet with each community in the Buck Creek Watershed to present the WMP and obtain public comment through a public meeting.

#### b. Rural Subcommittee

- Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld has been meeting with the Rural Subcommittee every other month and with the Sand Creek Watershed Group every month. Both groups have been actively participating in the development on the Sand Creek Watershed Management Plan.

#### c. Technical Subcommittee

- The Technical Committee has continued to focus on evaluating systems of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for urban watersheds.

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## d. Information and Education (I&E) Committee

- The second Grand River Beacon newsletter has been completed. Four thousand copies were printed and distributed through subcommittee members and the Home Builders Association of Greater Grand Rapids. There are some copies remaining that can be obtained by calling Ms. Abigail Matzke (the telephone number is printed at the bottom of the letterhead).

## e. Vision Committee

- Mr. Bowman updated the Steering Committee on the progress of the Vision Committee.
- A draft vision and mission statement has been completed and will be presented to the Grand River Forum on December 9, 2003.
- The Vision Committee has defined focus areas and will begin to develop specific strategies to meet the goals outlined in the mission statement.
- Each subcommittee will be presented with the vision and mission statement at their next scheduled meeting.

## 3. Watershed Management Plans

### a. Sand Creek

- Ms. Nederveld is preparing the WMP for the Sand Creek Pilot Project Area. The goal is to have the draft completed and to host a presentation of the plan at a public meeting on December 2, 2003, at 4 p.m., at the Interurban Depot Café in Marne.
- Ms. Nederveld handed out an executive summary of the Sand Creek Watershed Management Plan for the Steering Committee to review.
- Steering Committee members commented that the executive summary needs to include partnerships with local government, drain commissioners, and communities regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Storm Water Regulations.
- The Sand Creek Watershed Group has been discussing the possibilities of joining with Timberland RC&D. Timberland RC&D has 501(c)(3) non-profit status and would be able to accept grant funding and hold financial accounts for the Sand Creek Watershed Group.
  - Timberland RC&D could assist the Sand Creek Watershed Group with grant administration and provide assistance with implementing the WMP. Once the Sand Creek Watershed Group is capable of independence, they would obtain their own non-profit status and begin to provide their own administration.
  - The Steering Committee discussed a similar role for the Lower Grand River Watershed (LGRW). Subwatershed projects could use the LGRW organization to provide grant administration and financial accounting until they are capable of providing their own oversight. This guidance strategy will be included in the Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan.

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## b. Buck Creek

- Ms. Ogilvie presented the executive summary for the WMP. The WMP will be presented to the public on December 2, 2003, at 6:30 p.m., at the Gaines Township Hall.
- Mr. Corky Overmyer and Ms. Janice Tompkins indicated that the prioritization of designated uses does not fit into the watershed vision; therefore, the prioritization of designated uses should be reconsidered.
- Prioritization of the designated uses helps focus stakeholders' attention to the uses that are most valued in their watershed. The pollutants that are impairing the highest priority uses should receive the greatest amount of concern. The Steering Committee recommended that the designated uses be prioritized as high, medium, and low priority, rather than ranking them numerically.

## 4. Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant Proposals

### a. Buck Creek, Plaster Creek, and Coldwater River *E. coli* Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

- Watersheds have an approved Section 319 WMP.
- Common strategies.
  - Locate *E. coli* source.
  - Recommend specific BMPs.
  - Demonstration sites.
  - Information and education about *E. coli* sources.
- Partnerships with Kent County Health Department and Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

### b. Sand Creek

- Update current WMP to meet the new United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) 9 minimum elements.
- Implement WMP recommendations.
  - Wetland restoration.
  - Streambank stabilization.
  - Master plans with overlay district for Sand Creek.
  - Implement agricultural and urban BMPs.
  - Information and education.

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## c. Coldwater River

- Update WMP to meet USEPA 9 elements.
- Create wetland flood storage in agricultural drainage districts.
- Streambank stabilization and road/stream crossing inventory.
- Cattle exclusion

## 5. Next Meeting

- a. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2003, at 11:30 a.m., following the Grand River Forum meeting (location to be determined).

## 6. Adjourn

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### DISTRIBUTION:

#### Attendees

Ms. Abigail Matzke - AWRI  
Mr. Chris Kenyon - City of Ionia  
Ms. Erika Rosebrook - Kent County Administration  
Mr. Jim Beelen - Allendale Township  
Mr. Jim Holtvluwer - Georgetown Township  
Mr. Scott Conners - City of Walker  
Mr. John Hardy - Maplerow Dairy  
Mr. Don Stypula - Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

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