



Lower Grand River Watershed Project

Project: Lower Grand River Watershed **Meeting Date:** December 9, 2003
Subject: Steering Committee **Meeting Start:** 11:30 a.m.
Meeting Site: Sully's Restaurant **Meeting Adjourn:** 1 p.m.
Prepared By: Mr. Jason E. Buck **Project No.:** G02408

Attending: Mr. Corky Overmyer - City of Grand Rapids Environmental Protection Services
Mr. Jim Beelen - Allendale Township
Ms. Kristine Huizen - Frey Foundation
Mr. Paul Geerlings - Ottawa County Drain Commissioner
Mr. Scott Connors - City of Walker
Mr. Tom Doyle - Barry County Drain Commissioner
Mr. Jim Oosting - Coldwater River Watershed Council
Mr. Andy Bowman - Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC)
Ms. Janice Tompkins - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
Mr. Karl Hausler - Michigan Department of Agriculture
Mr. John Koches - Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI)
Ms. Abigail Matzke - 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. Mr. Andy Bowman welcomed the Lower Grand River Watershed (LGRW) Steering Committee members.
2. Subcommittee updates were covered in the morning at the Grand River Forum. The meeting schedule is:
 - a. Urban Subcommittee: January 22, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., at the Kent County Road Commission office (1500 Scribner Avenue, NW) in Grand Rapids.
 - b. Technical Subcommittee: January 22, 2004, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the Kent County Road Commission office (1500 Scribner Avenue, NW) in Grand Rapids.
 - c. Rural Subcommittee: January 20, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at the Wyoming Clean Water Plant (2350 Ivanrest Avenue, SW) in Wyoming.
 - d. Information and Education (I&E) Subcommittee: January 20, 2004, from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at the Wyoming Clean Water Plant (2350 Ivanrest Avenue, SW) in Wyoming.
3. Watershed Management Plans (WMPs)
 - a. Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie provided an update on the Buck Creek WMP. Ms. Ogilvie informed the Steering Committee that the WMP would be delivered to the MDEQ on December 10, 2003. Upon MDEQ approval, the Buck Creek Watershed would be eligible for Section 319 nonpoint source pollution grant funding.



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- b. Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld reported to the Steering Committee that the Sand Creek WMP was completed and would be delivered to the MDEQ on December 9, 2003. The completed WMP, when approved, will make the Sand Creek Watershed eligible for Section 319 funding.
- c. Mr. Corky Overmyer commented that both WMPs need to define how water quality in the Sand Creek and Buck Creek Watersheds is related to water quality in Lake Michigan. Spotlighting this relationship will build awareness of the connection between local water quality and water quality in Lake Michigan, the source of West Michigan's public drinking water supply.
- d. Ms. Janice Tompkins commented that both WMPs need further development on how subwatersheds will form organizational structures that fit into the larger vision of the LGRW. The Sand Creek Watershed will need to maintain local control and the Buck Creek Watershed must develop the public support to create a local organization.
- e. Mr. Overmyer asked the Steering Committee how the WMPs would be used to measure success of the project. Mr. James E. Smalligan, P.E. answered this question by stating that water quality monitoring will be used to determine if the watersheds were meeting designated uses and water quality standards. Ms. Nederveld added that macroinvertebrate surveys would be continued in Sand Creek to determine if biodiversity is increasing following implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Ms. Ogilvie commented that both the Buck Creek and Sand Creek Watersheds are listed on the 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. Removing the two watersheds from this list would be a successful fulfillment of one of the watershed goals.
- f. The WMPs will be posted on the Lower Grand River Watershed Project website. An e-mail will be sent to all Steering Committee members to announce when the plans are posted.

4. Grant Applications

- a. Mr. John Koches and Ms. Nederveld reported on the progress of writing a Section 319 grant application to fund the Sand Creek WMP implementation. The proposal includes policy development, wetland and streambank restoration, demonstration BMPs, and I&E. The grant application will include commitments of match from the Marne Lions Club and many local organizations.
- b. Ms. Ogilvie updated the Steering Committee on the grant application for the Buck Creek, Plaster Creek, and Coldwater River Watersheds. This grant will focus on removing these water bodies from the 303(d) list by eliminating sources of *E. coli* contamination. The proposal includes extensive water quality monitoring to find the sources of the *E. coli* and an I&E strategy that creates awareness of *E. coli* problems. The I&E strategy will be used across the LGRW and will be applicable to all water bodies that have *E. coli* concerns.

5. Next Meeting: January 29, 2004, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Grand Rapids FTC&H office.

6. Adjourn

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Distribution:

Attendees

Mr. Brian Donovan - City of East Grand Rapids
Ms. Erika Rosebrook - Kent County Administration
Mr. Jim Holtvluwer - Georgetown Township
Mr. John Hardy - Maple Row Dairy
Mr. Chris Kenyon - City of Ionia