



Lower Grand River Watershed Project

Meeting Minutes

PROJECT:	Lower Grand River Watershed	MEETING DATE:	February 19, 2004
SUBJECT:	Technical Subcommittee	MEETING START:	10:30 a.m.
MEETING SITE:	Kent County Service Center - 2nd Floor	MEETING ADJOURN:	11:45 a.m.
PREPARED BY:	Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie	PROJECT NO.:	G02408
ATTENDING:	Mr. Robert Zbiciak - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Ms. Janice Tompkins - MDEQ Mr. Steve VanHoeven - Ottawa County Road Commission Mr. Russ Henckel - City of Wyoming Mr. Brad Boomstra - Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office Mr. Scott Conners - City of Walker Mr. John Koches - Grand Valley State University (GVSU), Annis Water Resource Institute (AWRI) Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld - GVSU, AWRI Mr. James E. Smalligan, P.E. - Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTC&H) Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie - FTC&H Mr. Daniel J. Fredricks - FTC&H		

1. Welcome and Introduction

Introductions were made around the room, and the agenda and the attendance sheet were distributed.

2. Status of Lower Grand River Watershed (LGRW) Planning Project

Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie gave a brief update on the LGRW project and the progress of the Urban Subcommittee on the Best Management Practice (BMP) spreadsheets. Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld also provided an update on the Rural Subcommittee and the development of similar BMP spreadsheets for rural land use.

3. Status of Information

Mr. James E. Smalligan, P.E. discussed the BMP spreadsheets and informed the Technical Subcommittee that these spreadsheets are part of the tool being developed for use in the LGRW to select BMPs. Mr. Daniel J. Fredricks explained how the information in the BMP spreadsheets is being used to create an interactive BMP selection tool. The Technical Subcommittee members have completed much of the content of the spreadsheets for the selection tool. Additional information is still needed. Members of the Technical and Urban Subcommittees were asked to add to the content of the spreadsheets and return them to Ms. Ogilvie by March 8, 2004. The updated spreadsheets are attached.

4. Review of Information

Ms. Ogilvie distributed a hard copy of the BMP spreadsheets that included the information that was submitted by the Technical Subcommittee members prior to the meeting. The Technical Subcommittee members and FTC&H will review all of the information in the spreadsheets to ensure that the information included in these spreadsheets is not only accurate, but detailed enough to be useful to users of the BMP selection tool. The review will also evaluate the information for consistency between categories to facilitate the interpretation of the information.



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- Ms. Janice Tompkins requested that the tool would direct the user toward other associated BMPs that would complete the BMP system.
- Mr. John Koches was interested in seeing pollution removal efficiency for each of the BMPs. This criterion would be very helpful for selecting the most cost effective BMP. Mr. Smalligan replied that this is being developed; however, pollutant removal efficiency has not been studied on all BMPs. Mr. Koches also requested that this BMP system be integrated with the Geographic Information System being developed by the AWRI.
- Mr. Scott Connors pointed out that pollutant removal efficiencies and cost estimates would be very useful. Mr. Connors will complete his portion of the spreadsheet with as much information about costs as possible.
- Mr. Steve VanHoeven explained that much of the data he contributed to the BMP spreadsheets was very site specific and generalizing this data could be problematic.
- Mr. Koches asked that all managerial BMPs indicate a comparative cost to other methods. This could be accomplished by simply indicating if the costs are high, moderate, or low.
- Mr. Rob Zbiciak offered to complete the Preservation and Conservation category for the Rural Managerial BMPs.
- The members suggested adding a “Technical Assistance” column to the spreadsheet.

5. Review of Process

Mr. Fredricks led the Technical Subcommittee through the process of selecting BMPs through using a draft model of the tool. The tool works by identifying the water resource uses in the LGRW and the pollutant sources and causes that are impairing water quality. The BMP selection tool can then produce a list of managerial and structural BMPs with a brief synopsis of the BMP, associated BMPs to complete the system, and a cost estimate.

Mr. Smalligan requested feedback about the BMP selection tool usefulness. The Technical Subcommittee all agreed that the tool would be very useful for selecting BMPs that comply with the recommendations in the Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan.

- Mr. Koches asked why the source was listed first in the “Designated Use” table rather than the pollutant. Mr. Fredricks explained that the worksheet was designed for data entry and usually the first item identified in a watershed inventory is the source of a pollutant rather than the pollutant itself. The order of the columns can be changed, if desired.
- Mr. Connors mentioned that the tool may not be useful for municipal engineers who are familiar with storm water BMPs.
- Ms. Nederveld informed the Technical Committee that the Rural Committee has reviewed the BMP selection tool and found that it would serve as a valuable information and education tool since it provides a link between visual cues of water quality degradation and the associated pollutant sources and causes.

The City of East Grand Rapids and the Lake Creek Watershed have been selected as examples to go through the process developed to create an action plan for water quality improvement. The process and information from these two areas will be presented at the next Technical Subcommittee meeting.



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6. Other Business

The BMP selection tool will be part of a suite of educational and informative guides that will be included in the LGRW Guidebook (Guidebook). The Guidebook will be designed for subwatershed groups or communities to use for developing a comprehensive watershed management plan for their subwatershed. The Guidebook will also be useful for developing a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative.

Use of the Guidebook will be demonstrated at a workshop for all subwatershed groups and communities in the LGRW. The workshop will exhibit the different tools being developed for the LGRW project for both rural and urban locations, and will guide the participants through the process of developing a watershed management plan.

Ms. Tompkins requested that MDEQ road stream crossing inventory data be used at the workshops to provide water quality data for those not familiar with an area.

7. Next Meetings

To complete the tasks in the timeframe allotted for the project, monthly meetings have been scheduled for the Technical Subcommittee. The meetings will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the Kent County Service Center on the following dates:

- March 18, 2004
- April 15, 2004
- May 20, 2004
- June 17, 2004

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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Attachments
By e-mail

Distribution:

Attendees

Mr. Doug Kadzban - City of East Grand Rapids
Mr. Jim McAllister - Kent County Road Commission
Mr. Eric E. Swanson - RMT, Inc.
Mr. Geoffrey Habron - Michigan State University
Mr. Rich Bowman - Trout Unlimited
Ms. Melissa Eldridge - Ionia Conservation District
Mr. Bryan Jennings - Premarc Corporation
Mr. John Hardy - Maple Row Dairy
Mr. Andy Bowman - Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC)
Mr. Don Stypula - GVMC
Mr. Jason E. Buck - FTC&H