



Lower Grand River Watershed Project

MEETING MINUTES

PROJECT: Lower Grand River Watershed Project **MEETING DATE:** April 3, 2003
SUBJECT: Technical Subcommittee **MEETING START:** 10:30 a.m.
MEETING SITE: Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. **MEETING ADJOURN:** Noon
PREPARED BY: Mr. Jason E. Buck **PROJECT NO.:** G02408

ATTENDING: Mr. Doug Kadzban - City of East Grand Rapids
Mr. Eric Swanson - RMT, Inc.
Mr. Rob Zbiciak - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Mr. Steve VanHoeven - Ottawa County Road Commission
Mr. Jim McAllister - Kent County Road Commission
Mr. John Koches - GVSU Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI)
Ms. Abigail Matzke - AWRI
Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld - AWRI
Mr. James E. Smalligan - Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTC&H)
Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie - FTC&H
Mr. Jason E. Buck - FTC&H

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie welcomed the attendees to the first Technical Subcommittee meeting for the Lower Grand River Watershed (Watershed) project.
- b. An attendance sheet was passed around the table to collect and update subcommittee members contact information.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of Technical Subcommittee

a. Goals and Objectives

- Identify waterbodies with Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and incorporate Best Management Practice (BMP) recommendations into the Watershed Management Plan (WMP).
- Prioritize designated and desired uses of the Watershed and identify and prioritize water quality impairments.

b. Interaction with Urban and Rural Subcommittees

- Review and evaluate urban and rural BMP recommendations.
- Suggest alternative BMPs that are suitable for the Watershed based on uses and impairments of the Watershed.



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c. Products

- Water Quality Summary (WQS)
 - Connects the known and suspected pollutants, sources, and causes to the overall goals and objectives of the Watershed project.
 - Recommends appropriate BMPs for reducing the identified pollutants.
- Prioritization process for areas outside of Pilot Project Areas (PPAs).
- Timeline
 - **Decision Support System:** October 2002 through March 2004
 - **Designated Uses:** April 2003 through June 2003
 - **WQS:** May 2003 through September 2003
 - **Prioritization Process for areas outside of PPAs:** April 2003 through September 2003
 - **BMP recommendations:** August 2003 through March 2004
 - **Finalize WMP:** February 2004 through June 2004

3. Pilot Project Areas

a. Overview of selection criteria

- The Subwatershed Information Matrix was used to identify possible PPAs.
- The Urban and Rural Subcommittees both nominated three subwatersheds.
 - The Urban Subcommittee's selection criteria included TMDL areas, Phase II communities, amount of existing water quality data, level of local interest, and the ability to restore the Watershed with reasonable inputs of resources.
 - The Rural Subcommittee's criteria included TMDL areas, ratio of agriculture land uses to urban land uses, amount of existing water quality data, status of watershed planning, and local leadership and interest in water quality.
- The PPA nominations were presented to the Steering Committee on March 4, 2003. The Steering Committee proposed that all the three of the urban subwatersheds be PPAs. Of the three rural subwatersheds, Sand Creek was selected by the Steering Committee. The other two subwatersheds will be completed if there are any resources remaining.

b. Watershed Management Plan

- PPAs will have a Section 319 approvable WMP.
- Subwatersheds outside of the PPAs will be able to use the PPA WMPs as a framework to develop their own WMPs.
- The WMPs will coordinate with efforts of the Upper Grand River Watershed project.



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c. Critical Areas

- The urban subwatersheds cover nearly 107 square miles. Defining critical areas will be important to focus the inventory and areas needing BMPs.
- Mr. John Koches discussed critical areas as defined by the Valley Segment Ecological Classification (VSEC) data developed by Dr. Mike Wiley and Dr. Paul Seelbach.
 - VSEC correlates water chemistry, hydrology, surface water runoff, and temperature fluctuations.
 - Watercourses that have highly eutrophic conditions, wide temperature fluctuations, and are mainly driven by surface water runoff were considered high-risk areas.
 - The initial results of the data interpretation had some results in contrast with known conditions, especially in urban areas. The unexpected results were attributed to two data information gaps. One is the VSEC data does not consider how impervious surfaces affect hydrology. The other is where VSEC data is unavailable. The critical area maps will be edited by the AWRI to include land use and/or population density to describe storm water runoff.
 - Mr. Koches can be contacted to access this data using the AWRI's FTP account.

4. Best Management Practices

a. Goals of BMPs

- Create list of BMPs for use in rural and urban areas in the Watershed.
- The BMP list will be included in the WMP.

b. Rural and Urban Subcommittee BMP Lists

- The Rural and Urban Subcommittees are compiling a list of BMPs.
- The list is being put into a spreadsheet. The spreadsheet shows the pollutants, the BMP controls, design considerations, expected lifespan, and what communities in the Watershed are using the BMPs.
- The Technical Subcommittee will review these lists and evaluate the effectiveness of each BMP (a list of BMPs is attached to this email). Subcommittee members can review the BMP list and make comments and additions directly to the spreadsheet. Any changes to the electronic copy should be written in red text and emailed back to Ms. Ogilvie.
- A spreadsheet for Managerial BMPs will be provided at the next meeting.



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c. Discussion

- Water quality impairments need to be prioritized. Using the prioritization, BMPs to address the pollutant will be recommended.
- Geographic Information System could be used as an assessment tool for BMP implementation.

5. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, June 5, 2003, at FTC&H from 10:30 a.m. to Noon.
- b. Agenda to include discussion on effectiveness of BMP systems and possible areas to visit for an urban storm water field trip.

pn

Attachments

DISTRIBUTION:

Attendees

Mr. Geoffrey Habron - Michigan State University
Mr. Rich Bowman - Trout Unlimited
Mr. Russ Henckel - City of Wyoming
Mr. Brad Boomstra - Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office
Ms. Melissa Eldridge - Ionia Conservation District
Mr. Scott Conners - City of Walker
Mr. Bryan Jennings - Premarc
Mr. Andy Bowman - Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Ms. Janice Tompkins - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality



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