



# Lower Grand River Watershed Project

## Meeting Minutes

**PROJECT:** Lower Grand River Watershed **MEETING DATE:** June 5, 2003  
**SUBJECT:** Technical Subcommittee **MEETING START:** 10:30 a.m.  
**MEETING SITE:** Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTC&H) **MEETING ADJOURN:** 12 p.m.  
**PREPARED BY:** Mr. Jason E. Buck **PROJECT NO.:** G02408  
**ATTENDING:** Mr. Russ Henckel - City of Wyoming  
Mr. Steve VanHoeven - Ottawa County Road Commission  
Mr. John Koches - Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI)  
Mr. Bryan Jennings - Premarc Corporation  
Mr. Scott Conners - City of Walker  
Mr. Robert Zbiciak - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)  
Mr. James E. Smalligan, P.E. - FTC&H  
Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie - FTC&H  
Mr. Jason E. Buck - FTC&H

1. Introduction: Mr. James E. Smalligan, P.E.
2. Wetlands Management: Mr. Robert Zbiciak
  - a. Mr. Zbiciak distributed a wetland protection guidebook entitled, *Michigan Wetlands Yours to Protect*.
  - b. The first step to developing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for wetland management is creating a wetland inventory. Mr. Zbiciak presented a map of Kent County and informed the Technical Subcommittee (Subcommittee) that mapping of existing and pre-existing wetland areas were available for each community in Kent County and for the Rural Pilot Project Area (PPA), Sand Creek. Mr. Zbiciak will investigate the possibility of obtaining wetland maps for the entire Lower Grand River Watershed (Watershed).
  - c. Wetlands as a BMP
    - Wetland benefits include flood storage, removal of nutrients, sediment, metal, hydrocarbons, and groundwater recharge.
    - Storm water cannot be directed into existing wetlands.
    - Created or restored wetlands can be used as a storm water BMP.
    - Federal, state, and nonprofit fund wetland restoration with the possibility for some programs that purchase conservation easements on the restored wetland.
    - Educational strategies are needed to inform the public about the benefits of wetlands and that they are not just swamps and harbors for the West Nile Virus.



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## d. Wetland Banking

- Mr. Zbiciak gave the example of the Wayne County wetland banking project. Developers can purchase restored wetland areas when development destroys wetlands. This program has been more successful than historical attempts to mitigate wetlands onsite. Wetland banks can be placed in areas more suitable for wetlands, are more cost effective, and provide larger contiguous wetland areas.
- Wetland mapping in the Sand Creek Watershed and Kent County shows potential areas for wetland banking. Riverside and Bass River Parks in Ottawa County, and abandoned gravel mines in Kent County, could potentially be used as wetland banking projects
- Requirements
  - Wetland banks must be registered with the MDEQ and cannot be previously restored or mitigated areas.
  - Some consideration is given to location and proximity of wetland bank to the wetland areas being developed.

## 3. Managerial BMPs

### a. Update from Urban Subcommittee

- Planning and zoning BMPs have had success in many communities for storm water management. Mr. Russ Henckel stated that it would be helpful if a tool for selecting BMPs based on budget, desired outcomes, and types of pollutants addressed, was developed for municipal use in the Watershed.
- BMPs will be arranged by the pollutant they address in the Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

### b. BMPs in Non-pilot Project Areas

- Mr. Smalligan acknowledged that the list of managerial BMPs might be more difficult to adopt for urban areas outside of the PPAs. Many municipalities in the Greater Grand Rapids already have these ordinances and policies for storm water management in place, while other areas may find it difficult to integrate these BMPs into their current practices.
- A master list of BMPs to address issues and impairments will be included in the WMP for the entire Lower Grand River Watershed.

## 4. Structural Post-Construction BMPs

a. Ms. E. Wendy Ogilvie presented a spreadsheet of post-construction BMPs to the Subcommittee.

b. Mr. Bryan Jennings noted that an enforcement strategy is necessary if BMPs are to be successful.

c. Mr. Henckel remarked that many of the currently used BMPs have not been evaluated. Street sweeping, for example, is regularly performed, but the amount of refuse collected by the sweepers is not documented.



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d. An electronic copy of all BMP spreadsheets will be e-mailed to the Subcommittee members. Comments can be returned to Ms. Ogilvie.

5. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 7, 2003, at 10:30 a.m., at FTC&H

6. Adjourn

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Attachments

By e-mail

## **DISTRIBUTION:**

### Attendees

Mr. Doug Kadzban - City of East Grand Rapids

Mr. Eric E. Swanson - RMT, Inc.

Mr. Geoffrey Habron - Michigan State University

Mr. Rich Bowman - Trout Unlimited

Mr. Brad Boomstra - Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office

Mr. Jim McAllister - Kent County Road Commission

Ms. Melissa Eldridge - Ionia Conservation District

Ms. Abigail Matzke - GVSU - AWRI

Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld - GVSU - AWRI

Mr. Any Bowman - Grand Valley Metro Council

Ms. Janice Tompkins - MDEQ