



Lower Grand River Watershed Project

MEETING MINUTES

PROJECT: Lower Grand River Watershed **MEETING DATE:** February 19, 2004
SUBJECT: Urban Subcommittee Meeting **MEETING START:** 9 a.m.
MEETING SITE: Kent County Service Center - 2nd Floor **MEETING ADJOURN:** 10:15 a.m.
PREPARED BY: Mr. Jason E. Buck **PROJECT NO.:** G02408

ATTENDING: Mr. Brad Boomstra - Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office
Mr. Jim Beke - City of Kentwood
Mr. Jim McAllister - Kent County Road Commission
Mr. Russ Henckel - City of Wyoming
Mr. Ken Feldt - City of East Grand Rapids
Mr. Mike Chesher - City of Grandville
Mr. Rob Zbiciak - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
Ms. Janice Tompkins - MDEQ
Mr. Shawn Wessell - West Michigan Environmental Action Council
Ms. Laurie Beth Nederveld - Grand Valley state University,
Annis Water Resource Institute (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 accomplishments of the LGRW project and the goals and objectives of the Urban Subcommittee in meeting grant requirements.

3. Review of Spreadsheets

Ms. Ogilvie distributed a series of spreadsheets that the Urban Subcommittee has been developing. Similar spreadsheets were reviewed by the Technical Subcommittee and used in the Buck Creek and Sand Creek Watershed Management Plans. The spreadsheets were e-mailed to the Urban Subcommittee members, after the January 22, 2004, meeting, who were asked to review the BMP selection process that the spreadsheets provided.

4. Review of Process

Mr. Daniel J. Fredricks presented the BMP selection tool that is being developed for the LGRW project. The tool incorporates the BMP selection process by leading the user through steps of identifying designated uses, pollutants, sources, and causes. The information entered in these steps guides the user to certain BMPs that address the causes of the sources of the pollutants. The resulting final spreadsheet is the action plan for implementation to improve water quality, which lists the needed system of BMPs and a cost estimate for implementation. The members were asked to comment on the process.



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- A suggestion was made that a step for prioritization should be included.
- Ms. Janice Tompkins desired a link to hydrology in the process. Ms. Tompkins indicated that Mr. Dave Fongers, MDEQ, might be able to assist in writing this section. Mr. Fredricks indicated that he would be able to insert a pop-up box within the spreadsheet that would direct the user to information on hydrology if certain pollutants or sources were identified.
- Mr. Brad Boomstra suggested that the user should be able to adjust the unit cost in the spreadsheet since many of the costs are very site specific. A suggestion was made to have a narrative about the range of costs for some of the BMPs that were too variable to assign a fixed cost. Mr. Boomstra also inquired as to whether the BMPs could be sorted by cost, since cost is often the most determining factor for selecting BMPs.
- Mr. Jim Beke thought the tool would be useful for municipal boards to gain an understanding of the problems engineers and public works managers encounter in preventing water quality impairments.

5. Status of Information

Ms. Ogilvie informed the committee that the content of the BMP spreadsheets needs to be further developed to become more useful to the BMP selection tool. The Technical Subcommittee is completing the content of the spreadsheets, which will be reviewed by other members of the Technical Subcommittee and FTC&H. Members of the Urban Subcommittee were encouraged to add to the content of the spreadsheets and return them to Ms. Ogilvie by March 10, 2004. The updated spreadsheets are attached.

The City of East Grand Rapids has volunteered to work through the process and develop a watershed management plan for their community's water resources. FTC&H staff will meet with the City of East Grand Rapids staff to gather information and work through the BMP selection tools and other components necessary to complete a watershed management plan. The process will be reviewed and evaluated at the next Urban Subcommittee meeting.

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.



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7. Next Meetings

To complete the tasks in the timeframe allotted for the project, monthly meetings have been scheduled for the Urban Subcommittee. The meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 10:30 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 10:30 a.m.

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Attachments

By e-mail

Distribution:

Attendees

Mr. Aaron Bodbyl - Ottawa County Planning Department
Mr. Doug Kadzban - City of East Grand Rapids
Mr. Frank Wash - Alpine Township
Mr. Jim Beelen - Allendale Township
Mr. Steven Kepley - City of Kentwood
Mr. Larry Silvernail - Byron Township
Mr. Jim Miedema - Jamestown Township
Mr. Roger Laninga - Kent County Drain Commissioner
Ms. Angie Latvaitis - Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office
Ms. Connie Smith - Fruitport Township
Mr. Ryan Teelander - Cannon Township
Mr. Dan Czarnecki - City of Grand Haven
Ms. Melissa Eldridge - Ionia Conservation District
Ms. Elizabeth Robins - Ionia County
Mr. Richard Edmonds - Tallmadge Township
Mr. Andy Bowman - Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC)
Mr. Don Stypula - GVMC
Mr. John Koches - GVSU, AWRI
Ms. Abigail Matzke - GVSU, AWRI
Mr. Mark Rambo - City of Walker
Mr. Jason E. Buck - FTC&H