



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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COOPERSVILLE • COURTLAND TOWNSHIP • EAST GRAND RAPIDS • GAINES TOWNSHIP • GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP • GRAND RAPIDS • GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP • GRANDVILLE • GREENVILLE • HASTINGS
HUDSONVILLE • IONIA • JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP • KENT COUNTY • KENTWOOD • LOWELL • LOWELL TOWNSHIP • MIDDLEVILLE • OTTAWA COUNTY • PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP • ROCKFORD
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**Sustainability Committee
Monday, February 1, 2016
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Wendy Ogilvie welcomed attendees to the first meeting of LGROW's Sustainability Committee.
 - b. Attendees:
 - i. Carrie Rivette, P.E. – City of Grand Rapids
 - ii. Elaine Isley – WMEAC
 - iii. Jamie Vaughan – Trout Unlimited, Rogue River
 - iv. Kalie Charnley, P.E. – Streamside Ecological Services
 - v. Dennis Cole, P.E. – Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner's office
 - vi. Rachell Nagorsen – City of Walker
 - vii. Michael Staal, P.E. – City of Grand Rapids
 - viii. Bonnie Broadwater – GVMC
 - ix. Wendy Ogilvie - GVMC
 - c. Wendy explained the restructuring of LGROW's Committees and the Executive Board. The expectation is that current LGROW Board members will sign up for a Committee and be able to participate more in the activities in which LGROW is involved. Beginning at the LGROW Forum on May 6, 2016, the Executive Board will be made up of the Chair (Scott Connors), Vice-Chair (Carrie Rivette), Past Chair (John Koches), and the Committee Chairs (Ken Krombeen, Lea Sevigny, Aaron Vis, and one more to be determined from the this Committee).
 - d. The Sustainability Committee Roles & Responsibilities were described as follows:
 - i. To provide information and technical assistance to watershed stakeholders on green infrastructure and low impact development practices through education and demonstration projects
 - ii. To implement recommendations from the natural connections map
 - iii. To assist partners in promoting sustainable agricultural best management practices and preserving high quality farmland.
 - e. The attendees discussed the appropriate frequency for this Committee to meet. The attendees decided to meet every other month.
2. Wendy reviewed LGROW's Strategic Plan Goals, to remind the Committee of the work that has already been done and to discuss what this Committee needs to focus

- on. (see attached handout). The focus of this committee is on the activities associated with Goal #1 – Healthy Watersheds.
- a. To address TMDLs, the work of the Technical Committee was explained, specifically conducting Water Quality Monitoring. The Public Engagement Committee is implementing educational programs that can be geared toward those efforts. The Sustainability Committee's role is to promote green infrastructure, targeting low impact development practices in areas identified with impaired water quality, and tracking progress toward meeting the goals. Other ideas to promote good business practices that protect water quality included hosting Green Business Breakfasts, building on the work of WMEAC, Plaster Creek Stewards, Cascade and Ada, inviting the development community and local leaders to discuss the issues. The main purpose is to expose community decision-makers in best practices.
 - b. The Natural Connections Map is an illustration of the watershed priority protection areas. Progress has been made in implementing some of the recommendations, such as trails and greenways securing easements along river corridors, the Grand River water trail projects through MDNR and Coastal Zone Management, riparian buffers being installed through NRCS programs, and a wetlands prioritization model showing important hubs for wetland restoration and open space preservation. The Sustainability Committee's work could build on the wetland functional prioritization model, which was updated by Brian Zuber, former GVSU Graduate Assistant. Other partners to bring into the conversation include the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, MDNR, Transportation, WM Trails & Greenways, NRCS, USFWS, and Conservation Districts.
 - c. Sustainable Agriculture is an area where LGROW has not had much involvement. LGROW can promote agricultural BMPs through Education & Outreach opportunities, working with existing watershed projects and agricultural partners. LGROW has been working with the Agricultural Work Group ad-hoc Committee with Farmland Preservation. LGROW has also been participating in the Healthy Waters, Working Farms program. Rachell Nagorsen brought up the idea of initiating a "River Safe" designation for farms, similar to the "Salmon Safe" program out west that could be displayed at farmers markets or restaurants.
 - d. Several partners are active members of LGROW and could be contacted to be more involved in this committee. These could include, NRCS, Conservation Districts, Farm Bureau, League of Conservation Voters, County ag groups, and County Preservation Boards. The Committee will also look toward the private sector. This Committee will also be responsible for tracking progress toward meeting its goals.
3. The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting was set for Monday, April 4, 2016, from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at GVMC.

