



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP • ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BELDING • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS  
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  
SAND LAKE • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING



Sustainability Committee  
Monday, June 5, 2017  
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions:
  - a. Carrie Rivette
  - b. Elaine Isely
  - c. Jamie Vaughan
  - d. Rachell Nagorsen – new committee chair
  - e. Russ Slater
  - f. John Koches
  - g. Wendy Ogilvie
  - h. Rev. Nurya Love Parish
  - i. Rachel Foerch
  - j. Greg Medura
  - k. Connie Redding
  
2. USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
  - a. Geographic Scope
    - i. RCPP grant funding will be used for NRCS programs on private and public lands.
      1. \$5 million in stream habitat restoration in the Grand River downstream of the Sixth Street dam.
      2. \$3 million to Indian Mill Creek and Rogue River for conservation practices focusing on sediment reduction and habitat restoration
      3. Project will begin October 2017 (new fiscal year)
      4. First year – didn't ask for much money for EQIP, required to write watershed project plan for river work before work begins.
      5. Rachell passed around a map of Walker with potential locations/parcels
  - b. Alpine Township meeting with farmers update
    - i. Greg discussed the Alpine Township meeting with farmers held on April 24.
    - ii. 20-25 individuals want to see the creek restored but are worried about business repercussions
    - iii. Some need drains cleaned out, will connect project with Drain Commissioner
    - iv. Not much Ag land in Grand Rapids, explore potential for urban farming implementation and conservation easements funded by land conservancy
    - v. Committee discussed producing a pamphlet, decided yes. Would have community specific information for farmers/property owners – KCD is currently working on outreach
    - vi. Reminder – RCPP money is ONLY for farmers
    - vii. LGROW interns/grad students have been researching headwaters
  - c. Grand River Habitat Restoration
    - i. PL-566 funding for restoring habitat in lower reach of project area.
    - ii. Watershed Project Plan needs to be approved before work begins.
  
3. Water Trail
  - a. Grand River Partnership

- i. LGROW started the 2-year lead for water trail project, next will be M(iddle)GROW then U(pper)GRWA.
  - b. May 15 DNR/Grand River watershed-wide meeting update
    - i. Michigan Water Trails Manual
    - ii. DNR Vision:
      - 1. *The goal of the water trail designation is to develop and maintain a locally supported, sustainable trail for the entire length of the river that offers a diversity of experiences, including lengths, scenery, heritage exploration, paddler challenges and amenities. The trail will be a catalyst for improved recreational opportunity, healthy lifestyles, and local prosperity.*
      - 2. Agreed we should review and adopt a community specific vision
      - 3. Add ecosystem support (environmental stewardship) and citizen science
      - 4. "Waze" app – for road trips, should make one for river trips
    - iii. 4 Steps to creating a Water Trail
      - 1. Get Organized
      - 2. Conduct an Inventory
      - 3. Plan the Water Trail
      - 4. Implement
  - c. Community Outreach
    - i. Access site owners/operators
    - ii. Rural stretches of river
    - iii. Letters of Support
      - 1. Still collecting letters of support, looking for municipality/publicly owned sites for access points
    - iv. DNR water trail page [www.Michiganwatertrails.org](http://www.Michiganwatertrails.org)
    - v. Signage along trail, similar to highway signs, with information like parking, restaurants, length, difficulty level, distance until next point, bathroom locations, lockers, dam locations, safety, and emergency services – what communities have boats to rescue?
    - vi. Signs should be consistent so are clearly same water trail/organization
    - vii. Heritage trails
    - viii. MGROW app
- 4. Other business
- 5. Next Steps
- 6. Adjourn
  - a. Next meetings: August 7, October 2, December 4, 2017 @ GVMC 1:30-2:30