



Sustainability Committee
Monday, October 2, 2017
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Carrie Rivette
 - b. Elaine Isely
 - c. Dennis Cole
 - d. Rachell Nagorsen
 - e. Rev. Nurya Love Parish
 - f. Robert Pettit
 - g. Rachel Frantz
 - h. Greg Madura
 - i. Carlos Calderon
 - j. Cara Decker

2. RCPP Grant
 - a. Contract with NRCS signed, official start was 9/6/2017, grant goes through 9/6/2022 (5 years).
 - b. \$2.8 Million to Indian Mill Creek & Rogue River watersheds for EQIP practices on agricultural lands
 - c. Remainder of funds goes toward Grand River Restoration project.
 - d. Future Community/Farmer Outreach Meetings
 - i. Indian Mill Creek Meeting
 1. Joint meeting with Friends of Indian Mill Creek group to incorporate agriculture landowners. Carlos Calderon and Greg Madura discussing either last week of October or first week of November in the early afternoon. Need to wait for busy fall harvest to slow down.
 - ii. Rogue River meeting
 1. Work with Trout Unlimited and Rogue River Watershed Partners to get a meeting scheduled with farmers in watershed. There is no proposed date for this meeting yet. Rev. Nurya Love Parish would like to be included in this meeting because her farm is in this watershed.
 - e. Step 1 is to develop ranking criteria for selection of EQIP contract to award. This process will start with the NRCS.
 - f. Carlos handed out EQIP Acceptable Practices (included in contract) listing primary and secondary practices. More details can be found on the [NRCS Conservation Page](#).
 - g. Eligible lands (what counts as 'agriculture') is still unknown. Carlos has been working with NRCS to receive more details on who is eligible. Elaine requested a summary of RCPP grant details. GVMC will put one together and distribute to the group once more details are given by NRCS.

3. Grand River Water Trail Update
 - a. GR Partnership meeting took place September 11, 2017
 - i. Upper Grand is still working on community approval. They have secured resolutions of support from 8 of the 12 communities in the Upper Grand.

- ii. Middle Grand has developed an app for the water trail, and is starting to work on community support. Lower Grand is coordinating with Ottawa County that already has a Grand River Heritage Water Trail. A trail in Kent County should be similar to this established trail. The group plans to develop a trail plan prior to asking for community support. More funding opportunities are being explored.
 - b. WMEAC Planning Grant
 - i. WMEAC evaluated Ottawa County water trail and is now working in Kent and Ionia Counties. Beginning public engagement to involve communities. Received funding from Meijer Foundation. They are still exploring additional funding opportunities. Part of the grant is developing public engagement materials, such as presentations. Will be looking at DNR maps to do an inventory and try to complete site assessments before winter months. Working on community buy in.
 - c. DNR Vision/Grand River Water Trail Vision
 - i. Rachell passed out handout (attached) with the Grand River Water Trail vision, major goals, and water trail information for bulletin boards/kiosks at access points.
 - d. Community Outreach
 - i. The committee discussed sharing water trail information at watershed group type events, such as Quiet Water Symposium
- 4. Natural Connection GI Map Updates
 - a. Discuss process to update Natural Connections Map
 - b. WMEAC will send data from interns who made GIS layer of local green infrastructure practices to add to map
 - c. City of GR has "Green Layer" to add to natural connections map
 - d. Committee asked what green infrastructure practices will be included in map
 - e. The group discussed the possibility of creating a story map to increase understanding and usability of update natural connections map. This would allow GI to be shown at different scales, such as underground detention and green roofs, up to large scale green ways.
 - f. The impervious surfaces layer created by Rajesh for the Indian Mill Creek watershed may be included, in addition to any other impervious surfaces layers for areas outside of that watershed
 - g. A number of committee members were interested in a GI database for both the Natural Connections map and other projects they are working on. Rachell will ask REGIS for an update on a GI database that was previously discussed at a REGIS Advisory meeting.
- 5. Other Discussion
 - a. LGROW Social – Thursday, October 26 at Creston Brewery 3:30pm – 6pm Please RSVP to Rachel at Rachel.foerch@gvmc.org
- 6. Adjourn
 - a. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2017, at 1:30 pm at GVMC