



## Subwatershed Committee

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

GVMC Offices

678 Front Ave. N.W., Suite 200

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

##### a. Members Present:

- i. Aaron Vis: Friends of Buck Creek, Est. 2016
- ii. Gerry Koning: Rush Creek, Est. 2008
- iii. Mary Lewandoski: Coldbrook Creek, Est. 2018
- iv. Erv Gambee: Thornapple River Watershed Council, Est. 1994
- v. Ben Jordan: Bass River and Deer Creek Restoration Project
- vi. Angela Walachovic: Sand Creek, Ottawa County Water Resources Commission
- vii. Gretchen Zuiderveen: Rogue River Watershed Partners, Est. 2000
- viii. Bob Schirado: Rogue River Watershed Partners, Est. 2000
- ix. Brett Vredevoogd: Rogue River Watershed Partners, Est. 2000
- x. Carlos Calderon: Friends of Indian Mill Creek, Est. 2014
- xi. Gail Heffner: Calvin College/Plaster Creek Stewards, Est. 2009
- xii. David Comeau, Barry Conservation District
- xiii. Wendy Ogilvie, LGROW
- xiv. Rachel Frantz, LGROW
- xv. Eileen Boekestein, LGROW
- xvi. Courtney Cromley, LGROW

#### 2. LGROW

##### a. LGROW provides assistance to subwatershed groups by;

- i. Online presence through LGROW.org in general and on LGROW.org specific subwatershed pages and all social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter)
- ii. Event promotion through LGROW seasonal newsletter, website and social media platforms
- iii. Brochure and logo creation, example: [Friends of Buck Creek](#) (logo) and [Friends of Indian Mill Creek](#) (logo)
- iv. Project and program coordination, partnerships in grants, etc.
- v. GIS mapping and data storage into [LGROW Data Repository](#)

##### b. We formed this group to encourage learning about each other's watersheds and how to better the river through membership and group management. Be active by getting



outside and doing on the ground work (Some watershed groups currently host “Tuesday Talks” that are at breweries), and identify activities to engage the group, getting memberships, education, and performing meaningful actions.

- c. Grants
    - i. Ben Jordan from Bass River and Deer Creek has informed the Subwatershed Committee that he would be willing to help write grants with the watersheds.
    - ii. David from Barry Conservation District also would be willing to forward grant documents he receives to notify the committee about upcoming grant opportunities.
    - iii. Subwatershed groups can also work together on grants. For example, LGROW has had grants with Plaster Creek Stewards and Friends of Indian Mill Creek to improve habitat. Strong partnerships are great for grants, we would love for us all to be able to communicate and work together on grants as opposed to competing. This will also increase our ability to receive grants and show how great the Lower Grand can work together.
  - d. Erv from Thornapple informed the group about recent PFAS findings in the Thornapple River Watershed and was interested in getting some mapping done in addition to placing signs in affected areas. LGROW staff will look into this further to see what can be done. He also asked about the DEQ’s recent monitoring being done in the Thornapple River.
3. Set Committee Goals
- a. The group discussed different priorities for the group such as;
    - i. Share ideas and resources
    - ii. Improve public awareness (of watersheds and watershed groups)
    - iii. To show real, long term changes in water quality and personal actions
  - b. The following goals were (roughly) established;
    - i. To support and coordinate with all existing subwatershed groups in the Lower Grand River Watershed by sharing ideas and resources.
    - ii. To improve public awareness, increase membership and activity and provide support for leadership in subwatershed groups.
    - iii. To improve water quality in all tributaries of the Lower Grand River by implementing best management practices identified in the LGR Watershed Management Plan and influence real long term changes in land use and agricultural practices.
  - c. Please send committee goals comments, corrections, and any other ideas to [Rachel Frantz](#)
4. Set Meeting Schedule
- a. Meeting Frequency: The group decided that we will meet quarterly. The next meeting will be in early June at Shadyside Park in Dutton. LGROW will send out a doodle poll to determine the exact date and time of the meeting.
  - b. Future Meetings Location



- i. The group decided that the meeting location will be in a different watershed each time. The June meeting will be in the Plaster Creek Watershed at one of the Plaster Creek Stewards project sites, Dutton Shadyside Park, optional planting to follow.
    - c. LGR Watershed Jamboree
      - i. Coldbrook Creek offered to host the Jamboree location at Wilcox Park, with a tentative date of Thursday, September 19. Time tbd.
5. Subwatershed Updates
  - a. Contact Rachel Frantz with any corrections for your subwatershed page on LGROW.org (under watersheds), as well as upcoming events and meeting dates.
  - b. Send [Carlos](#) monitoring data for your watershed to be displayed on the [LGROW Data Repository](#).
  - c. Subwatershed Cleanups: LGROW wants to help with river cleanup coordination and marketing. The River Network has materials available to donate for river cleanups, like gloves and garbage bags. The current cleanup schedule is as follows:
    - i. Indian Mill Creek: Late May early June
    - ii. Buck Creek: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in August
    - iii. Thornapple: September 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - iv. Coldbrook Creek: sometime in the spring
    - v. Rush Creek: macroinvertebrate survey May 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Trinity Christian Reformed Church
6. Other Discussion
  - a. LGROW Spring Forum: Committee Updates
    - i. Each LGROW Committee will be giving a 5 minute update during the [LGROW Spring Forum](#). The new chair of this committee will be expected to give a brief, 5 minute introduction about the Subwatershed Committee and its goals to the Spring Forum audience (Friday, May 17, 8am – 2pm)
  - b. Some ideas for new activities that came up include large spinning wheel and “Entering the Watershed” signs.
  - c. Grand River Expedition (GRE) 2020 will be held sometime during June 2020. The committee is still looking for leadership roles, please contact [Wendy Ogilvie](#) if you or someone you know is interested in helping out.
  - d. Grand River Water Festival, Saturday, June 22, 2019: if your group would like to table, email [Courtney](#), to volunteer for the festival visit [signup.com](#)
  - e. Rachel will for a group email
7. Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm