



Subwatershed Committee

Tuesday, June 4, 2019 | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Shadyside Park

7343 Hammond Ave, Dutton, MI 49316

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

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|---|---|
| a. Rachel Frantz, LGROW | g. Wendy Ogilvie, LGROW |
| b. Courtney Cromley, LGROW | h. Cara Decker, LGROW, |
| c. Aaron Vis, Buck Creek | i. George Miguel, LGROW |
| d. Ben Jordan, Bass River/Deer
Creek | j. Gretchen Zuiderveen, Rogue
River |
| e. Gerry Koning, Rush Creek | k. Pete Lewandowski, Coldbrook
Creek |
| f. Gail Heffner, Plaster Creek | |

2. Committee Goals

- a. **To support and coordinate with all existing subwatershed groups in the Lower Grand River Watershed (LGRW) by sharing ideas and resources.**
 - i. There are currently approximately 13 existing subwatershed groups in the LGRW. LGROW staff will make a comprehensive list of these groups, contact information and associated organizations. LGROW will also try to include subwatershed projects and grants. WMEAC created a project network which we could use to assist us in this effort. This would help when applying for grants and starting projects.
- b. **To improve public awareness, increase membership and activity and provide support for leadership in subwatershed groups.**
 - i. The Rogue River Watershed Partners (RRWP) encourages individuals, families, and community organizations to become 'partners' and pay a fee. Most other watershed groups do not have members or community drive groups. LGROW used to have a membership fee but has switched to a 'network' with no fee. Pete suggested offering incentives to become a member of a watershed group. The group discussed finding models of other groups that have done this, like the Clinton River. However, if groups want to use the membership driven approach, there will need to be staff to spend time fundraising, etc. Plaster Creek Stewards offer two programs a year that offer the public with education and some kind of activity.
 - ii. This group has and will continue to offer support and resources to each other as well as connecting with partners who offer support and resources. Trout Unlimited for example assists watershed groups by getting grant funds, volunteers, and providing staff expertise.



- iii. Another way to spread awareness is putting up watershed signs/maps in public areas such as walking trails, parks, and municipality offices. LGROW has made watershed lamp post banners for some of the subwatersheds and the Grand River. If you would like these for your watershed, contact Rachel Frantz. In the past, the road commission installed “entering the watershed” signs throughout the Lower Grand. We learned that the State of Michigan does not allow any signs of this type on any MDOT roads.
 - c. **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.**
 3. Grand River Water Trail
 - a. A water trail plan is in the works for the Lower portion of the Grand River. The Lower Grand River Water Trail will be produced in coordination with the Ottawa County Heritage Water Trail and WMEAC inventory of access points in the Lower Grand River. There is still more work to be done identifying all access points and writing the Water Trail Plan. LGROW would like to include subwatersheds in this effort, where the mouths of the tributaries are accessible and navigable. Rush Creek has about a mile of navigable water in the last mile at the mouth in Georgetown Township Park. Rogue River may have an access point at the park near the mouth of the river. Sand Creek may have access. Buck Creek could provide access if downed trees were removed to make the creek navigable.
 4. Watershed Jamboree Event Planning
 - a. The 2nd Annual Lower Grand River Watershed Jamboree will be held Thursday, September 19th at Wilcox Park. Prior to the event will be the next subwatershed meeting with time in between for set up and prep.
 - b. Subwatershed groups will set up displays at their table for the public to obtain more information about each watershed. It is recommended to have some sort of poster/tri fold board display, brochures, membership/donation information, maps, and any other giveaway/swag items you would like to bring.
 - c. The theme idea that was presented was ‘Upstream and Downstream’ which would give people an idea of how upstream communities affect downstream communities and the ultimate location of discharge (Lake Michigan).
 - d. If every subwatershed group could bring a game, we can create a subwatershed passport book where people visit a booth/play a game at each subwatershed and get a stamp and can then redeem their completed book for a prize. LGROW has the following games/activities available: Pollution Solutions Chutes and Ladders BIG Game, Spinning Wheel with questions and prizes, Soil Painting, Corn Hole, and we will be creating a Plinko board. Trout Unlimited has a fun ‘Fly Fishing for Land Trout’ activity that we will ask them to bring.



- e. The committee discussed what to do for food and has decided to look for sponsorships, gift cards, and donations from local distributors such as Gordon Food Service and Harmony (pizza). Aaron will reach out to his contact at GFS. We will create a sign up form for service ware which will all need to be sustainable/compostable. NO STYROFOAM OR PLASTIC. Please continue to discuss with the group any strides made on this front.
 - f. Committee Member Responsibilities
 - i. Eventbrite/Facebook Event: LGROW (Rachel)
<https://watershedjamboree2019.eventbrite.com>
 - ii. Sharing event on social media: All
5. Other Discussion
- a. Subwatershed Updates
 - i. Plaster Creek – Finishing up the Shadyside Park project which began about 7 years ago. The summer green teams will start June 24th.
 - ii. Buck Creek – Supported a rain garden in Grandville and are working on another at Grandville Middle School
 - iii. Rogue River – the next RRWP meeting will be Wednesday, June 12th at 9:30am and will feature representatives from EGLE who are going to discuss the grant process. They also just ordered more T-shirts.
 - iv. LGROW – Grand River Adopt-a-Drain is live and has absorbed the Grand Rapids Basin Buddy program. <https://www.adoptadrain-igrow.org/>
 - v. Coldbrook Creek – this group is still very new, they had their first clean up last weekend (June 1st) in conjunction with the Indian Mill Cleanup. They will also be publishing their first e-newsletter soon.
 - vi. Rush Creek – Held a macroinvertebrate survey in May which drew in 25 volunteers. The Jenison and Hudsonville Green Teams will be working in Rush Creek this summer. The Rush Creek Cleanup date will be announced soon. The MiCorp macro study grant is almost over, but was granted an extension through August. The macroinvertebrate data is in the LGROW Data Repository. This summer, Gerry will work to organize the watershed group and coordinate with Buck Creek.
 - vii. Indian Mill Creek – held its annual spring cleanup last weekend (June 1) which was sponsored by The North Face, Bill and Paul's Sporthaus, and City Build Brewing Company. There were approximately 70 people total in attendance.
 - viii. Bass River/Deer Creek – Through the grant that the Ottawa Conservation District received there will be 15 new septic systems going in, aerial seeding and cover crops planted on agricultural land this year. The Ottawa CD also received a road stream crossing grant for Pigeon River and Sand Creek.
 - b. EGLE released an RFP for a 205 J grant, for writing/updating watershed management plans. The RFP is due in July. Buck Creek and Coldwater Creek will be updating their



plans. Anyone within the LGRW is eligible to apply because they are within the LGRW which has an existing WMP.

- c. Next Subwatershed Group
 - i. Spring Lake/Norris Creek
 - 1. J. Nash is very involved in writing the Spring Lake management plan and may be interested in starting a watershed group.
 - ii. Milk Creek
 - 1. Dwight Lydell Park project
 - 2. Gerry knows a few people in the Mill Creek watershed and will reach out to them.
 - iii. Bear Creek
 - iv. Direct Drainage/Small subwatersheds (like Coldbrook) – LGROW will continue to work in the Direct Drainage area to delineate small subwatersheds.
 - d. Next Meeting: We will discuss grants, how to find, write, and apply for a grant. Ben will look for speakers and resources. We would also like to discuss everyone’s education & outreach materials inventory and discuss resource sharing for events.
 - e. Grand River Water Festival, Saturday June 22nd 12pm – 9pm at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids. Non-profit table fee is \$25, learn more at <https://www.grwamc.org/waterfestival> under “Tablers & Vendors”. Volunteers receive a free T-shirt and 1 beer ticket. Sign up to volunteer at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2391950/false#/invitation>
6. Adjourn
- a. Next Meeting: September 19, 2019, 3:00pm – 4:00pm (4:00pm – 5:00pm set up/prep, 5:00pm – 8:00pm Event!)