



Sustainability Committee
Monday, August 5, 2019
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
GVMC

Minutes

1. Present:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Rachell Nagorsen | g. Carlos Calderon |
| b. Wendy Ogilvie | h. Shany Viars |
| c. Annabelle Wilkinson | i. Courtney Cromley |
| d. Carrie Rivette | j. Rachel Frantz |
| e. Dennis Cole | k. Nurya Love Parish |
| f. Greg Madura | l. Elaine Sterrett Isely |

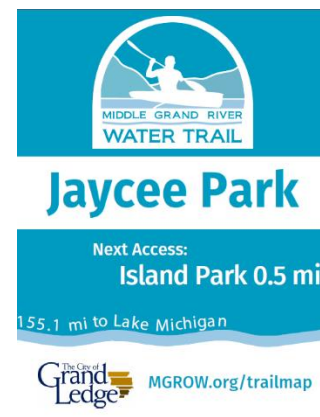
2. RCPP Grant

- a. KCD EGLE 319 grant – workplan review
 - i. Awarded state 319 grant, mostly for Lance’s time – farmer doing outreach. Still looking for more funding for outreach. No finals number yet, they have entered at least 30 pending contracts for Agricultural BMPs in Rogue River and Indian Mill Creek watersheds. Most contacts are in Rogue but there are a few in Indian Mill Creek. Still working on former Highlands’s golf course process, will be in next sign up this winter.
 - ii. Plainsong Farm applied for cover crops, buffer strips, invasive removal, and more and are still waiting to hear about their approval. Nurya will set up a meeting with Jessie from Kent Conservation District to discuss the upcoming workshop.
- b. Project Updates
 - i. Upcoming workshops
 1. Plainsong farm to hold workshop for farmers. There are a couple different farmers who have meetings and “farm talks” and 9am Swan Inn or Wendy’s meeting. Steve Alt would be a good person to reach out to. Dairy, apples, and soy are the main Alt farm products. Wendy should have a list of proposed practices at the next meeting. It would be good to get a workshop on a larger farm such as these.
 - ii. Senator Debbie Stabenow visit
 1. Reached out to Wendy to connect with all people who received RCPP funding. There will be three people from Senator Debbie Stabenow’s office to discuss the EQIP program. Please let Wendy know if you have anything you would like brought up.
 - a. Reimbursement delay
 - b. Outreach/admin funding
 - c. Monitoring

3. Natural Connections

- a. StoryMap revisions

- i. Rachel and Courtney went over the story map updates with the natural connection map. Updates include; All layers were clipped to only include the Lower Grand River Watershed. Courtney has been working on clipping all layers for each subwatershed, so far the impervious and pervious layers have been clipped for Indian Mill Creek and Rogue River, this will be done for all subwatersheds. In addition, Courtney will clip all layers to subwatershed scale for detailed planning view. Detailed photos and links have been added to the Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) page of the story map.
 - ii. Shanyyn offered to share her sewer-shed layers for the map. Carrie will also share data layers for the City.
 - b. GI Layer
 - i. REGIS is working on this layer, we are still looking for REGIS members to submit data for the green infrastructure layer to iron out any wrinkles. Once completed this will be added to “active layers” which are updated weekly. Since not all communities are REGIS members, we will have to explore how to add non-member data. We will discuss once we have a solid data set that works for REGIS members.
- 4. Water Trail
 - a. Any potential grants?
 - i. Still looking for potential grants for LGRW Water Trail planning. Greg suggested asking Senator Stabenow for grant funds for this effort. What should we include in the grant? The group thinks it would be best to get funding for the plan and the interactive map. Between UGROW and MGROW it is estimated to cost approximately \$10,000 to write the plan. May be less because we do have the other two portions of the water trail plan templates and the inventory is already complete.
 - ii. Interactive Map: [MGROW Interactive Map](#)
 1. This would be a good idea for the Lower Grand.
 - iii. [Terrain 360](#)
 - b. Water Trail Plan
 - i. Inventory update Elaine said edits and formatting are left to complete for the access sites for Kent and Ionia Counties. Wendy asked if the data has latitude and longitude so we can use this in GIS. Ottawa County is willing to wait for us so we can designate as a whole Lower Grand River Water Trail.
 - ii. Letters of Resolutions for communities along the river are helpful in the plan. Communities worry that they will need rescue boats and many other safety issues. Safety messaging will need to be a significant part of the plan.
 - c. GRWW progress and alternate route – will discuss at next meeting.
 - i. [River for All](#)
 - d. Signage
 - i. MGROW has created a great sign --->
 - ii. We have previously discussed coordinating each water trail. Next access point distance, distance to Lake MI, Park name, link to trail map, and local community logo.



5. GRE 2020

- a. We really need volunteers for the Lower Grand. Dates: Sunday, July 5, 2020 – Sunday, July 19, 2020. Will be in Portland on July 12 and will be in the Lower Grand for a full week. We need help with logistics, planning, core group, etc. Dennis Cole volunteered to help. We plan to have two people on the river every day during the Lower Grand portion that will be doing some water quality monitoring, streambank survey, etc. Most camping/access sites have been established and reserved, we need more access sites for things like pulling off for lunch.
- b. It would be a good idea to set up an internship with GVSU to lead this effort?
- c. At the Grand River Partnership meeting, we discussed electing “honorary chairs” which would be an elected official from each section of the river to be the ‘face’ for their portion of the water trail.

2019 Meeting Schedule:

October 7, 2019

December 2, 2019