

Subwatershed Committee

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 | 2:00PM – 3:30PM

Trinity CRC

60 Port Sheldon St,
Grandville MI 49418

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Ben Jordan, OCD
 - b. Rachel Frantz, GVMC
 - c. Courtney Cromley, GVMC
 - d. Hannah Mico, River Network
 - e. Gerry Konning, Trinity CRC

2. Grants
 - a. Grant Writing Workshop from Nichole Grabowski, Grant Writing Consultant
 - i. A grant is a non-repayable financial contribution given to an organization
 1. Dispensed by foundations, government or federal entities, corporations or business
 2. Requires an application or written proposal
 3. Time limited
 4. Usually require a report at the end of the funding period
 5. Grant vs. Donation
 - a. Grants have parameters for usage, donations have no strings attached (unless specified)
 - ii. Why grants are important
 1. Money
 2. Builds visibility and credibility
 3. Helps diversify funding streams
 4. Strategic with fundraising
 5. Can create new partnerships
 - iii. Where to find grant opportunities
 1. Research local foundations
 - a. Think about locality of project and search at that level
 - b. Search Resources
 - i. Foundation Directory Online
 - ii. GuideStar
 2. Join email lists
 - a. Michigan Nonprofit association
 - b. Philanthropy News Digest
 - c. The Nonprofit Times

- d. The Chronicle of Philanthropy
 - 3. Websites
 - a. Fundsnetservices.com
 - b. Grants.gov
 - c. Granstation.com
 - 4. Seek out Networking Groups
 - a. Women in Development
 - b. Young Nonprofit Professionals Network
 - c. Chamber of Commerce
 - d. Grant Writers Roundtable
- iv. Considering grant opportunities
 - 1. Does the grant provider's mission match yours?
 - a. Focus or interest areas, priorities, passions, pillars, etc.
 - 2. Is the type of funding a good fit?
 - a. Capitol, program, general operating
 - 3. Do you meet their eligibility criteria (organization type, etc.)
 - 4. Is the deadline a good fit for your needs?
 - 5. Can you meet their requirements?
 - a. Is a letter of intent (LOI) required first?
 - b. Is reporting specified, how often?
 - c. Are matching funds required, how much? (1:1)
 - d. Do you have the staff or volunteer capacity to write and report on the grant?
- v. Writing a grant – follow the guidelines laid out in the proposal request
 - 1. Contact Information
 - 2. EIN #
 - 3. DUNS # (Government Grants Only)
 - 4. Mission and Vision
 - 5. Organizational History
 - 6. Demographics: Who do you serve?
 - 7. Partnerships
 - 8. Financial Information – to show financial responsibility and capability
 - 9. Program Description – what do you need the funding for and how will it be used. Get as detailed as possible explaining goals and how they will be accomplished. Assume whoever is reading the application has never heard of you or your organization and over explain.
 - 10. What need are you addressing? What is the problem? Use data and statistics to show necessity of funding.
 - 11. What will be the impact? How many people you will reach, new jobs, gallons of stormwater treated, etc.

- a. Word limits are a good guide to how much to put into each answer. If no word limit, keep it concise and clear. Unless required, it doesn't need to be too lengthy.
- 12. Goals, Outcomes, and Measurables (Metrics)
 - a. How will you evaluate success?
- vi. Documents Required
 - 1. IRS 501(c)3 Determination Letter
 - 2. Board of Directors Roster
 - 3. Organizational Budget
 - 4. Program Budget
 - 5. Other Documentation to support request
 - a. Newsletters, publications, pictures
- vii. Budgets
 - 1. Show other income
 - a. Pending column to include where else you are looking for funding
 - b. Committed funding from match or donations
 - c. Grants from other foundations
- viii. Tips, tricks and troubleshooting
 - 1. Use the language of the funder – search funders websites for buzzwords and specifics
 - 2. Reach out to the funder prior to applying, find staff who's focus is community outreach, communication, or grant funding – ask about funding available and talk about your projects to find out if it is a good fit to even apply for
 - 3. Do your research
 - 4. What makes an application stand out?
 - a. Thorough, detailed, to the point
 - b. You can prove you are fiscally capable
 - c. Have a good track record with getting funding from other foundations
- ix. What if my application gets rejected?
 - 1. Troubleshoot your proposal
 - a. Did you follow the guidelines?
 - b. Do your goals match
 - c. Does it lack clarity
 - d. Does it reach geographical requirements?
 - e. Inconsistencies with finances and budgets
 - f. Application contains objectives/outcomes that are not measurable
 - g. Unlucky 😞 DON'T GIVE UP – YOU CAN DO IT!

- h. It is okay to reach out to the funder to ask why and if you should apply again in the future
 - x. Some organizations, such as River Network, will get grants and re-distribute it to smaller organizations who may not be able to apply for grants.
 - xi. You can also partner with bigger, more well known groups that will be the main grantee so then in the future when you do apply for grants you can show success on that project even if you were only a partner.
- b. Upcoming Grants
 - i. EGLE 319 due November 6
 - 1. Ottawa Conservation District is applying for Sand Creek and Crockery Creek
 - 2. WMEAC is applying for residential green infrastructure installation
 - ii. RCPP
 - 1. OCD applying for cover crops for Rush Creek
 - iii. Wege Foundation has proposals due in January
 - 1. River Network applying
- c. Other Discussion
 - i. Hannah from River Network joined us today. She is the Michigan (Great Lakes) representative for River Network. Working to do some re-granting programs specific to climate resiliency programs. LGROW is applying for a grant for citizen science. Technical assistance is available as well. The Great Lakes effort is funded through fall of 2021. Hannah will share the upcoming webinars with the group.
 - ii. Subwatershed Updates
 - 1. OCD is working on grant writing and is on track to do over 3,000 acres of cover crops this year.
 - 2. LGROW is also working on grant writing and doing multiple plantings (native plants and trees) throughout the watershed.
 - 3. Rush Creek did a mussel survey in three sections of Rush Creek. Participated in the Mayors cleanup, removed a tractor tire that was embedded in the bank.
- d. Adjourn
 - i. Next Meeting: January 12, 2020