



Subwatershed Committee

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Trinity CRC

60 Port Sheldon Rd, Grandville, MI 49418

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Rachel Frantz, GVMC/LGROW
 - b. Courtney Cromley, GVMC/LGROW
 - c. David Comeau, Barry Conservation District
 - d. Ben Jordan, Ottawa Conservation District
 - e. Carlos Calderon, Friends of Indian Mill Creek & Mill Creek
 - f. Shelby Proffer, Ottawa County Water Resources
 - g. Gerry Konning, Trinity CRC & Rush Creek
 - h. Kathy Jelsema, Trinity CRC
 - i. John Simmons, Coldwater and Flat River
2. Review Committee Goals
3. Grants
 - a. Ben sent an email before today's meeting with two new grant opportunities, see below. Ottawa Conservation District (OCD) recently did a road stream crossing study with a grant and found a couple of perched culverts. These funding opportunities could help with funding culvert replacements for fish passage. OCD plans to write a grant to replace culverts.
 - b. If anyone comes across new grant opportunities, please forward them to Ben or Rachel.
 - c. Ben would like to hold a grant writing workshop to assist some of the other groups in grant writing. Ben has been talking with people from EGLE and other funding sources who would lead or present to our group on some of the available grants and how to write grants effectively. This could be done at the next meeting or following a meeting. Gerry agreed this would be a helpful effort, and it would be best to keep it to about an hour/two hours. The sooner this could be done, the better, since we are entering the grant writing season.
 - i. We would talk about where funding comes from and other general information on grants. We could focus time on the budget sheets, defining match and other grant requirements and how to write a proposal that overall looks good to the people who are reviewing the grant proposals.
 - ii. John brought up that watershed groups have some trouble getting audits. Gerry mentioned that in the past their group has used the township as a fiduciary for the grant application, so they did not have to go through trying to get an audit done.



- iii. Ben would like to start an email chain to begin collecting questions on grant writing so we will have a list of questions with answers ready for the grant writing workshop.
 - d. We would also like to get together an excel sheet for grant opportunities that are regularly put out, Ben volunteered to start this sheet.
 - i. Gerry suggested creating a data base that had existing data, such as watershed management plans (WMPs), to assist with grant writing. LGROW hosts many watershed management plans on its website, and the Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan (LGRWMP) can be used if a subwatershed of the LGR does not have its own WMP. The LGRWMP can be found at www.lgrow.org/lgrwmp and subwatershed WMPs can be found on their pages listed under the 'Watersheds' tab on the www.lgrow.org website.
 - ii. EGLE puts out an Integrated Report annually that has data on all subwatersheds.
 - e. Upcoming Grant Applications/Partnerships
 - i. [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Sustain Our Great Lakes](#)
 - ii. [Fish and Wildlife Service 2020 National Fish Passage Program](#)
 - iii. [Great Lakes Fishery Trust 2020 Habitat Protection and Restoration](#)
 - iv. Carlos stated that there has been interest in doing a 205j for the Mill Creek, which does not have its own Watershed Management Plan.
 - v. John will be applying for the smaller grant opportunities for the Flat River watershed through Walmart and Home Depot for equipment. Currently they are collecting information and working to put it in a format to submit.
 - vi. OCD will potentially be writing a grant with Crockery Creek. Ben will be talking with landowners in the area to get letters of support for sustainable farming practices.
- 4. Other Discussion
 - a. Subwatershed Updates
 - i. Thornapple River/Barry Conservation District has been working with producers for sustainable agricultural practices as well as septic repair and replacement work. In the past year there have been six inspections and all needed replacement or repair. There have been 1,500 acres of cover crops installed, filter strips, and they are working with a producer on livestock exclusion.
 - ii. Bass River/Deer Creek/Sand Creek/Ottawa Conservation District recently hired another watershed technician who will be working in many of the OCD programs. OCD received a NOAA B-WET grant that will be starting soon, a 319 grant to write a WMP for Pigeon River, a 319 for Sand and Bass/Deer Creek and will hopefully be writing another for Crockery Creek. There were just under 2,000 acres cover crops installed, and it was a good year with septic replacements, with 13+ people who came through this year.



- iii. Indian Mill has a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant from USDA which also includes the Rogue River, to spend money on agricultural practices. It has been difficult reaching farmers and getting them on board, there is quite a bit of money left. Hopefully will be doing a WMP in Mill Creek soon.
- iv. Coldwater River, the founder of the watershed group, Dick Smith recently passed away. A subgroup has been developed, the Coldwater Action Group, who is very active and gets in the water to clear our log jams, ect. Streamside Ecological and LGROW are working on updating the Coldwater River Watershed Management Plan. Combined Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs) have been a big topic of discussion and will be included on the WMP update.
- v. Flat River received a 319 through Montcalm Conservation District, which is a 3-year grant. There is a group in Six Lakes that is working to clear the river and working their way downstream. Another thing they are looking at is media and how to expand exposure. Next week starts a new marketing program, and a new newsletter will be going out soon.
- vi. Sand Creek project/Ottawa Water Resources will finally be starting construction of two stage ditching. It has been a long process to get to this stage, about three years.
- vii. Rush Creek/Trinity CRC just had a Rush Creek Watershed meeting this morning. Kelly Goward, with the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC), is also a resident of the Rush Creek watershed, has been spearheading this group. The meeting consists of nearly all municipalities in the watershed. At today's meeting they addressed the new stormwater ordinance codes and helped the municipalities understand how this will work with new developments and discussed how to share resources. The next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd to begin discussing how to reach out to the public. There has been a huge effort at Trinity CRC to install green infrastructure to help the public understand and see what it looks like. Trinity CRC has installed a rain garden to capture runoff from the parking lot before it enters the creek, have maintained a streamside buffer and are planning to install clover in the right of way in place of existing turf grass. They also have an organic vegetable garden and will begin growing native plant species as well for sale/gift to the public. Trinity CRC also does seasonal macroinvertebrate workshops and works with schools in the area. Josh Arnold, GVMC GVSU graduate student will be assisting with a mussel survey in the Rush Creek this summer.
- viii. LGROW has announced their upcoming Spring Forum which will be Friday, May 8th at the GVSU Kirkhof Center. LGROW received a GLRI Forest Service grant to plant trees on school properties. There have been over 700 drains adopted through the adopt a drain program. Please share any upcoming events with



Rachel to share on LGROW. The Grand River Expedition (GRE) 2020 will be happening July 5 – 18, 2020, there is a Lower Grand River GRE 2020 planning group formed that meets regularly, if you would like to be involved, contact Rachel or Wendy Ogilvie at GVMC.

- b. Set Regular Meeting Schedule
 - i. The group decided that the 2nd Tuesday every 3 months from 2-3:30pm will work as a regular meeting schedule.
 - ii. Due to the OCD tree sale the next meeting will be pushed back one week and will be held April 21st instead of April 14th.
- c. Adjourn:
 - i. **Next meeting: April 21, 2020**, in the Thornapple River Watershed at Village of Middleville Council Chambers, 100 East Main Street, Middleville, MI 49333