



Sustainability Committee
Monday, September 14, 2020
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Minutes

Join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/545121293>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)

Access Code: 545-121-293

1. Welcome and Introductions

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| a. Wendy Ogilvie | h. Gerry Miller |
| b. Rachell Nagorsen | i. Dan Taber |
| c. Courtney Cromley | j. Jamie Vaughan |
| d. Carlos Calderon | k. Annabelle Wilkinson |
| e. Matt Soehnel | l. Jessie Schulte |
| f. Cliff Walls | m. Shanyn Viars |
| g. Nurya Parish | n. Dan Schoonmaker |

2. RCPP Project Updates

- a. EGLE 319 and EPA EE Grant Activity
 - i. The in-person field days have been canceled. In order to fill the need for these field days they will be holding a virtual field day. A few farmers will discuss their practices and show case their BMPs.
 - ii. The Kent City High School is located next to Kruithoff Farms that KCD is working with. The KCD will meet with some of the students from the school and host an outdoor field trip. They will meet on his farm and learn about BMPs and check out the erosion on his farm.
 - iii. Jim May has been working on videos showing Plainsong Farm native seed plantings instead of in-person plantings with students.
 1. Plainsong will be using a few volunteers in November to conduct the plantings.
 2. This will allow students to be apart of the farm but not have to visit the farm.
- b. EQIP Contracts

- i. Hop Ridge Farms are turning their cash crops into pasture for livestock and hay. They are working on modifying their practices from cash crop BMPs to livestock BMPs.
 - ii. EQIP signups
 - 1. 9 applications were approved this year for almost \$125,000 to be used on 1,000 acres
 - 2. Roughly \$1M is left to spend by June of 2023.
 - 3. Larger farms will be targeted next year.
 - c. Grand River Revitalization Project updates
 - i. Final draft for the Watershed Project Plan - Environmental Assessment. Will submit to NRCS next week. Then EGLE permit will be submitted.
 - ii. Citizen Science
 - 1. Photo monitoring stations - LGROW to crowd source photos of the Grand River Restoration. This will be time lapse documentation of the project. Partners can share this post <https://www.lgrow.org/river-restoration>
 - 2. Angler Count - Counts are conducted 7 days a week, from 7 am to 7 pm, May through October at randomly selected times to get a better representation of the anglers using the Grand River downtown.. Documenting where and how people are fishing. Grand Rapids Public Museum conducted a volunteer training with LGROW and JB Zoo to have citizens take part in the project.
 - 3. Monofilament Recycling Bins – When funding is secured, volunteers will build and install monofilament bins to remove the fishing line from the Grand River.
3. Water Trail
 - a. Funding updates
 - i. LGROW is applying for a Technical Assistance grant with the National Park Service to facilitate meeting and provide guidance in preparing the Watershed Trail Development Plan. MDNR has a Public Meeting set for October 22 at 6 pm to talk about Water Trails.
 - b. GRE Update
 - i. 2021 is now the year of the GRE, potentially. Initial thoughts are making it more inclusive and spreading it out over more than a 2-week adventure.
 - c. DNR Trails Survey
 - i. Online survey about trails can be found at michigantrailsplan.org. Virtual public comment session on October 22 at 6:00 PM. Video will be available after.
4. Watershed Resilience Plan
 - a. LGROW is proposing to hold virtual workshops at subwatershed scale to have groups and individuals to fill out the matrices (template attached) for their watersheds. Looking for community leaders in 7 watersheds to help recruit community members.
 - b. Wege Foundation proposal to conduct workshops
 - i. People are responding to the matrix that LGROW has put out. The next step is conduct workshops with local groups.
 - ii. We would like to get people who are the most affected involved the plan.
 - iii. LGROW will find out in a few months if we have received funding.

- c. River Network grant
 - i. A possible funding source for technical support.
 - d. EPA Workshop to test tools
 - i. Possible pilot project
5. 2020 meeting schedule - @ GVMC 1:30 – 2:30 PM
- a. Monday, November 16, 2020

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