



Sustainability Committee
Monday, January 11, 2021
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Minutes

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9603491554>

Participants:

Courtney Cromley, GVMC

Wendy Ogilvie, GVMC

Dan Taber, Grand Rapids

Nurya Parish, Plainsong Farm

Jessie Schulte, KDC

Matt Soehnel, NRCS

Cliff Walls, MGROW

Jerry Miller, KCD

Rachell Nagorsen, Walker

Greg Madura, Alpine Township

Annabelle Wilkinson, Grand Rapids

Elaine Isely, WMEAC

1. RCPP Project Updates

a. EQIP

i. Story Map/videos

1. LGROW will send out the RCPP Story Map once it is finalized, giving it a final review before it is publicized. The last step before sending out the map would be to get text into the map.

ii. Sign ups

1. NRCS is working on all applications to turn them into contracts. They will be working on applications that were turned in after the deadline. Friday January 22nd will be the cut off for 2021, unless another signup is need to be able to process additional applications. We will assess that after the deadline.

iii. Virtual/school field days

1. KCD has changed their outlook on what will be possible. The schoolwork will not be possible in the way that everyone had originally thought. Kent City High School has been a great school to work with because Ball Creek runs right behind their school. This has made outreach with student easier because they have not had to bus students anywhere. They are thinking about hosting a tour at the High School in the summer to have stations on cover crops, a soil profile pit, and a talk about buffer strips.

iv. Monitoring

1. Next meeting Wendy will update us on the monitoring. By next meeting we will have a full report.

b. Role of Committee

i. Community outreach

1. We are asking this committee to help advertise the documents Jessie shares with us about workshops and field days.

ii. Hosting field days

1. February 24, 2021, workshop: Sensitive area mapping virtual workshop.
2. No public showcase this year, it will be virtual.

2. Lower Grand River Water Trail

a. Funding updates - Wendy

i. Frey Foundation, Meijer, and National Park Service support

1. We have received money from both the Frey Foundation and Meijer. We are now going to start working on our plan, basing it off the Upper and Middle Grand plans.

ii. [Middle](#) and [Upper Grand River Water Trail Development Plans](#)

1. Both the upper and middle have State Designated Water Trails and the Lower Grand will be next. Then we will consider a National Designation for the entire Grand River.

b. Role of Committee

i. Review plan and provide input

1. Once we have started our work, the Committee will review and comment on the plan.

ii. Identify locations for additional access points

1. We may require the communities to help us find/ update our access points.
2. Where do we need more access, where do we need improvements?

iii. Help secure resolutions of support from riverfront communities

1. If you or your communities are on the river's edge please check and see where we need updates/ more water access.
2. Review WMEAC's inventory and see if this document is still an accurate representation of your access sites.
3. We will also need signs and maps to help us promote the water trail.
4. We will need more letters of support for our plan/resolutions.
5. Also need engagement with first responders.
6. Middle Grand hosts quarterly meetings with 911 and dispatch. Parks director and over safety people, this is something we will need to be thinking about for our plan. Please keep this in mind, in the future we may need your help connecting with these groups in your community.
7. The closer to Lake Michigan the larger the rescue efforts.

3. Watershed Resilience Plan - Wendy

a. Wege Foundation and River Network support

- i. River network has put out tools regarding community engagement. This Community Led Research (CLR) tool from the River Network will be used when we are writing the Watershed Resilience Plan.

b. CLR

- i. The main question we will be asking while we work on this research is how to identify the most vulnerable areas for improvement in each of our subwatersheds. We would like our partners to help us with answer this question.

c. Coordination with other municipal and government Resilience Plans

- i. We have a draft, but we would like more information on under-resourced communities and how to address their needs.
 - ii. We are also working on and action plan for each subwatershed.
 - d. Role of Committee
 - i. [Review draft plan](#)
 - 1. We need to collect this information each subwatershed, then create an action plan based on this information.
 - ii. Review matrices to form recommendations
 - 1. We would like the committee to fill out an action plan for their subwatershed/communities.
 - 2. Please have the comments by the next meeting in Spring/Early Summer.
 - e. C4 Program Planning state
 - i. Community collaboration and climate change (C4). The City of Grand Rapids received a grant from the Wege foundation to help create this plan. In the next few months, they are looking to create webinars and more action plans. Main focus is in Grand Rapids, but we also would like to connect it to the greater grand rapids area.
- 4. Grand River Spring Forum Update
 - a. This summer LGROW will be hosting a 11-day Watershed Forum from Jun10-June 20, 2021. We have divided our forum up into 3 themes: learn, help, and explore. We are spreading it all over the watershed to get more people involved and are asking partners in the watershed to host events or let us know of events that you'd like us to promote during that time frame. If you know of any events or if you would like to host an event during our forum, please contact LGROW Staff.
- 5. 2021 meeting schedule – 2nd Monday @ 1:30 – 2:30 PM
 - i. March 8
 - ii. May 10
 - iii. July 12
 - iv. September 13
 - v. November 8
- 6. Adjourn