



Sustainability Committee
Monday, June 13, 2022
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Minutes

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

1. Introductions
Wendy Ogilvie, Dan Taber, Senci Pace, Gerald Miller, Carrie Rivette, Rachel Nagorsen, Aaron Bodbyl-Mast, Alex Svoboda, Carlos Calderon
2. Sustainable Agriculture
 - a. Urban Farming
 - i. Urban Agriculture Committee – May 11th meeting, next meeting July 13th. Urban Ag committee visited Atlanta where urban Ag is established and growing with its increasing population. Making future trips to Detroit, Chicago, & California to get information on these established city codes and programs. Project modeled after the freedom farm collective, an extension of freedom school program at MLK park. Collaboration of city-wide producers. One year planning project grant (WMEAC), final report will be substantial.
<https://www.michiganfarmnews.com/grand-rapids-detroit-added-to-usda-urban-ag-committees>
 - ii. USDA Urban Agriculture Program – there will be a citizen committee, big bump in funding, a lot of opportunity with west Michigan. Carlos met with Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). Funding is going to USDA FSA and Urban County committees (elected).
 - iii. Plainsong Farm providing food for 3 entities and utilizing funding.
 - b. RCPP Project Updates
 - i. EQIP sign ups – 12 sign ups, 4 submitted. Remaining funding allocation to be determined. Joel Betts, new MAEP Tech, identifies sites so LGROW can potentially install a monitor.
 - ii. Ottawa county – ground water quantity and quality, includes Ottawa/Allegan/Kent/Muskegon where watershed joins together. May 2021 grant received. Cultivating Resilience field day on August 18th. Practices like cover crops, grassed waterways, grazing management, etc. Protect and preserve the areas where there is still a significant amount of groundwater recharge. Can update existing irrigation but not install new ones. Limited to EQIP design but also has Easements. Ottawa Co. (Becky) is managing easements.
3. [Sustainable Watershed Funding Initiative](#)
 - a. Statewide MOU – Finance sustainability for planning, implementation, and operation. Legislation needed to get money distributed through a regional planning body. Strong public survey results taken pre covid/inflation. A lot to be determined before future

implementation. Outreach is needed from this group from key stakeholders. Continuing momentum after elections this fall. Contact Wendy Ogilvie if you are interested.

- b. Communications Team - members
4. Watershed Resilience Plan – EPA Equitable Resilience Building Tool workshops is paid community involvement: Deeper understanding and building of watershed resilience. Led by EPA selected consultant. EPAs equitable resilience building tool.
 - a. 6/21 - Indian Mill/Mill Creek
 - b. 6/22 - Plaster Creek
 - c. 6/23 - Buck Creek
5. [Lower Grand River Water Trail](#)
 - a. Ottawa County Community Open House recap – April 26
 - b. State Designation Status
 - c. Resolutions and letters of support
 - d. Next Steps: Working on safety issues and who is responsible for what areas (e.g Sheriff)
6. 19th Annual Grand River Forum Recap
 - a. Thursday 5/19 – Kick-off event
 - b. Friday 5/20 – Warbler Walk, Farm days at GVSU Sustainable Agriculture
 - c. Saturday 5/21 – GSI Tour, Indian Mill Creek Clean Up
 - d. Sunday 5/22 – Grand Finale - Kayaking on the Grand
7. 2022 Meeting Schedule
 - a. Monday, September 12, 1:30-2:30
 - b. Monday, December 12, 1:30-2:30
8. Adjourn