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## *Meeting Minutes*

**Date:** July 31, 2017

**Location:** Bissell

**Time:** 4:00pm- 5:30 pm

**Present:**

Eileen Boekestein - LGROW

Gene DeWys - Landowner

Scott Conners - City of Walker

Rachell Nagorsen - City of Walker

Dan Myers - AWRI

Noah Cleghorn - AWRI

Jon DeWys - Landowner

Lance Climie - Schrems West MI TU

Brandie Stefanski - DEQ/resident

Linda Bowman - CA Frost School

Carlos Calderon - GVSU

Rachel Foerch - GVMC

Andrea Allan - BHF

Michael Vizard - CA Frost

Hailey Pranskaitis - CA Frost

Ashley VanGelderren - Bissell

Rajesh Sigdel - GVMC

Matt Allen - AWRI

Matthew Hogg - Boy Scouts of America

Wendy Ogilvie - GVMC

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Wendy Ogilvie welcomed everybody. Participants also introduced themselves. The Friends of Indian Mill Creek group identified three priority activities on which to focus their efforts, stream clean-ups; monitoring; and education. Ashley VanGelderren from Bissell welcomed everybody and gave a short presentation about the history of Bissell and the products the company makes.

### **2. Clean up events**

The spring clean-up on Indian Mill Creek was conducted on May 20, 2017. Mike Vizard and Hailey Pranskairits updated the participants about the cleanup event. The volunteers gathered at West Catholic High School and were divided in two teams. Participants pulled out several tires,

glass, metal and other various trash items from the creek. Participants piled up the trash in several locations, which was later picked up by the City of Walker. Coordinating with WMEAC for the Mayors' Clean-up was also discussed in the meeting. Location of ideal places to clean up will be identified and discussed with WMEAC.

### **3. Monitoring Activities**

Rajesh Sigdel, Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Graduate Assistant working with Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC), updated the members about his project. His results showed that the temperature is meeting the coldwater fisheries standard, but the sediment transporting and deposition is impacting the habitat of the creek and affecting fish and macroinvertebrate populations. Wendy announced that Rajesh completed his Master's degree from Grand Valley and will be going to Western Michigan University for his graduate study in GIS geography.

GVSU students Dan Myers, Noah Cleghorn, and Matt Allen are investigating Indian Mill Creek. They are using laser technology, total station, and erosion pins to study streambank erosion. They are also using a Mapshed model to estimate pollutant load. Noah is using photogrammetry where he is taking multiple photos of the creek and feeding them into Agisoft software to make a 3D model which he will be using to estimate the volume of the area.

Participants were also informed about the fish survey using fish electroshock conducted in different locations throughout the Indian Mill Creek watershed. The fish survey was completed with the help of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Many coldwater fish, including brown and rainbow trout, were found in Indian Mill Creek.

Rachell Nagorsen also informed participants that City of Walker has been working on converting the Walker ditch into a retention or detention pond.

### **4. Education and Outreach Plan**

Eileen Boekestein facilitated the education and outreach discussion for Indian Mill Creek Watershed. She highlighted that the actions of people living in the watershed can impact the creek. She also reviewed the past educational activities such as storm drain marking, macroinvertebrate identification, and classroom work with C.A Frost, West Catholic High School, and Kenowa Hills High School. Eileen also presented the dog waste pledge and waste bag dispensers to increase awareness about the *E. coli* in the creek.

She also highlighted the importance of the community engagement opportunities like Grand River Water Festival. CA Frost School has been conducting an annual water conference. The same model could be used by other schools to increase awareness among students and their families. Various ideas were proposed in the meeting by participants to participate in different activities to increase awareness. Boy Scouts hosts University of Scouting in November. We

could also engage in neighborhood night out program. Brewery connections could help in our education mission.

Matt Hogg from the Boy Scouts of America was wondering if there is any flyer/brochure about event(s) that they could share with their members through online. Partners distribution info, community boards and press release could be used to increase awareness.

## **5. Public Engagement**

Eileen informed participants that LGROW has been working on a data repository where any professional or data collected by professionals, students, or volunteers could be submitted and will be available for public use. MiCorps has grant funding available for the volunteer monitoring program and Friends of Indian Mill Creek could apply for the grant. Lance Climie provided information about the work TU is conducting in Buck Creek with MiCorps funding.

Wendy led a brainstorming session about other information people want to know about the watershed or what other activities the participants would like to conduct. Below are some of the suggestions:

- Estimating the fish populations in the creek
- Installing watershed or stream name signs in and around the creek that notify passerbys that they are in the Indian Mill Creek Watershed
- Number of livestock and how they are impacting the creek.
- Invasive species identification/clean up event.
- Identifying various point and non-point sources of pollution
- Levels of chloride, nutrients, chemicals etc.
- Completing a fish barrier (dams and perched culvert) inventory of the creek
- Migratory salmon populations in the creek.

## **6. Adjourn**

An email will be sent to inform about the next meeting date and location.