



Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 20, 2016

Location: Grand Valley Metropolitan Council **Time:** 9 am to 10.30 am

Present:

Jim Bake
Bonnie Broadwater
Jason Buck
Doug LaFave
Wendy Ogilvie
Rajesh Sigdel

Amanda St. Amour
Dana Strouse
Daniel Taber
Aaron Vis
Mike Lunn

1. Welcome and Introduction

Attendees introduced themselves and respective organizations and communities.

Committee members agreed to change the meeting time to accommodate several committee member who have a conflicting meeting with REGIS. This will also ensure that REGIS staff are able to attend upcoming meetings as we work through the final steps of getting the data repository up and running. Technical meeting will now be held on the third Wednesday, every other month at 10:30 at GVMC. (Date and location remain unchanged). Bonnie will send out the updated appointment in Microsoft outlook.

2. Review of Minutes- February 17,2016

Committee members will receive the 2/17/16 minutes via email and can provide electronically or at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

3. Buck Creek/ Data Repository

The group reviewed the Buck Creek data which was entered using the submittal form and spreadsheet designed by the committee. Aaron pointed out that when data is pulled into Arc GIS, there needs to be some modification, to the fields for "Less than" detection limit. Currently, ArcGIS treats this as a text field rather than numeric field. Aaron Vis and Mike Lunn discussed how their existing data bases handle this scenario and the group agreed that the text vs numeric field type is one that REGIS will need to help solve at the next meeting so that the data is searchable even for attributes that are below the detection limit.

For the HUC code, Wendy showed “find your watershed” link to the committee through projector. Currently, we don’t have HUC code listed in the “Find your watershed”. We could add HUC code in the link or link to the find your watershed tool.

The committee also discussed the different symbology to view the data. Since some users may not know what value ranges for certain parameters mean in terms of water quality perhaps a unified symbol system may be helpful. For example, a change in color of the “pointer” could give a better idea to the navigator about the water quality.

Mike mentioned incorporating real time data (as a live data feed). While we don’t have the capability or the budget to accommodate that at this time, it is definitely keep in mind for the future. Also, currently navigator doesn’t have an option to export the data. Data can only be viewed. This is also a function the group would like to add in the future.

4. Landing Page/ Tutorial

The next item that needs to be developed is the Arc GIS tutorial, which will teach users how to access the features available through Arc GIS online including searching by parameter. Bonnie mentioned that ArcGIS has a tutorial that we can start with and customize. The group discussed the merits of a tutorial using screen shots vs. animation. The committee agreed that the tutorial should be short, simple and easy to use with limited photos and no animation.

The last item related to the repository was a review of the mock-up for the landing page Bonnie created. Committee members were asked to provide feedback and suggestions on the layout and content.

5. Options for equipment purchase, rental, share etc.

Bonnie attempted to price units through several different vendors for rental. Rental rates for probes begin at \$200-400 dollars per week . These probes are still not capable of measuring TSS which is a required monitoring component under the terms of the new permit. Purchasing the equipment is cost prohibitive and will require laboratory space to regularly calibrate.

The group discussed pricing out a contract for monitoring. Mike Lunn suggested collaborating with existing labs and hiring interns to conduct the field work component. The group will discuss this in greater detail at the next meeting.

The group will also need to finalize the proposed sampling locations.

6. Committee Updates

Committee Members updated about the projects of their respective community including;

- Buck Creek Quarterly Monitoring
- LGROW's upcoming Lower Grand River Forum on 5/6/2016
- Grand Rapids is developing a GIS heat map based on Water Quality Index values

7. Adjourn

The next meeting date and location is June 15, 2016 from **10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** (every two months third Wednesday) at Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.