



## ***LGROW Technical Committee***

---

### ***Meeting Notice***

**To:** LGROW Technical Committee  
**Where:** Kent County Recycling and Education Center, 977 Wealthy St SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
**When:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

### **Minutes**

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Aaron gave a brief overview of the Technical Committee
  - b. See sign in sheet for attendees
2. LGROW Update
  - a. MS4 Permits
    - i. Kent Co. Drain Commissioner issued new MS4 permit Feb. 1, 2020- no new reviews under the new standards yet
    - ii. Hopefully rolling out Township permits next- waiting to hear from Permits Section in Lansing
    - iii. EGLE sent out an email to all NPDES permit holders for a vulnerability analysis regarding high water levels
      1. This is not requiring anything above and beyond current MS4 requirements, but municipalities need to evaluate and assess their existing BMPs to make sure that these facilities will function properly at these high water levels.
      2. Should have received this email if you are on the .gov email list, Cara will forward to the Committee
      3. No additional reporting requirements for the vulnerability analysis
  - b. Committee Updates
    - i. P. Ed: following this meeting at the Recycling Center
    - ii. Sustainability: next meeting in March
    - iii. Subwatershed: next meeting April 21<sup>st</sup> in Middleville
3. E. coli Presentation
  - a. Molly Rippke, Aquatic Biologist Specialist, EGLE

- i. EGLE sampled the Lower Grand River in June 2019, MSU analyzed the results, still waiting on DNA marker info at the time of this meeting
- ii. Samples are taken on the Lower Grand once every 5 years
- iii. LGROW should keep Kent Co. Health Dept. in the loop, bc EGLE doesn't necessarily notify the Health Dept. every time they are in the field sampling for E. Coli
- iv. Running samples for E. Coli costs \$15-25 through the state
- v. Molly's presentation saved in LGROW Tech folder

#### 4. TMDL Manual Review

- a. Comments received from MS4s
  - i. Cara made admin changes since the last meeting. Courtney updated all maps to accurately reflect the updated sampling locations on all impaired waterbodies
    - 1. MS4s have reviewed, we are looking for input from EGLE, but have yet to submit the plan for official incorporation into the permits
  - ii. Aaron explained the 2 tiered monitoring approach in our draft plan
- b. EGLE expectations and BMP implementation
  - i. Cara asked EGLE for guidance for the new TMDL requirements. We want to be clear about what the agency is asking for.
    - 1. Christe suggested that LGROW should use the data we have/will collect to prioritize the sewersheds where we want to implement BMPs
  - ii. Christe suggested that Townships should sample at all of their outfalls in order to make a defense that they are not contributing to TMDL issues.
  - iii. Christe also suggested that LGROW should do in stream monitoring/take end of pipe samples in this permit cycle to then be able to prioritize certain sewersheds based on sample results for future permit cycles.
  - iv. Committee discussed doing sampling during the next IDEP sampling cycle, which would be during the permit cycle. This TMDL Implementation Plan specifies 2 samples will be taken at each location during the permit cycle. 2 samples will be taken at each location before April 2023 (end of next permit cycle). Christe reinforced that this is the minimum sampling requirement that EGLE is allowing.
    - 1. Since there are only 2 sampling events, we will need to demonstrate how we have made efforts to reduce E. coli and TSS in our reporting
  - v. Right now the plan specifies taking samples during wet weather events. However, EGLE didn't clarify that samples actually had to be taken during wet events. Cara will follow up.
  - vi. LGROW will add information about how we will prioritize areas in the future after sampling into the TMDL Implementation Plan
    - 1. Christe suggested looking at the Rouge River's TMDL plan
- c. Christe wrote an article in the MWEA magazine regarding sulfates and chloride usage that Cara shared with the group. Christe gave a short synopsis of the article to the Committee.

- i. The agency is looking at the effects of chlorides and sulfates on surface waters, coming from excess salt usage. EGLE is currently writing recommendations about reducing salt usage and BMPs.
- ii. In the future these requirements could be tied to MS4 permits.
- iii. Aaron made the point that municipalities are doing well (increased material cost has driven down usage), but are worried about private entities (ex: grocery store parking lots) using too much salt
  1. EGLE is taking that into consideration and seeing if they as an agency have the capacity to regulate private businesses as far as salt usage goes

5. Upcoming Events

- a. Training Opportunities
  - i. Tue. Feb. 18 - Interface H2O
  - ii. Th. March 5 - WMSECN
  - iii. Th. March 12 - Flood Resilience
  - iv. P2GH Training Video with LGROW supplemental guidance
- b. Next Technical Meeting – April 15, 1pm at GVMC
- c. LGROW Spring Forum, May 8, 2020

6. Adjourn

- a. Optional self-guided tour on the catwalk of the recycling center
- b. LGROW Public Engagement meeting at recycling center at 2 pm

**MS4 Website:** <https://www.lgrow.org/ms4>