



Sustainability Committee
Monday, April 2, 2018
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

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|-------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Aaron Bouwkamp | g. Rachel Frantz |
| b. Carrie Rivette | h. Rachell Nagorsen |
| c. Dennis Cole | i. Rev. Nurya Love Parish |
| d. Elaine Isely | j. Robert Pettit |
| e. Greg Madura | k. Wendy Ogilvie |
| f. Jamie Vaughan | |

2. Sustainable Agriculture

- a. Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant update
 - i. Wendy gave some updates. The Kent Conservation District is leading the EQIP portion of the RCPP grant and have formed an outreach committee with Trout Unlimited, Rogue River Watershed Partners, LGROW, Friends of Indian Mill Creek, etc. The group is working on forming clear, concise messaging for the NRCS program so they are easily understood.
 - ii. The Sustainability Committee's involvement in this project coincides with one of the LGROW's goals, to address sustainable agriculture in the Lower Grand River Watershed.
 - iii. At this time there are fifteen interested land owners and five contracts have been submitted before the January 2018 application deadline. The next deadline is May 2018 and the money will be allocated before the start of the next fiscal year (October 2018).
 - iv. In the grant, we committed to hosting four workshops this year. If you or your organization are interested in hosting a workshop, or speaking/have someone who is willing to be a speaker, please email Wendy at wendy.ogilvie@gvmc.org
The goal is to get farmers to sign up for the Farm Bill practices.
 1. We can present to board members
 2. Trout Unlimited connected with a community leader who went door to door and got twenty attendees to discuss the RCPP in Sparta. There will also be a meeting/workshop in the Rogue River Watershed at Rockford Cellar Brewing
 3. Rev. Nurya offered to host a workshop and also mentioned a growers group who is meeting tonight (4/2/2018) and will give information to them. Growers must have a farm number to sign up.
 4. The West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum has an upcoming stormwater program and could plug RCPP information
 5. WMEAC requested slides for presentation

6. Rachell Nagorsen will put flyers out in Walker for Indian Mill Creek watershed agricultural farmers to take.
 7. Jim May, head of the Farm Bureau would be a good contact.
 8. www.lgrow.org/rcpp
 - v. Evaluation metrics will be discussed at the next meeting
 - b. Local Farms, Local Food
 - i. Potential for combining millage with parks millage
 - ii. We will have an update for the PA 116 maps and shapefiles at the next meeting. Greg in the GVMC REGIS department is working on this.
 3. Natural Connections
 - a. Grand River Water Trail
 - i. The Quiet Water Symposium went well, Water Trail partners were tabled next to/back to back. Most participants wanted maps for the water trail.
 - ii. The Upper Grand River Watershed has completed their water trail planning document. Middle Grand Watershed has almost completed their water trail planning document. The Lower Grand Watershed is missing a Kent and Ionia counties water trail planning document but does have a completed Ottawa County water trail planning document. WMEAC intern Natalie has nearly completed the access site inventory of the Grand River in Kent and Ionia Counties and will be done soon. WMEAC is also still in the process of obtaining all the resolutions of support for these counties. The group discussed the potential for waiting for the opportunity to become a state designated water trail (due to understaffing this would be a long wait) or becoming a national designated water trail, like the Huron River Water Trail.
 - iii. The 2020 Grand River Expedition is still in need of a chair and many other planning members.
 - iv. Red Cedar Creek Expedition was cancelled.
 - b. Green Infrastructure Map updates
 - i. REGIS Green Infrastructure Layer – Greg has been working on this and has included practices such as rain gardens, porous pavement, and bioretention facilities. Greg and Rachell will be bringing this data to the next engineers meeting in April/May. Not every community in the Lower Grand River Watershed is a REGIS member, which will make it difficult to form a complete map. One of the LGROW interns will continue working on this map. The group asked about street trees being included as a layer (separate from tree canopy layer).
 - ii. StoryMap development ([A Grand Restoration](#))
 4. Other Discussion
 5. Adjourn

Next Meetings: (All at GVMC @ 1:30 – 2:30 pm)

June 4, 2018
August 6, 2018
October 1, 2018
December 3, 2018