



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP O ALGOMA TOWNSHIP O ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP O ALPINE TOWNSHIP O BELDING O BYRON TOWNSHIP O CALEDONIA O CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP O CANNON TOWNSHIP O CASCADE TOWNSHIP
CEDAR SPRINGS O COOPERSVILLE O COURTLAND TOWNSHIP O EAST GRAND RAPIDS O GAINES TOWNSHIP O GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP O GRAND RAPIDS O GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP O GRANDVILLE
GREENVILLE O HASTINGS O HUDSONVILLE O IONIA O JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP O KENT COUNTY O KENTWOOD O LOWELL O LOWELL TOWNSHIP O MIDDLEVILLE O NELSON TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY O PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP O ROCKFORD O SAND LAKE O SPARTA O TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP O WALKER O WAYLAND O WYOMING



Public Engagement Committee

Wednesday, October 8, 2021

2:00-3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81569243833

Minutes

1. Attendance:

- a. Mary Trapp, Plainfield Twp
b. Andrew Reinhart, Kent Co Road Commission
c. Natalie Davenport, Sparta
d. Eileen Boekestein, GVMC
e. Rod Weersing, Georgetown Twp
f. Carrie Rivette, City of GR ESD
g. Peter Klooster, Wyoming
h. Kyle Hart, WMEAC
i. Joel Morgan, KCDC
j. Jill Frielink, Hudsonville
k. Jerry Olman, OCRC
l. Lisa Gorski, GR Water Dept
m. Brendan Earl, KCHD
n. Eileen Boekestein, LGROW
o. Cara Decker, LGROW

2. Agenda Review and Meeting Purpose: Permit Update; 2022 Focused Topic Giveaways & Materials

3. Schedule for 2021 – 2022 - Meeting times 2:00-3:30 PM – Quarterly; Virtual until further notice

- a. 2021: October 13
b. 2022: January 12, April 13, July 13, October 12

4. Cooperating and collaborating with LGROW’s network to foster public education and outreach regarding shared environmental priorities.

- a. WMEAC Mayors Grand River Cleanup Results
i. 6300 pounds of trash collected (estimate) – hard to estimate from individual participation
ii. Over 40 sites around Grand River and tributaries and public parks for storm drains
iii. Approx 1200 people participated this year – more feasible for people to join throughout the week
iv. Excited to partner with organizations like GVSU for more large events last year
v. Plan to continue having week-long event where people can participate as works for them and balance with the excitement of a one-day event.
b. Septic Smart Week 2021 Success
i. Thank you for sharing info on your social media
ii. Kent County Health Dept- did 2 weeks of outreach via social media, and

- Sanitarians attended local Twp. meetings
- c. Lions & Rabbits [Storm Drain Art](#) in City of Grand Rapids
 - i. There are more storm drain murals downtown, some were completed during Art Prize
 - ii. Paint should last for a long time
 - iii. Want to do a story map for a walking tour once all locations are included
- d. 1st annual Global Water Festival
 - i. Was a successful event at Canal Park in Grand Rapids at the end of September, a really good example of an event that celebrated water. LGROW can support communities in these efforts
- e. EGLE 319 grant for Rainscaping awarded
 - i. WMEAC was awarded a large grant to promote Grand River Rainscaping. Native Plantings, raingardens, porous pavers and green alleys will be implemented around Grand Rapids.
 - ii. LGROW would love to partner with other communities to promote the Rainscaping Program
- f. Wyoming DPW- just installed a new bioswale to help capture the increased stormwater runoff generated by the additional impervious surface added onsite. Students will plant the swale at the end of October. Created engineered soils by mixing in compost from the yard waste collection site.
 - i. Partners invited to help plant on October 28

5. Supporting programs, events, materials, and activities that help communities meet the educational requirements of the NPDES stormwater permits (MS4s)

- a. 2021 PEP Implementation
 - i. Winter Tips + social media plan available in the Dropbox
 - 1. Spanish translations are available also
 - ii. Social Media plan/content + newsletter articles:
 - <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/87butz10gwm9y21/AAAy85o28ofu0agcuC1C1J-Sa?dl=0>
 - iii. Eileen sends the social media separately to the social media contact at each community, customization is ok
- b. Updated approach for 2022 Giveaway Materials
 - i. Focused topic will be: Ultimate stormwater discharge location and potential impacts
 - ii. Reduced volume of giveaway items
 - 1. Want to reduce any giveaways that would end up in a landfill
 - 2. LGROW have some ideas about giveaways- are looking at things to reduce the trash that we commonly see in storm drains
 - a. Custom sweedish dish cloth, pens, coloring books and colored pencils, pet waste bags
 - b. Timeline for giveaways: get the order forms out by the end of the month and have items in around the first of the year
 - iii. NEW - Event Kits for checkout
 - 1. Instead of buying a ton of giveaways we wanted to create kits that you could check out from LGROW to host events

- a. Ex: storm drain cleaning. A kit would include gloves, trash bags, etc.
 - c. Business outreach flyer review
 - i. Formatting needs to be adjusted- margins to being printed
 - ii. These flyers are a result of the updated PEP, need to do more outreach to businesses
 - iii. Would you rather print your own, or have LGROW print?
 - 1. Sparta- ok with printing them ourselves and having the electronic version
 - 2. If communities have a hard copy, then they could be mailed.
 - a. LGROW could mail the information if we have a list of businesses to contact
 - b. LGROW should also create social media posts about these fliers so everyone can post them online

6. Documenting successful implementation the Information and Education Plan of the federally-approved Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan.

- a. Partner success story: **City of Grand Rapids, Adopt-a-Drain Billboards**
 - i. Will be up through January, partnered with LGROW to promote clean catch basins
- b. LGROW Committee Updates
 - i. Technical
 - 1. Working through the approved TMDL plan to prepare for sampling next summer
 - ii. Sustainability
 - 1. Working on the Water Trail
 - iii. Subwatershed
 - 1. Meeting tomorrow
 - 2. Resilience Plan
 - 3. Hosting the Watershed Jamboree
 - iv. SWOrd
 - 1. Working on the latest version of the LGROW Design Spreadsheet
- c. Other Partner Updates

7. Upcoming Watershed Events

- a. October 16, 8am-12pm – Rain Garden Planting Party @ Grandville Middle School
 - i. Hosted by Friends of Buck Creek: <https://fb.me/e/1OCjOIPtw>
- b. October 21, evening – Imagine a Day Without Water Trivia Night
 - i. Held at local brewery; Details TBD – check LGROW website
- c. October 28, 3:00-4:30pm – Bioswale Planting with Wyoming DPW, Groundswell, and Godwin Middle at Pinery Park
- d. November 3-5 – GVSU Climate Change Education Solutions Summit (Virtual)
 - i. <https://www.gvsu.edu/cces/cces-2021-vulnerability-and-justice-55.htm>
- e. November 4 - Ottawa County Water Quality Forum (Virtual)
- f. November 17 – MiCorps Annual Conference (Virtual)
 - i. <https://micorps.net/news/micorps-annual-conference-to-be-held-online-november-17/>

Adjourn: Next meeting scheduled January 12, 2022

Meetings will be virtual until further notice; Will update calendar invite if this changes.