



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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COOPERSVILLE • COURTLAND TOWNSHIP • EAST GRAND RAPIDS • GAINES TOWNSHIP • GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP • GRAND RAPIDS • GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP • GRANDVILLE • GREENVILLE • HASTINGS
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Sustainability Committee
Monday, April 4, 2016
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Wendy Ogilvie welcomed attendees to LGROW’s Sustainability Committee.
 - b. Attendees:
 - Carrie Rivette, P.E. – City of Grand Rapids
 - Elaine Sterrett Isley – WMEAC
 - Jamie Vaughan – Trout Unlimited, Rogue River
 - Kalie Charnley, P.E. – Streamside Ecological Services
 - Dennis Cole, P.E. – Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner’s office
 - Connie Redding – Kent Conservation District
 - Russ Slater – Agricultural Representative
 - John Koches – AWRI
 - Dan Schoonmaker – West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum
 - Bonnie Broadwater – GVMC
 - Wendy Ogilvie - GVMC
2. Wendy reviewed the Sustainability Committee’s focus of activities associated with addressing TMDLs and how to involve additional partners in this work. Suggestions included hosting a coffee, breakfast, or happy hour to share examples of best practices and conducting a green infrastructure tour to show engineers, architects, municipal officials, and other NGO’s successful applications of the green infrastructure in the watershed.
 - a. Additional partners doing similar work to collaborate include local Chambers, Sustainable Research Group, Urban Municipal Mayors and Managers, MDEQ, League of Conservation Voters, and US Green Building Council, to name a few.
3. The Committee’s focus is also on promoting and implementing the vision of the Natural Connections Map. LGROW has submitted funding requests to build on the Wetland Prioritization project to restore wetlands. GVMC is currently creating a Single Source Map that will integrate transportation, land use, and environmental concerns into one project.
 - a. Additional partners doing similar work to collaborate include Land Conservancy of West Michigan, NRCS, Ducks Unlimited, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WM Trails & Greenways, Kent County Parks Foundation, and MDNR, to name a few.
4. The third focus of the committee is on Sustainable agriculture. The Kent Conservation District and NRCS are critical partners in this effort and are eager to work together with this committee to expand their services and expertise. LGROW

submitted an application to the RCPP program for funding the Grand River in-stream restoration efforts downstream from the Sixth Street Dam; wetland restoration and cover crops in the Rogue River Watershed; and riparian buffer strips and cover crops in the Indian Mill Creek Watershed.

5. LGROW and this Committee will continue to work on methods for tracking progress toward meeting the goals of the Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan.
6. The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting was set for Monday, June 6, 2016, from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at GVMC.