



Sustainability Committee
Monday, December 4, 2017
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| a. Cara Decker | g. Jerry Miller |
| b. Carlos Calderon | h. John Koches |
| c. Carrie Rivette | i. Rachel Frantz |
| d. Dennis Cole | j. Rachell Nagorsen |
| e. Elaine Isely | k. Robert Pettit |
| f. Jamie Vaughan | l. Wendy Ogilvie |

2. RCPP Grant

- a. Wendy Ogilvie informed the committee that the RCPP grant contract has been signed. There are twenty two partners, in which Wendy has/or will be meeting with each individually. We will have a meeting with all partners at a later date. The RCPP grant money is divided between two projects, first the PL566 which will be for the Grand River portion of the project, and the second, EQIP program which will work with the Rogue River and Indian Mill Creek watersheds. In the EQIP portion, the RCPP grant money can only be given to farmers to implement practices, or to hire someone to install the practices. Wendy has created a documentation form for partners to document their time expenditures for quarterly reporting, the first quarter closing at the end of December 2017. Wendy will send the reporting form to all partners.
 - i. If you are billing federal dollars for meeting times, you should not bill RCPP for that time.
- b. Community outreach efforts – Carlos Calderon is currently working on prioritizing areas in the Indian Mill Creek watershed. Carlos also created an infographic for the RCPP grant. The committee reviewed and made suggestions. Jerry Miller informed the group that farmers will be introduced to NRCS staff face to face previous to filling out the actual application, and that the NRCS staff will provide guidance and assistance in the application process to farmers.
 - i. Indian Mill Creek – a few meetings have been held in Alpine Township. Additional meetings will be scheduled to get more farmers to attend.
 - ii. Rogue River – the next Rogue River Watershed Partners meeting is December 13. Wendy will request to present this grant opportunity at this meeting.
- c. EQIP selection criteria update – Wendy and Matt Soehnel, NRCS, worked with the State NRCS office to create 5 ranking questions for the local portion of the questions (there is also state and federal questions already written). These questions will address the three main concerns, 1) Water quality degradation, 2) Inadequate wildlife habitat, and 3) Soil erosion. The sustainability committee will likely be helping in the review process. The committee discussed the current sign up period (November 29 to January 19) which

occurs once a year. The committee would like to request an additional sign up period during the spring/summer months.

- d. The DEQ offered to train members in tillage surveying, but we would need to write a QAPP. Jerry and Rob Pettit informed the group that there are existing surveys by Purdue that we would be able to use instead. The survey information should be located under the National Resource Inventory on the NRCS website, but may not be more recent than 2012 or 2014.
3. Grand River Water Trail
 - a. Rachell gave a recap on the Grand River Partnership Meeting on November 14
 - b. The committee discussed applying for a National Water Trail designation, which is free to apply. Once designated we will request that the Michigan DNR officially designate it as well and add it to their website.
 - c. The WMEAC intern has completed the access site inventory in Kent County and will be finishing up Ottawa County in the Spring. A matrix is being populated with data and will be presented at the Spring Forum, May 11, 2018.
 - d. The LGROW booth at the Quiet Water Symposium, March 3, 2018 in Lansing, will be focusing on presenting information on the water trail. LGROW, MGROW, UGRWA, and WMEAC booths will all be grouped together to promote the water trail.
 4. Natural Connection GI Map Updates
 - a. Rachell and Wendy have both talked to Greg Carlino, GVMC-REGIS, about the natural connections map. The committee discussed using a story map to better illustrate the complexity of the natural connections map. LGROW staff will be trained in further watershed GIS next week and we will be asking Greg to present the layer(s) at the next sustainability meeting in February.
 5. Other Discussion – Save the Date: March 22, 2018, 6pm. Kent Conservation District Annual Meeting and Showcase.
 6. Adjourn – Next meeting Monday, February 5, 2018 1:30pm-2:30pm at GVMC