



Sustainability Committee
Monday, October 1, 2018
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
GVMC

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

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|-------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Aaron Bouwkamp | f. Rachell Nagorsen |
| b. Dennis Cole | g. Anne Power |
| c. Elain Sterrett-Isely | h. Wendy Ogilvie |
| d. Jamie Vaughan | i. Alison Sutter |
| e. Rachel Frantz | j. Alyson Mabie |

2. Sustainable Agriculture - RCPP

- a. Wendy Ogilvie gave an update on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant.
 - i. She reminded the group that if you report match to GVMC, please include this meeting as match for your community.
 - ii. The Kent Conservation district is spearheading the outreach to farmers. The KCD had a free sustainable agriculture bus tour for farmers August 24th, it was completely full. They are also holding a free pancake breakfast in Cannon Township on October 10th to encourage farmers to sign up. Wendy will be at the Fulton Street farmers market at the coffee stand, discussing the other portion of this grant, the River Restoration project, but will also talk about the farm portion.
 - iii. The first signup period will end in October/November 2018, but, anyone can apply at any time, application processing can take a while. At this time there are 6 producers signed up, with approximately \$60,000 allocated.
 - iv. An excited, non-traditional location that has applied is the Highlands (past golf course) to daylight the stream. At this time they have applied for a farm number and a tract number. See list of eligible practices (attached). Plainsong Farm is planning on submitting an application as well. There will be a workshop at Plainsong Farm, more information will be provided when it is available.
 - v. Walker has had some trouble getting applications. Comments from potential applicants were that there is a lot of paper work, the wait for the money is rather long, and worry about increasing industrialization nearby.
 - vi. Land owners are responsible for an average of 25% of the cost.
- b. Local Farms, Local Food – led by Migrant Legal Aid. Connecting local farms to local food. As of last week a millage is being proposed, timing is unknown at this time, possibly spring 2019. The program is set up, but there is no money yet. Due to the wait, some farmers have dropped out. There is a temporary way to preserve farmland, but they are not mapped.

3. Natural Connections

- a. The new stormwater standards will require MS4 communities to begin inspecting green infrastructure (GI). When the permit is issued, communities will need to also maintain the GI and will have to report private and public GI.

- b. REGIS Green Infrastructure Natural Connections Story Map
 - i. Rachel showed the group the new version of the natural connections map on ArcGIS online. The only GI currently on the map was provided by the City of Grand Rapids, and is likely a few years out of date. Communities and organizations should provide GVMC with all old and new GI installation information, points, layers, and any other available data, so that we can keep the map as updated as possible.
 - ii. The story map is being developed to show the Natural Connections map in more detail and offer more understanding and opportunities to find gaps in connectivity. There will be an update on this at the next meeting.
 - c. Lower Grand River Watershed Resiliency Report
 - i. Alyson Mabie is working on the LGRW Resiliency Report, we will discuss this further at the next meeting and provide an update on the progress.
4. Water Trail
- a. The Grand River Partnership, Upper, Middle, and Lower Grand River watershed groups, has shifted the leadership role from the Lower to the Upper. The last meeting took place last week, in Eaton Rapids, in the Upper Grand River watershed.
 - b. The group has decided to go with self-designation for the water trail. The group looked at the Michigan Water Trails website and saw the Ottawa County Heritage Water Trail and the Middle Grand Heritage Water Trail.
 - c. Grand River Expedition 2020 - Loretta Crum from MGROW has agreed to become the chair for the GRE2020. The expedition is beginning to take shape. Gary and Linda De Kock have agreed to be the "River Masters" for the expedition. The group discussed shorter one day paddles, approximately 15 miles long, and would be a good place for LGROW to participate. There is still no theme, please submit ideas to Wendy or Rachell, or if you would like to be involved in the planning. The date is tentatively June/July 2020.
5. Meeting Schedule
- a. December 3, 2018
 - b. February 4, 2019
 - c. April 1, 2019
 - d. June 3, 2019
 - e. August 5, 2019
 - f. October 7, 2019
 - g. December 2, 2019
6. Events:
- a. 10/10 – Imagine a Day Without Water
 - b. 10/10 – RPI voting for LGROW projects (5/3 Ball Park)
 - c. 10/19 – Plainsong Farm field day (Eileen/Carlos)
 - d. 10/19 – Milo Street planting (Wendy/Rachel)
 - e. 10/23 – IMC meeting and Citizen Science Workshop
 - f. 10/26 – Plainsong Farm field day (Eileen/Carlos/Cara)
 - g. May 2019 – GR Spring Forum (Blandford?)
 - h. June 2019 – GR Water Festival/Dragon Boat Race (Riverside Park)
 - i. June 2019 – River Rally (Cleveland)
 - j. September 2019 – Regional Watershed Jamboree (Muskegon?)