



Sustainability Committee
Monday, December 3, 2018
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
GVMC

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Alyson Mabie | g. Jerry Miller |
| b. Anne Power | h. Rachel Frantz |
| c. Carrie Rivette | i. Rachell Nagorsen |
| d. Dennis Cole | j. Rev. Nurya Love Parish |
| e. Elaine Sterrett Isely | k. Shany Viars |
| f. Greg Madura | l. Wendy Ogilvie |

2. Sustainable Agriculture

- a. Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant update
 - i. Wendy met with NRCS. The first round of funding for this grant ends in two months. There have been 5 contracts, 2 practices installed covering 82 acres, and 13 pending contracts so far, all in Rogue River Watershed.
 - ii. The annual report was submitted.
 - iii. Through the EQUIP there were 5 beginning, 5 underserved, and 10 veteran farmers reached and 10 new partners.
 - iv. November 22 was the last day to sign up, the next round will be in February 2019.
 - v. Outreach done so far includes forest field days, pancake breakfasts, Plainsong Farms work days, and bus tours.
 - vi. A big challenge with this program is the money that needs to be used from farmers to install practices before they can be reimbursed.
 - vii. The Kent Conservation District has USDA funds from EQUIP to pay for practices. There is no money for education or outreach.
 - viii. Breakfast dates are coming soon.
 - ix. There has been contact made in the Indian Mill Creek watershed with a homeowner at the confluence of Brandywine Creek.
 - x. Greg offered to give Apline Apple tour in May 2019.
- b. Local Farms, Local Food
 - i. MSU Extension will be helping with positioning farmland preservation as a millage.

3. Natural Connections

- a. REGIS Green Infrastructure Map Updates
 - i. Rachell is working with REGIS on a natural connections layer for GSI (green stormwater infrastructure).
 - ii. Group feedback;

1. A soil feasibility study and soil erodibility data should be included
2. DEQ conservation easements
3. Add the fruit belt, Ag zoning, and layer data sources.
- iii. The story map will help subwatershed groups in planning and to connect greenspace in their watersheds.
- b. Lower Grand River Watershed Resiliency Report
 - i. Alyson has been contracted by GVMC to complete the resiliency report for the watershed, and is funded through the SAW grant. Not many other watershed groups have created reports like this. It will be set up like the WMP (watershed management plan), whereas it has separated data sheets with facts and recommendations for all subwatersheds and partners to work with.
 - ii. GIS mapping and socio-economic impacts are being included.
 - iii. The group asked what the best approach is for the structure, land use/zoning, infrastructure, and habitat ecosystems.
 - iv. Being resilient to changes in weather, climate, development, etc.
 - v. Strengths: LGROW is one group that works as an umbrella for/with all watershed groups in the LGRW, we have agriculture, partnerships, floodplains, tributaries, etc. and are planning for the future. Aquifer diagrams in response to PFAS.
 - vi. Weaknesses: there are a lot of partners, historical injustices, private industries, lack of education. Potential problems; further urbanizing watersheds, wells, septic, etc. silos.
 - vii. It would be good to clarify who regulates what, how many different municipalities, groups, organizations, etc. are regulating on the same things.
4. Water Trail
 - a. Designation status
 - i. The Middle and Upper Grand groups have applied for state designation of their portions of the water trail before Gov. Snyder leaves office.
 - ii. Rachel showed the group the Water Trail Dashboard which will integrate the MGROW app and other existing trail maps so that all data can be found in one place.
 - b. Grand River Expedition 2020
 - i. Rachell gave an update on the Grand River Expedition 2020, the group has found a new lead, Loretta Crum. They still need a theme and committee members. There will be more information on this at the next meeting.
 - ii. A water trail plan for the entire Grand River needs to be completed.
5. Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.

2019 Meeting Schedule:

February 4, 2019
 April 1, 2019
 June 3, 2019
 August 5, 2019
 October 7, 2019
 December 2, 2019