



Sustainability Committee
Monday, June 3, 2019
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
GVMC

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

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|---------------------|----------------------|
| a. Wendy Ogilvie | h. Kyle Hart |
| b. Rachell Nagorsen | i. Greg Madura |
| c. Cara Decker | j. Shanyn Viars |
| d. Tori Graves | k. Anne Power |
| e. Courtney Cromley | l. Aaron Bodbyl-Mast |
| f. Rachel Frantz | m. Gabby Premblay |
| g. Elaine Isely | |

2. RCPP Grant

a. NRCS EQIP Contracts

- i. Kent Conservation District Outreach is looking to see why not as many farmers are signing up and trying to identify why they wouldn't want to sign up. They are currently operating in a top down strategy, sending out mailers that are not very specific in targeted areas. A study from Iowa State breaks down farmers into world views should focus on conservation farmers and naturalist farmer (organic, etc.) Creating a platform to collect and share information and staying consistent, the binder with all information walks farmer through the entire process. The platform KCD is developing will be a place to connect and share resources and strategies that have worked. Land Legacy, Soil Health Binder, Buffer Zones will be targeted towards naturalist farmer. If anyone has any information about this, email Gabby.
- ii. Matt from NRCS provided Wendy with some numbers from RCPP
 1. Fiscal Year 2018 had 5 contracts \$34,921.18
 2. FY 2019 12 applications approved >\$200,000 added another sign up with 6 applications, more than \$750,000
 3. FY 2020 9 applications on file
- iii. What watersheds/communities are these practices being proposed and what are the practices? Ie, communities within Indian Mill Creek, City of Walker, City of Grand Rapids, Alpine Township.

b. KCD's 319 Application for outreach

- i. The LGROW Sustainability Committee is committed to help with outreach and pollutant reductions for this grant as well as a workshop at Plainsong Farm. Workshop will need to be held at a time that is available for farmers.

3. Natural Connections

- a. Natural Connections Story Map to show how green space is connected and where it is lacking. Will add Indian Mill Creek and Rogue River watersheds to show contrast where in the Rogue there is a lot of connected and committed greenspace whereas the Indian Mill Creek does not have much existing public access or connected green space.
- b. Kyle suggested taking a closer look at green spaces and corridors by sub-watershed

- i. Percent impervious
 - ii. COUTNEYNOTES
- 4. Watershed Climate Resiliency Report
 - a. GVMC has been working on this report with SAW money, it's still in the conceptual place, what to include, whose going to use it. Eileen and Alyson will be presenting the preliminary concepts at the GVSU Conference Wednesday, June 12. After that, we will work more on solidifying the plan.
 - b. WMSF applying for a grant which might provide some funding to present and coordinate with communities to add to their own resiliency plans.
 - c. Aaron asked how land preservation will work into this plan. As well as the need for furthering education efforts so the public understands the importance of land preservation for climate change and water quality. He suggested using the LGRW as a whole to ask for a larger scale project of land acquisition and protection for climate resiliency.
 - d. Shanyn will pass along papers about climate resiliency at a watershed scale.
- 5. Water Trail
 - a. The Middle and Upper Grand have State Designation status and plans. We would like to combine the existing Ottawa Heritage Water trail with the Lower Grand River Water Trail efforts to form a solid trail section. The application for the state designation is fairly simple to complete and reference the water trail development plan. At this time, the Lower Grand River has a partial inventory of access points, and the Heritage trail has a plan. Wendy estimated we may need approximately \$10,000 to complete the water trail plan. On the Upper Grand Rivers Water Trail designation there is one page per access site that are then rated based on available amenities.
 - i. WMEAC has data for Kent and Ionia, Elaine plans to work on compiling this data this month. This will provide a good basis to move forward with creating the plan.
 - ii. Rachell asked the group if this effort should be pushed before the removal of the dam's downtown Grand Rapids, or if we should wait. The Grand Rapids dam removal will take another 5-10 years to complete, so it would be worthwhile to work on and designate the water trail before this and add the dam removal as a desired improvement.
 - b. Clinton River - Terrain 360: like Google street view but for non-motorized trails.
 - i. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVcTKW_c_bc
 - ii. <https://www.terrain360.com/trail/clinton-river-water-trailrotary-park-to-yates-cider-mill?v=0&h=-129&b=111.3&lat=42.66233&lon=-83.08528#130>
 - c. GR Expedition 2020 update
 - i. The Grand River Expedition 2020 will begin July 5, 2020
 - ii. There are still planning positions available, contact Wendy Ogilvie or Rachell Nagorsen if interested.
- 6. Adopt-a-Drain
 - a. LGROW worked with Citizen Labs to create the Adopt-a-Drain program which has absorbed the existing City of Grand Rapids Basin Buddy program.
 - b. <https://www.lgrow.org/adopt-a-drain>
- 7. Adjourn at 3:14pm
 - a. Next meeting, August 5, 2019