



Sustainability Committee
Monday, October 7, 2019
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
GVMC

Minutes

1. Present

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Rachell Nagorsen | h. Anne Power |
| b. Wendy Ogilvie | g. Carlos Calderon |
| c. Annabelle Wilkinson | j. Courtney Cromley |
| d. Carrie Rivette | k. Jerry Miller |
| e. Dennis Cole | l. Matt Soehnel |
| f. Greg Madura | m. Rev. Nurya Love Parish |
| g. Elaine Sterrett Isley | |

2. RCPP Grant

- a. KCD EGLE 319 Grant Updates
 - i. KCD signed the 319 Grant. This grant will provide funding for Lance to do more farmer outreach and for Gabby to continue with her marketing. This grant will cover the outreach through the end of the RCPP grant.
 - ii. The 3rd cover crops field day will be hosted on November 6th at Lance's farm 3758 15 Mile Road, Kent City.
 - iii. Barry Conservation District is applying for a 319 for the Thornapple and Coldwater watersheds.
 - iv. Flat River is in the final stages of signing for their 319 grant. The two main focuses of their 319 are septic systems and non-point source agricultural pollution.
- b. Project Updates
 - i. Workshops
 1. Plainsong Farms is waiting to host a workshop until their best management practices (BMPs) are put into place. The EPA EE Grant has been signed, and they are now waiting to find out their next steps before they host a workshop.
 - ii. Application updates
 1. Land Conservancy submitted a 319 for the daylighting project at the Highlands Golf Course.
- c. EQIP Contracts
 - i. Over \$500K of funds are now obligated, 14 new contracts signed, total now about 30. The grant could be eligible for a renewal of this work once 90% of the siting funds are obligated. Most of the farms are in Rogue River Watershed but some have now been contracted within the Indian Mill Creek watershed.

3. Natural Connections

- a. StoryMap Updates
 - i. Courtney went over the StoryMap, which now highlights all green space and green infrastructure (GI) in several of the subwatersheds. Courtney has clipped each subwatershed to show the impervious vs pervious areas. The next step for the Natural Connections map is to collect more data from communities and committee members to have a more up to date GI Layers.
- b. GI Layer

- i. The GI layer is not as accurate as we would like. Courtney will create a table so each committee member will be able to submit data for the GI Layer, this will be attached with these meeting minutes. This data will help grow the GI layer. This could be useful for the WMSBF Stormwater Task Force work. Lots of discussion centered on rain barrels, but because of the uncertainty of their installation, they will not be included on the map.
- 4. Water Trail
 - a. Grants
 - i. Still looking for potential grants for LGRW Water Trail planning. There is a line in the new Michigan Budget for Water Trails but we are still not sure what that would allow, whether if it is for planning or implementation.
 - b. Water Trail Inventory
 - i. WMEAC is done and finalizing the data they have. Elaine will send over the final inventory. LGROW has had an interactive map made on google maps and would like to use that as the base for the Water Trail Map. <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FUUA2RzCj-oUpM93nN85kQMCLHfW-7oN&usp=sharing>. We will discuss how to improve and utilize this tool at upcoming planning meetings. Ottawa County will not submit a Water Trail Map until Kent and Ottawa can submit together.
 - c. River for All
 - i. This effort by the City and DGRI is being rebranded to include both the wet and dry portions of the river restoration. This could help in promoting the development of the water trail.
- 5. GRE 2020
 - a. Upcoming meetings
 - i. Lower Grand subcommittee created-next meeting with option lunch and learn prior will be Friday October 18, 11:30-2:00 PM at GVMC
 - ii. Grand River Partnership/GRE2020 meeting: October 31 at 9:30-11:30 at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission in Lansing
 - b. Dates in Lower Grand River: Monday, July 13-Saturday, July 18
 - i. July 15-16: paddlers will be in Grand Rapids (Ada->Riverside Park->Jenison)
 - c. Carrie & Rachell N. have already met to talk about the Walker-GR logistics.
 - i. They can always use more help though. The Lower Grand is the longest portion of the three sections of the Grand River and will require many volunteers and community groups to make it a success! LGROW plans to have two people on the river every day during the Lower Grand portion that will be doing water quality monitoring, streambank survey, etc. Most camping/access sites have been established and/or reserved, we need more access sites for things like pulling off for lunch, etc.
 - ii. The possibility of having a GVSU intern assist with the planning will be explored.

2019 Meeting Schedule:

December 2, 2019

2020 Meeting Schedule

February 3, 2020

April 6, 2020

June 1, 2020

August 3, 2020

October 5, 2020

December 7, 2020