



**Public Engagement Committee**  
**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**  
**2:00-3:30 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/98433545435>

### Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions + Icebreaker
  - a. Attendance: Kelsey Sloan, Eileen Boekestein, Cara Decker, Ken Yonker, Carrie Rivette, Amanda St. Amour, Tyler Hoezee, Rachell Nagorsen, Jessie Schulte, Hannah Mico, Shany Viars, Peter Klooster, Jessica Vander Ark, Brendan Earl
2. Agenda Review and Meeting Purpose: 2021 Educational Activity Opportunities
3. Schedule for 2021 – Meeting times 2:00-3:30 PM – Quarterly; Virtual until further notice
  - a. July 14, October 13
4. **Cooperating and collaborating with LGROW's network to foster public education and outreach regarding shared environmental priorities.**
  - a. LGROW Spring Forum 2021 – Opportunities for Partnership (see success stories)
    - i. June 10-20
    - ii. KCD- invasive species walk in Montcalm County- reporting invasives through MISN app
    - iii. Grand Rapids- biodigester tour
    - iv. Walker- coordinated with GRWW and Ottawa County Greenways to offer a tour along the green way
  - b. GLRI School Tree Planting Update
    - i. We have allocated all 300 trees on school properties throughout the watershed
    - ii. Helping schools manage stormwater by planting trees
    - iii. If anyone on this committee wants to volunteer, Sat. May 15- at Kent City High School, they will have 60 trees that need to be planted
    - iv. Thank you for recommending schools to plant at! Will continue to plant this spring and next fall
5. **Supporting programs, events, materials, and activities that help communities meet the educational requirements of the NPDES stormwater permits (MS4s)**
  - a. Permit update
    - i. A few permits are currently on public notice in the watershed, and the rest will come soon

- ii. MS4s will have to adopt a new stormwater ordinance. Coordination will happen with that
- b. Reminder: 2021 PEP Implementation Checklist
  - i. '21 PEP Focused Message remains Waste Management Assistance
  - ii. Social Media plan/content + newsletter articles – Includes Spring and Summer: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/87butz10gwm9y21/AAAy85o28ofu0agcuC1C1J-Sa?dl=0>
    - 1. Spanish translation will be added once we get it translated
    - 2. Newsletter articles will be added
- c. Summer 2021 Activities – Plans, Challenges, New Opportunities
  - i. Anything planned in communities for this summer? Last year was a challenging year due to COVID to table, or give away LGROW information. Wanted to have a discussion to think about how to do outreach this year:
    - 1. Kentwood- Arbor Day->distributing trees, park cleanup, garlic mustard removal
      - a. June 19- food truck round up, like to bring LGROW give-aways
    - 2. Grand Rapids- hoping we can do some park ribbon cuttings at parks that have new green infrastructure installations
    - 3. Many parks have cleanup days, could incorporate storm drain cleaning and marking
    - 4. Amplify GR- Oakdale and Boston Square neighborhood cleanup/storm drain marking on April 24-25
    - 5. Kent County Health Dept- in the planning phase to talk about ticks, mosquitos, etc. Want to do more things in person, and will keep us updated
  - ii. Make sure to record events on PEP checklist

**6. Documenting successful implementation the Information and Education Plan of the federally-approved Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan.**

- a. Partner success story: LGROW Spring Forum Overview
  - i. Lots of opportunities to get outside, network, and mark off things on your PEP checklist
  - ii. Hoping to open registration in the next week or so
- b. LGROW Committee Updates
  - i. Technical
    - 1. TMDL Plan was approved, now the group needs to decide how to determine the targeted outfalls and how to complete wet weather monitoring
  - ii. Sustainability
    - 1. Finished a story map for the EQUIP areas for the RCPP (arial application for cover crop seeds), continuing to work to reach ag areas, LGROW received funds to finish the Water Trail Plan, Watershed Resilience Plan- in a public feedback stage via subwatersheds (Indian Mill and Coldbrook Creek)
  - iii. Subwatershed
    - 1. Coordinating on EGLE Watershed Council Grant, coordinating on Forum

- iv. SWOrd
  - 1. See permit update, starting conversation about the ordinance again, working on LGROW Design Spreadsheet
- c. Other Partner Updates
  - i. River Network: River Rally - May 17-20
  - ii. American Rivers: Rainscaping for Businesses site assessments are open
    - 1. We did write in Rainscaping into the PEP, so we can use this program to meet MS4 permit objectives
- d. Committee Vice Chair Search
  - i. Looking for a Vice Chair for the Public Engagement Committee- contact us if you want to be a chair

## 7. **Upcoming Watershed Events**

- a. Spring Camp Grades 5-9 – April 19, KCD and Van Andel Institute for Education
- b. Earth Day @ Third Nature Brewing – April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4-7pm
  - i. Free pint and free native plant, can do shoreline planting with TU, LGROW will have info there
- c. Arbor Day Celebration in Grandville - April 30- ceremony for Tree City USA, tree planting at schools
- d. Kent City High School tree planting – Sat. May 15
- e. [2021 LGROW Spring Forum](#) Watershed Celebrations – June 10-20
- f. Grand River Expedition – July-August, 2020 GRE didn't happen, so this year the Grand River Experience will be a self-led exploration of the watershed
- g. [STREAM Girls](#) @ Blandford Nature Center – July 19-24, spots left in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- h. [GRWW Summer Science and Leadership Program](#) @ Grand Rapids Public Museum – July 6-17, for high school students entering 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade, registration will be open soon
- i. LGROW @ Whitecaps Games (July 24 and August 21), will need volunteers. Clean Air Action will also have a table those nights that needs volunteers.

Adjourn: Next meeting scheduled July 14, 2-3:30pm **virtually until further notice**