



Sustainability Committee
Monday, November 16, 2020
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

MINUTES

Zoom

1. RCPP Project Updates

a. EQIP

i. Story Map/videos

1. A story map has been created to show the RCPP practices. This map will be used by the KCD in the field to show farmers practices that have been installed. The committee agreed that once this map is live, they would like it added to the Natural Connection Map.

ii. Sign ups

1. 11 contracts have been signed, creating a total of 45 practices being implemented. \$240K have been utilized with a \$1.3M remaining.

iii. Virtual/school field days

1. KCD will tentatively be hosting field days to showcase RCPP, depending on COVID guidelines.
2. KCD conducted a survey asking the public how they feel about the farming outreach. The results were positive showing that people are trusting the process of implementing these new practices.

iv. Mayfly Sensors

1. LGROW has joined with TU National to implement two mayfly sensors. These sensors have been placed in Indian Mill Creek and the Coldbrook Creek. LGROW will be maintaining the IMC location and the Coldbrook Creek Community group will be checking the Coldbrook station. The sensors will be collecting real time data and can be accessed at www.Monitormywatershed.org. TU already has 4 stations in the Rogue River that can also be found on this website.

v. Monitoring

1. Encompass Socio-Ecological Consultants is continuing to coordinate the monitoring efforts in both the RCPP watersheds and the Grand River. A report will be included in the RCPP Annual Report.
2. LGROW participated in the angler count efforts in downtown Grand Rapids. The count was conducted from April to October and will pick up again in the spring. A training was hosted this summer to get citizens involved with collecting data and 28 people have now been trained. This data will be used to track changes in fishing access and distribution before and after the restoration project.

- b. Grand River Revitalization Project
 - i. Watershed Project Plan - Environmental Assessment
 - 1. Sent response to comments back to NRCS 11/13
 - 2. NRCS will send to NWMC this week
 - ii. Biological Opinion
 - 1. The USFWS issued the Biological Opinion on 10/22/20, indicating that the project will cause no harm to mussels.
 - iii. EGLE JPA submitted
 - 1. The Joint Permit Application was submitted to EGLE on October 30, 2020. EGLE will respond within 30 days to indicate if the application is administratively complete.
 - iv. Citizen Science
 - 1. Encompass Socio-Ecological Consulting will issue a final report with the angler count results next month.
 - 2. Still getting good participation at the Photo Monitoring stations.
 - v. Role of Committee
 - 1. Rachell suggested hosting meetings at each communities' different venues. Greg Madura, from Alpine Township, said currently they can not host meetings but if the state opens back up, they would allow us to use their new recording and sound systems for virtual events. Greg also brought up hosting water quality monitoring sensors. Others shared interest in citizen science opportunities.

2. Water Trail

- a. Funding updates
 - i. The Frey Foundation invited LGROW to submit full proposal.
 - ii. LGROW connected with Weston Hilliard with MDNR Michigan Coastal Management Program to discuss the water trail project. He encouraged us to apply.
 - iii. The National Park Service has verbally awarded Technical Assistance to help with public outreach. The project would start in March.
- b. MDNR Trails Plan – Presentation Sessions
 - i. The MDNR offered a virtual public meeting about the updated Trail Plan. Wendy and Rachell participated in the call that was arranged for those interested in Water Trails. No firm financial commitment was mentioned for doing this work.
- c. Role of Committee
 - i. Once funding is available, LGROW will ask the Committee members to review the information. The Committee members are also willing to send in letters of commitment. WMEAC has some resolutions that they are willing to also share with LGROW for the water trail.

3. Watershed Resilience Plan

- a. LGROW submitted a proposal to the Wege Foundation to conduct public engagement workshops. Decisions will be made in November.
- b. River Network approved funding for using the Community Based Participatory Research tool to engage community members in creating a watershed resilience plan.

- c. LGROW will coordinate with other municipal and government Resilience Plans to incorporate recommendations into subwatershed action plans.
 - d. Subwatersheds have provided good feedback in the matrices that they have filled out about concerns related to climate change.
 - e. Role of Committee - The Committee members will help reach out to their network to participate in the workshops and use the community-based tools.
- 4. Cranberry Lake/Mill Creek project
 - a. LGROW, on behalf of the stakeholder in Mill Creek Watershed submitted a proposal to the Michigan Glacial Lakes Partnership to fund an assessment of Cranberry Lake. Partners include James DeYoung and the KCD, Ryan Loucks from Farm Bureau and a lake resident, Alpine Township, Ottawa CD, Kent County Drain Commissioner, MDNR, EGLE, and AWRI.
- 5. New Chair announcement
 - a. Since Rachell Nagorsen is now on LGROW's Executive Committee, a new Chair has been selected for this Committee. Dan Taber, City of Grand Rapids' Project Engineer – Stormwater / SESC, was approved as Chair.
- 6. Adjourned
- 7. 2021 meeting schedule - @ GVMC 1:30 – 2:30 PM
 - a. Typically hold meetings on the second Monday of every other the month. They will all be virtual until otherwise noted. The Zoom link will be sent out with the meeting notice.
 - i. Jan 11
 - ii. Mar 8
 - iii. May 10
 - iv. July 12
 - v. Sept 13
 - vi. Nov 8