



## Subwatershed Committee

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Web Meeting

### Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Ben Jordan, OCD, Bass River/Deer Creek, Sand Creek
  - b. Rachel Frantz, LGROW/GVMC
  - c. Courtney Cromley, LGROW/GVMC
  - d. David Comeau, Thornapple River
  - e. Martha Vermeulen, Friends of Buck Creek
  - f. Gerry Konning, Trinity CRC/Rush Creek
  - g. Carlos Calderon, WMEAC
  
2. LGROW Natural Connections Map, <https://regis-gvmc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=0f9cf3762fff466ea282b230706985ff&wmode=opaque>
  - a. Rachel discussed the subwatershed green infrastructure layer and asked that the subwatershed groups to share any project data they may have.
  - b. Courtney has finished compiling the data from the Plaster Creek Stewards and will be adding it to the map soon.
  - c. Gerry asked how you know which communities allow curb cuts. Martha and Gerry are going to pursue this to see how to begin implementing curb cuts in Grandville. Rachel recommended connecting with Kelly Goward and the Rush Creek group that has just started.
  - d. LGROW will share rainscaping materials with group – they will be sent out with the meeting minutes
  
3. Grand River Mayors Cleanup/Other cleanups
  - a. Grand River Mayors Cleanup registration
    - i. WMEAC had to rethink cleanup due to COVID – 19, so instead of one day event, it will be a week long. The cleanup will begin September 12 and end September 19. This will encourage smaller groups to register and clean up sections. WMEAC will still provide cleanup materials and is still working with health departments for sharps containers and the collection of hazardous materials. Will have regional hubs around Grand Rapids metro areas like Wyoming, Kentwood, etc. Still working on trash pickup. Will be using an app for people to register that will also allow people to report items found during cleanup. Website will be updated this week so that registration will be live. Group details will be included in registration.
    - ii. WMEAC is also encouraging MS4 communities that may not be near streams to adopt and clean storm drains.
    - iii. This will allow groups to focus on their specific communities.



- iv. WMEAC is still trying to figure out how to get T-shirts to participants.
  - v. Carlos will have more info next week.
  - vi. Friends of Buck Creek were planning to hold their cleanup August 15 and may do this instead.
  - vii. Ben will reach out to Ottawa county to figure out potential locations in his area.
  - viii. LGROW will reach out to Friends of Indian Mill Creek and West Grand Neighborhood Organization to coordinate locations for IMC
  - ix. Rachel will reach out to Erv about Thornapple Cleanup.
  - x. Gerry will coordinate with Rush Creek to move their cleanup during to this week.
4. Rainscaping Site Assessments
- a. Who are the subwatershed trained volunteers?
  - b. Ottawa County groundwater initiative so could possibly do site assessments in that area. Ben will ask Megan and get back on this.
  - c. David is interested
  - d. Martha will put it on the facebook page to gauge interest
  - e. Ben suggested holding the training outside on a test site
  - f. Gerry has been trained and is willing to help
  - g. Carlos/WMEAC are still trying to implement rainscaping practices
  - h. LGROW will try to hold a training workshop in the fall on a test site and will send out information when available.
5. Watershed Jamboree – Not happening 2020
- a. The cleanups will be in place of this
  - b. If anyone has ideas how to publicize this email Ben and/or Rachel
  - c. We will try again for the Jamboree in 2021
  - d. Gerry suggested encouraging people to take their own GI tours, LGROW will work on placing sites on an interactive map
6. Grants
- a. Grant Workshop re-scheduled for next meeting, October 13
    - i. Ben hasn't really received much from group for questions and such. Will focus on grant writing basics, where to look for funding, resources, etc. If you have any specific grant questions, email them to Ben so they can be worked into workshop.
  - b. Upcoming Grant Applications/Partnerships
    - i. Rachel sent out a couple of grant opportunities in last committee email. GLFT access grant looked interesting, Ben says they are pretty easy to apply for a report. LGROW is planning to apply for the Water Trail plan. Carlos thinks WMEAC would be interested in partnering.
7. Other Discussion
- a. Subwatershed Updates
    - i. Bass River/Deer Creek – Still doing lots of cover crops, no till corn has been planted, manure management.
    - ii. Pigeon River – working on watershed management plan
    - iii. Sand Creek – water resources commissioner, Joe Bush, is working on two stage ditching and other construction which just ended. About a linear mile of two



stage ditches, Ben has lots of pictures he can send to those who are interested. Construction was finished about two days before some heavy rain events which resulted in some blow outs.

- iv. Buck Creek – supposed to get started on Grandville Middle School rain garden, had to get postponed due to COVID. Grandville Earth day was also put on hold, hopefully will be revitalized in the fall. Cleanup scheduled August 15 but may change to coordinate with WMEAC Mayors cleanup.
  - v. Rush Creek – Kelly has been working to pull together watershed group but that has been put on hold due to COVID. There is definitely a good group that wants to do work. There is some resistance to landscaping for water quality. New offices would have been a great spot to display some green infrastructure. Trinity CRC wasn't able to do bug workshop. Mussel survey August 7 with Josh from LGROW and cleanup will coordinate with Mayors.
  - vi. Thornapple River – Have had an uptick in septic work. Have 8 in the process of getting repaired/replaced. Grant ends in about two weeks, trying to get an extension through December. Still have a lot of money left. Received RCPP grant to implement Ag BMPs in Thornapple area covering multiple counties.
  - vii. Plaster Creek – Carlos connected with Grand Rapids Water Protectors who do weekly cleanups and pick a park or creek to clean up.
  - viii. Coldwater River and Buck Creek – the maps are completed for the watershed management plan updates.
  - ix. Crockery Creek – working with farmers to work on starting a grant application for Ag BMPs.
- b. New Subwatershed Group(s) – no new groups
  - c. October meeting/field day potential locations
    - i. Ben thought it would be nice to exhibit sites throughout the watershed or do some maintenance together. Rachel will send details on sites that may need maintenance this fall and ask for input from committee on sites we could go see. May also do seed collection of project sites, if interested please contact Rachel.
8. Adjourn
- a. Next Meeting: October 13, 2020 (hopefully in person!)