



Subwatershed Committee

Thursday, April 8, 2021 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Zoom

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Ben Jordan, OCD - Chair
 - b. Rachel Frantz, GVMC/LGROW
 - c. Bill Otten, RRWP
 - d. Courtney Cromley, GVMC/LGROW
 - e. Pete Lewandowski, Coldbrook Creek Community
 - f. Gerry Konning, Rush Creek/Trinity Church - Vice Chair
2. Vice chair announcement
 - a. Gerry Konning has accepted the position of Vice Chair
3. Change of committee focus
 - a. Due to low attendance of meetings Ben, Courtney and Rachel discussed moving focus of the committee so that it serves a more meaningful purpose.
 - b. LGROW has been working on the Community Resiliency Plan which focuses on specific needs and conditions of each subwatershed in the LGRW. Currently Indian Mill Creek and Coldbrook Creek are serving as the pilot subwatersheds. This will help guide the committee more.
4. Grants
 - a. Upcoming Grant Applications/Partnerships
 - i. Currently a slow time for RFPs to come out, there is one EGLE 319 grant that is due next week.
 - ii. Ben has applied for a number of grants that should be announced soon
 - iii. LGROW has applied for a number of grants as well with Rush and Coldbrook Creek and are waiting to hear about funding
 - iv. Rogue River Watershed Partners applied for a grant for Rum Creek wetland restoration
5. LGROW Spring Forum – June 10-20, 2021
6. Other Discussion



a. Subwatershed Updates

- i. Bass River/Deer Creek/Sand Creek – waiting on grants
- ii. RRWP – Earth Day at Third Nature Brewing Company, Free beer and tree plantings
- iii. Coldbrook – Working on the resiliency project with LGROW. Also working with Virtual Tour Guide to get a virtual tour of the Coldbrook Creek. Hoping to meet as a group again in May.
- iv. Rush Creek – Macro survey on May 1, usually go out and bring bugs back to identify but will be doing streamside identification streamside this time so that they can stay outside. Hoping to do some tree planting around Arbor Day.
- v. LGROW – biggest focus on forum and waiting on grants as well as quite a few tree planting events at schools coming up this spring
- vi. Coldwater/Flat River – (John’s comments via email)
 1. Coldwater Watershed, aka Little Thornapple: The restoration work was completed from the scarring work done a few years ago. The vegetation has really grown. Two water meters were placed on the Coldwater with online viewing of results, one was placed by Trout Unlimited and one by the Coldwater Watershed. If anyone is seeking links to these contact me. Last season a lot of work was completed in the on going battle to keep the river flowing by removing log jams. Key for access, Trout fishing and Kayaking. Observation, with the heavy rains of the last three years it appeared the ground water was recharged and the Coldwater was flowing better from Springs. With the price collapse of the fur business, less trappers we are seeing increased fur animal activity, aka Beavers. DaCOVID has cancelled many meetings, April meeting will see elections for a new slate of officers.
 2. Flat River Watershed: The heavy rains last summer saw a high level of flow all season, no invertebrate testing was completed, first year we have missed this goal. DaCOVID on meetings, only one meeting in the last 12 months, it was in Sept. 2020 outside at Fallasburg Park. No public presentations were presented again due to the COVID concerns. Work on Facebook to increase public awareness of the watershed council has grown followers by 50%. Newsletter were not sent out in 2020, we will have our first newsletter out this month for Spring start to a better 2021. Major issue within the watershed currently is the Wind Power township battles in Montcalm County. What are the rules/guidelines from the DEQ and/or DNR concerning wetlands/lands/streams as to set back and requirements? This spring 2021 is the first Spring with the new Kayak Launches in Greenville and Belding, we had the existing one in Lowell. Seeing increased Kayak use of the river. Going into Spring 2020



the upper Flat River from Six Lakes down south to McBride's Road was clear of wood for travel. Epic Kayak idea, Kayak the Six Lakes and the headwater of the Flat River, north country!! Belding looking at major work of Lighting Bend Park on the Flat - continued effort to develop the riverfront in all cities.

7. Adjourn

- a. Next Meetings: July 8, 2021, October 14, 2021