



Sustainability Committee
Monday, March 20, 2023
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Minutes

<https://zoom.us/j/9603491554>

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Dan welcomed everyone and made introductions
 - b. Dan reviewed agenda
 - c. One item to add: <https://www.kentconservation.org/plant-sales/>

2. Sustainable Agriculture
 - a. Robert provided an update on the Urban Agriculture Committee. They discussed zoning codes, enforcement codes, and a memo to the City about loosening regulations to allow for more types of agriculture in the City. Seats on the Committee need to be filled, specifically looking for representatives from Kent County, Farmers' Markets, and an at large member.
 - i. <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Boards-and-Commissions/Urban-Agriculture-Committee>
 - b. USDA Urban Agriculture Program Grant
 - i. Carlos reviewed the goals of the program.
 - c. WMSBF Sustainable Ag meeting is scheduled for:
 - i. April 10, 11:45am
Grand Rapids, MI – Meijer Corporate Office
 - d. USDA Farm Service Agency Urban County Committees
 - i. Jerry brought up the RCPP funding. The Executive Director has not yet been hired. hired?
 - e. NRCS and Plainsong NACD funding
 1. The funding from NACD is being used to connect food centers with local farmers. An event is being held at the Community food Club to showcase this partnership.
 - f. RCPP Project Updates
 - i. EQIP sign ups
 1. 6 applications, NRCS is developing conservation plans for about \$80,000. Working through process with contracts. Once obligated, cover crops, forest management, wildlife habitat, tree & shrub planting, and pollinator habitats will be installed.
 2. Total funds to date: \$1.2M obligated, 55 conservation plans, 17,000 acres.
 - ii. Ottawa County RCPP
 1. Obligated funding is almost \$1M already. \$60,000 left to maybe use for irrigation, most of the funding went to cover crops, some farmland preservation.

3. Watershed Resilience Plan – EPA Equitable Resilience Building Tool workshops
 - a. EPA Equitable Resilience Building Tool workshops: LGROW hosted workshops in the Buck Creek, Indian Mill / Mill Creek, and Plaster Creek subwatersheds. These workshops were to collect diverse and valuable information on the issues present in each watershed. Highlights social justice and equity along with climate change. Based off the EPA and consultants workshop methods. End goal is to give action items for local governments, businesses, and individuals to do about emerging issues.
 - b. Rush Creek Workshop recap
 - i. Dan give insight to workshop and process
 - c. Others subwatershed workshops
 - i. Do other watersheds want to get involved and review/create Resilience Action Plans?
 1. Deer, Bass, Crockery, Rogue, Coldbrook, Sand, Prairie, Flat
4. Lower Grand River Water Trail
 - a. [Final Plan](#)
 - b. Quiet Adventure Symposium
 - i. LGROW staff and volunteers interacted with over 200 individuals at the Quiet Adventure Symposium on March 4th.
 - ii. Thank you to Howard and Patrick for helping staff the booth.
 - iii. Congratulations to Gary and Linda for winning the Verlin Kruger Award for their years of leadership in the paddling community!
5. Funding opportunities
 - a. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Program
 - b. NFWF Coastal Resilience
6. 20th Annual Grand River Forum
 - a. Thursday 6/8, 4-6:30 – Kick-off event @ City Built Welcome Center
 - b. Friday 6/9, 9 am - 1 pm MS4 meeting (Just MS4 permittees)
 - c. Friday 6/9, 2 pm - 4:30 pm Grand Lady Cruise - \$10/person, pay it forward
 - d. Saturday 6/10, 10 am – 12 noon Paddling Grand River @ Mill Point Park, Spring Lake
7. 2023 Meeting Schedule
 - a. June 26, 2023 @ 1:30 – in-person?
 - b. September 18, 2023 @ 1:30 pm
 - c. December 11, 2023 @ 1:30 pm
8. Adjourn