

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
**Regional Environmental Planning Agency**

**Wednesday, April 28, 2004**  
9:00 AM

Ottawa County Administrative Building  
12020 Fillmore Street  
West Olive, MI 49460

Minutes

**1. Call to Order:**

Chair John Koches called the Regional Environmental Planning Agency to order at 9:03 AM. An attendance sheet was passed around and the following committee members were present:

**Members Present:**

Aaron Bodbyl-Mast  
Paul Geerlings  
Ken Krombeen  
Corky Overmyer  
Janice Tompkins  
George Haga  
John Koches  
Dale Kraker  
Ken Zarzecki

Ottawa County Planning & Grants  
Ottawa County Drain Commissioner  
City of Grandville, City Manager  
City of Grand Rapids – EPSD  
MDEQ, Surface Water Quality Division  
Utility Advisory Board/Ada Township  
GVSU – Annis Water Resources Institute  
Eastbrook Homes  
Ottawa County Road Commission

**Members Absent:**

Joe Stapf  
Robb Meeuwsen  
Curt Kemppainen  
Darwin Baas (for Jim Szejda)  
Ray Bruggink  
Curtis Holt  
Michael Knapp Jr.  
Roger Laninga  
Tom Leonard  
Lynn Thomas

City of Wyoming, Public Utilities  
Zeeland Farm Services  
Kent County, Public Works  
Ottawa County Health Dept.  
At-Large  
City of Wyoming, City Manager  
Knapp Law Firm  
Kent County Drain Commission  
West Michigan Environmental Action Council  
Byron/Gaines Utility Authority

**Others Present:**

Jim Smalligan  
Don Stypula

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, & Huber  
Grand Valley Metro Council

**2. Minutes:**

Minutes to the March 24, 2004 meeting were received without discussion. Approval of the minutes was postponed realizing there were insufficient members present to constitute a quorum.

### **3. Staff Updates:**

#### **A. Rogue River Watershed Project – John Koches**

- The Rogue River Watershed I&E project was finished at the end of February. The last quarterly report was submitted which included the remaining project products. A release of claims form was also submitted with the report.
- A final report for the Rogue I&E project was written by the Project Manager.
- The Project Manager and Call-In worked with Tetra Tech to complete a Rogue River I&E evaluation. As part of the evaluation, the Project Manager and Call-In performed a telephone evaluation. Participants in Rogue River Watershed I&E events were called and asked several questions about the workshop they attended. This information was incorporated into the evaluation report.
- The Project Manager and Call-In worked with the Kent County Road Commission to put up the farming award signs at the Kruithoff and Zahm farms. These signs are displayed on the farmer's property.
- The Project Manager and Call-In attended a soil erosion conference in Grand Rapids.
- The Project Manager and Call-In have been to all of the Rogue CMI sites to document there progress.
- The Project Manager has been working with West Michigan Trout Unlimited (WMTU) to propose another site for BMP implementation in place of the rope swing site. The WMTU is proposing to place a boardwalk along the Rogue River south of the proposed DNR fishing parking lot. The Project Manager, WMTU, and DEQ are working together to set up a time to see the site.
- The Project Manager has been working with the Kent County Road Commission to put together the BMP packet for the Ritchie Road CMI site. The Project Manager submitted the packet to DEQ.
- The Project Manager and Call-In are updating the Rogue River Watershed Road Stream Crossing that was done in 2000. The Project Manager and Call-In are revisiting sites that were marked as possible locations of non-point source pollution. A road stream crossing document is being created and the new data that is being collected is being incorporated.

#### **B. NPDES Phase II – Don Stypula**

- Don Stypula reported that NPDES wastewater fees have been approved by the legislature. Fees will be used to support MDEQ activities.
- Don Stypula announced that the DEQ Executive Office is planning a visit to the Grand Rapids area and will host a public meeting on May 13, 2004 from 6-8 PM at Grand Rapids Township Hall. The DEQ Director, Steven Chester is expected to participate although he is by law prevented from answering any direct questions.

### **C. Lower Grand River watershed Project – John Koches**

- AWRI Project Managers met with the Morrison Lake Improvement Board (MLIB) on March 4, 2004 in order to determine watershed pollutants, their sources and causes, and recommended BMPs for the Lake Creek Watershed. The information that was collected will be used to feature the Watershed Action Plan (WAP) at a workshop scheduled for LGRW communities in June 2004. In addition, project managers provided update information for the Water Assessment Matrix (WAM) and continued development of the Watershed Interactive Tool (WIT) and Watershed Interactive Mapping (WIM) tool. All four tools will assist LGRW communities to identify locations, sources, and causes of nonpoint source pollution.
- Partners are planning a June 3 workshop that is tentatively scheduled for the GVSU DeVos Campus in downtown Grand Rapids. The workshop is intended to share the various tools and products generated by the Lower Grand River Watershed Project.

## **4. Work Session: Strategy Session**

### **A. NKSA NPDES Draft Permit**

The Committee discussed briefly some of the issues surrounding the permit application for the North Kent Sewage Authority. Everyone generally agreed that this was an important issue and something that REPA was specifically organized to consider. Don Stypula offered to contact Michael Young and invite him to our next meeting so that he could update the group regarding this activity. There was specific interest in the “new technology” being considered and the hydrologic/pollutant modeling used to justify the permit.

### **B. Membership**

Ken Zarzecki offered some suggestions on how REPA might be reorganized to better reflect its overall mission. He agreed to summarize this information for presentation and discussion at the next meeting.

John Koches reminded the group that who is invited to participate in the agency is in many ways related to the goals and objectives of the agency. While no specific recommendation was made, there was a general commitment to visit at least briefly our mission, goals, and objectives just to be sure we are getting the right people involved.

### **C. Goals & Objectives**

Delayed until next month.

## **5. Other Items of Business:**

### **A. Road Salt and Farmland Impacts**

Paul Geerlings informed the committee of a presentation made recently by several individuals including Wayne Keel and Chuck Pistis regarding environmental impacts to

result from road salt applications. He suggested that this might be an issue that REPA wants to consider at some future date.

## **B. TMDL Procedures**

Janice Tompkins indicated that efforts are underway to create a TMDL for e-coli bacteria on segments of the Coldwater River, Buck Creek, Grand River, and Bass Creek. She has arranged for MDEQ staff that is responsible for developing TMDLs to meet with local representatives on May 6, 2004. The MDEQ field team will begin the sample collection process May 17, 2004. The purpose of this meeting is to give MDEQ the opportunity to describe their TMDL procedures while at the same time allow input regarding appropriate sample station locations from local and informed decision-makers.

### **6. Future Agenda Items/Meeting Date:**

The Regional Environmental Planning Agency will meet next on Wednesday, June 2, 2004 at the Grand Valley Metro Council at 9:00 am.

### **7. Adjournment:**

With no other issues before the Regional Environmental Planning Agency, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.