



January 6, 2017

GVMC Awarded \$574,133
Grant to Leverage
Municipal Stormwater
Management Program

Three years ago, GVMC submitted an application to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) requesting Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) grant funds to develop Stormwater Management Plans for the permitted communities in the Lower Grand River Watershed. Recently, GVMC was awarded the funding and will be using these funds to further develop and facilitate stormwater management planning for these communities. GVMC will work on regional efforts to advance the goals and objectives of the stormwater management plans, which were submitted to MDEQ on behalf of the MS4 communities in April 2015 with the renewal of the permit application.

The Funding will be spent in pursuing the following regional initiatives:

LGROW's Data Repository: Members of LGROW's Technical Committee realized the need to reliably and accurately measure progress and achievements of stormwater management within the Lower Grand Watershed. To meet that need, the Committee is working on water quality compliance issues; evaluating the effec-

tiveness of stormwater runoff control practices; and establishing a water quality monitoring program subwatersheds can adopt. REGIS an agency of GVMC will develop a GIS-based Data Repository that will also be open and available to the public for their use in learning more about their watersheds and water quality.

Public Engagement: LGROW's Public Engagement Committee will design and administer large scale, regional educational efforts. A follow-up public survey will be conducted to assess effectiveness of stormwater education materials and alternative methods and activities for the future. The Committee will create a Watershed Water Quality Report Card to convey the health of the watershed. Traditional media of radio and TV along with innovative social boosting techniques that produce real results will be employed. The Committee continues to find new ways to engage, educate and empower those who can impact or are impacted by stormwater runoff.

Municipal Training and Tracking Systems: Grant funds will allow GVMC to expand and customize the MS4 training program and facilitate regional discussions on prioritizing pollutant risks. REGIS will assist with updated maps with all stormwater

controls, including procedures for revisions and prioritization of maintenance. This will support the regional collaborative effort to identify high risk areas and help communities with building this information into their resiliency plans.

This project will further the coordination between GVMC departments, especially between REGIS and the Environmental Programs departments. REGIS will ensure that all mapping is up to date and the communities are incorporating the results of their SAW grant funded projects into REGIS. The budget period ends November 2019. The total award is for \$574,133, with a local match of \$63,793.



Our Next GVMC Board Meeting Will Be January 12th at 9:00 in the Kent County Commission Chambers