



November 9, 2012

LGROW/DEQ Meeting

Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds Chairman Brian Donovan of East Grand Rapids along with Grand Rapids Deputy City Manager Eric DeLong, Erika Rosebrook of the Governor's Office and myself recently met with top leadership of the Department of Environmental Quality.

Twenty-two communities within GVMC have been working for several years in a collaborative effort to meet DEQ and EPA regulations for storm-water discharge permits. LGROW, has been instrumental in helping facilitate a cooperative and cost-effective approach to meeting the demands of the permit process. We are sharing information and resources, partnering on educational programs and sharing the services of a single engineering consultant under a master contract agreement administered by GVMC. These efforts are result-

ing in significant economic savings and staffing efficiencies for our participants.

Our presentation to the DEQ leadership focused on our innovative and collaborative approach and detailed how LGROW/GVMC has promoted cooperation and collaboration for all our communities.

Our discussion also included opportunities to expand our partnerships with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. On behalf of LGROW we pledged to participate in future meetings to explore new ways our GVMC/LGROW members can work together with the DEQ to find creative and effective methods to protect the Grand River and our entire watershed.

LGROW is an agency of Grand Valley Metro Council. It includes local governments, representatives of environmental groups and education, foundations and private citizens. It serves an area of over 2,900 square miles and more than 1.8 million acres of property in 10 counties.

We look forward to our continuing discussions with representatives of the DEQ as we work together to protect the resources of the lower Grand River Watershed. If you would like more information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Two Board Members Leaving GVMC

At our November Board Meeting two long-time members of the GVMC Board were honored for their service. Township Supervisor Jim Miedema of Jamestown Township and George Meek of Plainfield Township will be leaving office on November 20.

Both Jim and George have been active members of the GVMC Board. They have served on many committees and represented their communities and the region well.

GVMC Chairman and Grandville Mayor Jim Buck commented, "I have known Jim and George for a long time and I thank them for their years of service. I want to wish both of them the best in the future and all of us at GVMC appreciate their dedication to cooperation and collaboration and their years of active participation."

At Large Vacancy

We have one vacancy on our Board of Directors to fill an at-large position on the Board. If you know of someone that might be interested, please have them contact me.

Please Email Your Community's
Programs and Ideas for
Cooperation!

