



Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds Celebrates 12th Annual Spring Forum

The 12th Annual Spring Forum for the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) was held on May 1, 2015, at the Grand Rapids Downtown Market. The event offered 100 attendees a regional perspective on emerging issues and accomplishments from around the watershed.



This year's keynote speaker was Former Senator Patty Birkholz (League of Conservation Voters). She discussed agricultural partnerships and connections to water resources. John Weiss, Wendy



Ogilvie (GVMC) and Kelly Goward (Macatawa Area Coordinating Council) presented on the Regional Prosperity Initiative and Jim Smalligan (Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber) provided an update on the Grand River restoration project. Joanna Allerhand from GVSU (Groundswell) spoke about place-based education, and Dale Robertson (GR Public Museum) presented proposed renovations to the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Students from two schools involved with the Groundswell

program attended the forum to showcase their work. Students from Kent Innovation High (KIH) announced the upcoming LGROW 5K run which will focus on the topics of water pollution, community responsibility, protecting and preserving water quality and bringing awareness to LGROW. Forum participants were wowed by a live rap written and performed by two KIH students.



Students from CA Frost (Grand Rapids Public Schools) presented the materials they developed for their neighborhood stormwater showcase. These students have taken an active role educating their neighbors on how to reduce stormwater runoff and protect and improve Indian Mill Creek.



For more information on how you can get involved, or to view the slides from the Forum presentations, visit www.lgrow.org.