



GVMC Environmental Programs

GVMC and its many partners have worked together over the years to discuss and solve environmental issues and concerns in West Michigan. As the Director of Environmental Programs at GVMC, I am excited to continue these efforts and develop new programs to benefit the region.

I will continue to coordinate the NPDES Stormwater Regulations, also known as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program, for the 22 local municipalities required to have stormwater discharge permits. The program includes identifying and applying best management practices for stormwater management, with an emphasis on stormwater controls using green infrastructure and adopting policies and ordinances that follow low impact development concepts to

reduce stormwater runoff. GVMC will seek to provide interesting and innovative training and educational opportunities that will assist the municipalities in complying with the permit and raise residents' awareness of stormwater management issues to improve water quality in the Grand River and ultimately Lake Michigan.

The Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds website is live! Go to www.LGROW.org to see what events are happening in the watershed and to read about current activities. If you have an event you would like posted, please send to Katherine.Collen@gvmc.org. LGROW has provided education about nonpoint

source pollution, identified agricultural best management practices to reduce farm runoff, and engaged local officials in reviewing policies and ordinances that protect and preserve natural resources. LGROW

will continue to be a main program at GVMC, using the EPA



approved Watershed Management Plan as a guide to direct focused implementation efforts that will make an impact on the watershed.

From my desk I can view the Grand River flowing past Sixth Street Park. I look forward to observing the potential changes to the river and watching the Sturgeon swim by once the Grand River Restoration Project gets underway. Although many hurdles still remain in making this project happen, some posi-

tive developments have emerged. GVMC will be taking a more prominent role in this effort by involving GVMC members and partners, whose support is essential in making this a successful and sustainable project for the region.

GVMC is committed to these environmental programs to protect and improve the Grand River Watershed and the entire region. These programs will offer more opportunities for collaboration in restoring and preserving our natural resources. I would like to hear your ideas and welcome comments about any of these programs. Here's how to contact me, or stop by the office if you are in the neighborhood.

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616-766-7605 (office)

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GVMC Breakfast Meeting Honoring Mayor Jim Buck with Special Guest Senator Carl Levin



Monday November 4, 2013

L. William Seidman Center at GVSU Downtown

\$20.00 Per Person

8:00-9:30 am

Seating will be open at 7:30 am

Sign Up online at:

GVMC.org or Gayle at McCrathG@gvmc.org

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