

Water Conservation and Efficiency Committee

August 5, 2021

9-10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Joe Wallace (Ottawa County Road Commission), Perry Truscon (EGLE OGL), Emily Finnell (EGLE OGL), Andrew LeBaron (EGLE WRD), Hannah Arnett (EGLE WRD), Julie Staveland (EGLE MMD), Frank Ettawageshik (Executive Director for Tribes), Tom Frazier (Water use advisory council), Aaron Moss Cohen (U of M DOW Sustainability Fellow), Ruth Shaffer (Water Quality Specialist, USDA NRCS), Naomi Morgan (EGLE WRD), Chad Rogers (EGLE MMD), Nathaniel Shuff (EGLE WRD), Ross Helmer (EGLE WRD), Lena K Pappas (EGLE WRD), Jerimiah Asher (MSU IWR)

Absent: Marilyn, Lyndon Kelly (MSU Ext), Abby Eaton (MDARD), Kelly Turner, (MI Potato Association), Rachel Proctor (Consumers Energy), Mike Alaimo (MCC), Kelly Green (EGLE), Ninah Sasy (MIC)

Link to meeting and speaker recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7h1S94IbbU>.

Meeting starts at 9:04 a.m.

Emily Finnell reviews today's agenda

Introductions

1. Action Items Updates – 9:12

- Dow Fellows Project Update- Aaron Moss
 - i. Phase II - interviews for Goal 1 and literature review are almost complete, discussing with Emily this afternoon at their monthly meeting,
 - ii. The fellows are working to encourage local water conservation, in process of developing water use tool book as advisory
- Catalyst Communities – Julie Staveland, EGLE - 9:18
 - i. Office of Climate and Energy project w/ Brandy Brown
 - ii. 'One stop shop' to provide all information and resources that a community has control over and connect existing tools and resources to how communities can take action to improve resiliency and work toward carbon neutrality leading to sustainability
 - iii. Working with Dr. Sarah Mills at U of M on a project
 - iv. Incorporating Webinars, workshops, website in 10 different areas

- v. For example, 1. Identify regardless of where they are at, action items they can take at the community level to increase resiliency and decrease carbonization
 - vi. Julie walked through CC website to provide an example of the structure and resources available. Website – <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/Outreach/Catalyst-Communities> - Created Clean Energy and Energy Management Webinar Series
 - vii. Using examples from Michigan communities to provide opportunities to learn from peers
 - viii. Want to replicate this process for all action areas identified
Specific examples of action items include 1) Implement programs to expand natural features 2)3) Create urban tree canopy forestry 4) Wastewater programs
 - ix. Would like to create this same format and set of webinars and resources for water. Requesting input from the committee on 1) Identify gaps or missing Action areas 2) identify common or frequent needs in communities 3) share program information, resources, webinars or information that Committee members have that addresses the need to help connect the dots between our programs to assist communities in their journey
 - x. Action item: Julie will share updated Word document of current outline for Water and Action Items.
 - xi. Action item: Committee members identify gaps in Water - Action areas and provide Julie with information about programs, webinars, resources or information to assist communities in addressing this action area.
- White paper on Agriculture’s response to climate – Marilyn and Lyndon absent. Will present next month, if available
 - Speaker Series Updates
 - i. Rachel Proctor, absent - Consumer Awareness plans
 - Action Item: Emily/Kelly Will follow up with Rachel to identify speaker on topic and schedule presentation
 - ii. Frank Ettawageshik - Tribal Representative/Perspective
 - Prepared to speak September if Brandy is not available for the Sept meeting otherwise possibly December 2 meeting. Emily and Frank will follow up to coordinate scheduling
 - iii. Jeremiah Asher, New Topics Committee Presentation
 - Has a recorded 20-30min presentation for New Topics Committee, Jeremiah will share video with Committee once video is sized for sharing, Committee requested to review video in advance of meeting and then have Jeremiah provide a brief overview and do Q/A with Committee. Emily will confirm scheduling Jeremiah for speaker.

- Action Item: Jeremiah will explore reducing size of the video possible using YouTube and will provide video to committee or work with Emily to reduce video size for sharing.
 - iv. September Meeting Speaker, Brandy Brown MI Healthy Climate Plan and Council
 - Action Item: Julie is confirming with Brandy this week if she is available for September meeting, otherwise agreed
 - v. Cary McElhinney, EPA Watersense confirmed for October 7th WCE Committee meeting
 - WUAC Committee Ag Recommendation – Emily recapped committee recommendation. Ruth Shaffer presented information on USDA programs
2. Speaker: Ruth Shaffer, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Water Quality Specialist, NRCS conservation programs and practices for growers. See recording - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7h1S94lbbU>
- USDA is very interested in collaborating on the Ag Recommendation. There are a few programs that are under utilized in Michigan.
 - Emily recommended revisiting the list of people from the committee that were going to form a subgroup to discuss next steps for moving the recommendation forward.
 - Action Item: Emily and Kelly will work with WCE committee subgroup to coordinate scheduling a meeting, including Ruth, to discuss next steps to collaborate and advance the recommendation.
3. Speaker: Joe Wallace, American Water Works Association (AWWA), Engineering Assistant, Water audits and approaches, real world challenges and communications. See recording
4. Member Updates - None
5. Other Agenda Items - None
6. Next Meeting/Next Steps
- Next meeting:
 - September 2nd will be next meeting
 - Speaker updates - Rachel Proctor to continue updates on Consumer Awareness plans
 - Aaron Moss to continue updates on DOW fellows
 - Marilyn and Lyndon – Update on White paper on Agriculture’s response to climate
 - Before next meeting:
 - Action Items:
 - Julie to confirm Brandy for September meeting or future meeting.

- Julie Staveland to send out information on Catalyst Communities for committee to provide feedback next month, specifically what action items are missing (Urban Forestry, Waste Water, etc.)
- Committee members identify gaps in Water - Action areas and provide Julie with information about programs, webinars, resources or information to assist communities in addressing this action area.
- Frank, Emily, and Kelly to coordinate scheduling Frank presenting Tribal perspective on water conservation and any current tribal water conservation practices, September meeting or possible December meeting
- Jerimiah to reduce video size for 20-30 minute presentation to New Topics Committee, share video with Committee and coordinate scheduling brief overview presentation and discussion at upcoming Committee meeting with Emily, and Kelly
- Emily and Kelly will work with WCE committee subgroup to coordinate scheduling a meeting including Ruth with USDA to discuss next steps to collaborate and advance the recommendation.