

Water Conservation and Efficiency Committee

February 3, 2022

9-10:30 a.m.

Recording: [State of Michigan Employees](#)

[Other affiliations](#)

Attendance: Emily Finnell (EGLE), Simon Belisle (EGLE), Hannah Arnett (EGLE), Andy Lebaron (EGLE), Marilyn Thelen (MSU Extension), Abby Eaton (MDARD), Frank Ettawageshik (United Tribes of Michigan), Sara Pearson (EGLE)

Notes

Small group, items may have to be brought back to the next meeting.

1. Action Items Updates

- Dow Fellows report findings committee review
 - OGL will create an agency workgroup to develop statewide water stewardship outreach campaign/program. There is also interest in EGLE and DHHS for promoting public awareness about private well testing in high contamination risk area among others.
 - Communication around how we use and manage water with water use program.
 - Frank pointed out the importance of making sure people understand the importance of conserving water even in the face of abundance, water will be under pressure in the future.
 - OGL could fund outreach campaign/project through MGLPF funds, possibly EGLE GLRI capacity grant or apply for GLRI focus area 5 noncompetitive funding
 - Frank: need to way to work with other organizations working on same issues, IJC, GLWQB, EPA
 - Marilyn: effective audience is elementary school children
 - Abby mentioned outreach was in a 2014 report, with little action.
 - Interest to have this be a region-wide effort on outreach and education
 - Emily explained From Students to Stewards launching new grants this week, working through agencies, Funding announcement information is available at the MiSTEM grants website at [Labor and Economic Opportunity - All MiSTEM Grants \(michigan.gov\)](#)
 - Using IJC report and GLC economic action plan to include in our thinking, using environmental education capacity at EGLE as well.

- WCEC committee recognizes that outreach is important and needs to be developed.
- Andy explained the data availability and clarity issue brought up in the Data and Technology findings, where it can be difficult to show changes in conservation.
- Emily announced the Water User Committee Integrated Assessment grant from NOAA/MI Sea Grant and MGLPF.
- Water-energy nexus could be integrated in state-wide lead service line replacement
- Emily to connect with Kelly Green to gather data on water conservation done through infrastructure improvements and WIFS grants and loans. E.g. Develop metrics for water energy savings resulting from water infrastructure improvements
- Using findings to inform 2022 work plan tasks or activities
 - Outreach campaign/program will be developed.
 - Julie and Emily to have more discussion about the ReTAP program revival.
 1. Develop metrics for water energy savings resulting from water infrastructure improvements
 2. Strengthen Public Private Partnerships between state and utilities to promote existing water energy savings programs
 - Strengthen partnerships with research institutions to advance water conservation through research and technologies

2. Finalize 2022 work plan

- Discuss additions or edits to the work plan
 - Emily did not receive comments
- Discuss process for advancing workplan tasks
 - Goal 1a Emily to add water stewardship program and follow ups with Julie Staveland and Kelly Green.
 - Emily mentioned working more with DTE and Consumers.
 - Goal 1c Julie, Sara P are part of GLFWW planning
 - Goal 2 Ag efficiency, we need to wait on legislative decision, revisit in March
 - Goal 7 (2022 WUAC legislative report) note - fix numbering in table - put on agenda in March hoping that there is legislative decision on funding.
 - Goal 5 Andy talked about Turfgrass Association for specific measures. Andy to revisit email exchange with potential speaker.

- Goal 6 Jeremiah's presentation will most likely not be brought forward to the full WUAC.
- Reflections on 2021 Speaker Series
 - Identify knowledge gaps, topics and future speaker ideas
 - Need to hear more about Michigan irrigation practices and water conservation
 - Frank suggested hearing from elementary school teacher about water stewardship and water conservation and efficiency to see what they do, wondering if there are state curriculum guidelines, Emily mentioned exemplar schools from the Freshwater Playbook, maybe reach out to grantees to have a speaker, Emily mentioned Les Cheneaux schools
 - Abby expressed interest and excitement for Frank's idea.
 - Abby suggested having speakers every other meeting and taking time to digest and discuss at the meeting after the speaker.
 - Frank, maybe a youth speaker? Emily mentioned examples from FS2S roadshow.
 - Simon mentioned using GLFWW speakers if topics work.
- Development of 2022 recommendations to WUAC
 - No action from legislature on supplemental, which includes funding on 2020 recommendations.
 - Use March meeting to discuss potential recommendations.

2. Member Updates

3. Next Meeting/Next Steps

- Next Meeting: March 3, 2022
 - Speaker: TBD
- Action Items
 - Emily to connect with Kelly Green to gather data on water conservation done through infrastructure improvements and WIFS grants and loans.
 - Julie and Emily to have more discussion about the ReTAP program revival and public private partnerships with utilities on water energy nexus
 - Emily to identify a potential teacher to speak on Water education efforts and possibly a student
 - Emily to fix numbering in workplan

- Andy to revisit potential speaker from Michigan Turfgrass Association
- Emily to follow up with Mike Alaimo and Pat Staskiewicz about workplan goal 6