

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 29-23

NAME Local GROW Committee PAGE Page 1 of 7
 LOCATION WIWD Office DATE October 16, 2023

PRESENT: B. Fleury Member (Chairperson) WIWD
 H. Rosing Member (Vice- Chair) Producer
 B. Sigfusson Member WIWD
 I. Zotter Member (GROW Coordinator) WIWD
 K. Christensen Financial Administrator WIWD
 D. Kaartinen Resource Technician WIWD

REGRETS: D. Timmerman Watershed Planner ARD
 T. Cook Member Producer
 N. Brandstrom Member WIWD
 J. Cruise Member Producer / WIWD

WRITTEN BY: I. Zotter

ITEM		ACTION BY
1.0	CALL TO ORDER B. Fleury called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.	
2.0	APPROVAL OF AGENDA <u>153-23 H. Rosing – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Local Grow Committee (LGC) approved the agenda as presented.	CARRIED
3.0	APPROVAL OF MINUTES <u>154-23: B. Sigfusson – H. Rosing</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved the minutes of the LGC Meeting # 28-23 September 11, 2023 as presented	CARRIED

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 29-23

NAME Local GROW Committee
 LOCATION WIWD Office

PAGE Page 2 of 7
 DATE October 16, 2023

ITEM		ACTION BY
4.0	<p>GROW and PWCP Funds and Programs terms Update</p> <p>GROW coordinator, I. Zotter, updated committee members on available funds on hand from GROW 2021–2023, 2022–2024, and 2023–2025. Projects from 2022 and 2023 have been merged.</p> <p>Awarded GROW Funds for Project Establishment over these three terms: \$1,146,762.00</p> <p>Expended to date: \$528,242.00</p> <p>Remaining available funds: \$618,520.00</p> <p>Estimated projected funds for approved applications: \$383,375.00</p> <p>WIWD will have approximately \$235,145.00 left if all submitted projects are completed before March 31, 2024.</p> <p>Technician D. Kaartinen updated committee members on funds under the PWCP programs.</p> <p>Up-to-date projected costs of Projects on hand are:</p> <p>Rotational Grazing: \$567,433.54</p> <p>Cover Crops: \$118,359.85</p> <p>Nitrogen Management: \$219,977.52</p> <p>Total Projected cost: \$905,770.91</p> <p>Funds are fully allocated in the amount of \$905,770.91</p> <p>The amount of funding, available under the GROW program, fluctuates every day depending on projects that are withdrawn or new proposals that are submitted.</p> <p>Documentation of current funds is on file at the WIWD office.</p>	

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 29-23

NAME Local GROW Committee
 LOCATION WIWD Office

PAGE Page 3 of 7
 DATE October 16, 2023

ITEM		ACTION BY
5.0	<p>GROW 2024-2026; Letter of Interest</p> <p>A Letter of Interest was submitted through the MHC portal on October 3, 2023.</p> <p>Members received an electronic copy of the letter prior to submission. A hard copy was presented to the members at the meeting along with the budget calculation. Members discussed activities such as: Wetlands Riparian Area Conservation</p> <p>As of now, the intake of applications for these activities is very minimal.</p> <p>Suggestions were made that in order to enroll Wetlands Class I and II and the riparian area into the conservation agreements, staff must conduct more intensive groundwork to identify eligible areas for the incentive payments. It will also require strengthening communication with landowners, preferably on the field.</p> <p>Another suggestion was made to explore possibilities for projects for water retention and/or offer an incentive payment to the landowner who would be interested in holding the water back in order to prevent downstream flooding.</p> <p>It was suggested that the incentive payment rates for riparian area conservation be reviewed because they are twice as low as rates in other districts.</p>	
6.0	<p>PWCP: Nitrogen Management - Adding Legumes to crop rotation</p> <p>There are no new developments pertaining to this subject.</p> <p>Funds received from the PWCP have been allocated in full. Staff to send request for more funds. Response has not been received at this time.</p> <p>The WIWD can potentially increase financial assistance to those who seeded legumes this year by offering funding for seeding legumes (through PWCP funds)</p>	
7.0	<p>GROW: Watering System</p> <p>One of the previously approved Alternative Watering System projects contains an existing well that is less than ¼ mile from another well utilized for human consumption.</p> <p>Staff researched MB Livestock regulations for livestock winter site establishment. Under the Well Standards Regulation, the minimum setback distance for a confined livestock area comprised of more than 10 animal units is 100 m (328 ft).</p> <p>The well in question is located on the field, which is not a confined area. The well has been appropriately developed and is located on high ground.</p> <p>Following careful deliberation, the members determined that the watering system for G. Gudmundson—approved on June 5, 2023, by Resolution # 139-23—will be recognized as the system that successfully completed the inspection.</p>	

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 29-23

NAME Local GROW Committee
 LOCATION WIWD Office

PAGE Page 4 of 7
 DATE October 16, 2023

ITEM		ACTION BY
8.0	<p>Sisal Twine Proposal.</p> <p>To discuss the Sisal Twine idea, I. Zotter and D. Kaartinen met with representatives from Manitoba Habitat Corporation. Funders would not object to support an innovative approach that uses ecologically friendly materials. This practice can be put into effect at any time.</p> <p>Members discussed how this practice would be implemented within the district. It was decided to include the use of sisal twine in the list of acceptable activities under GROW: Upland Enhancement at the beginning of the next fiscal year.</p> <p>Staff will develop the application.</p> <p>The application will be developed by staff. Those who are accepted will receive a one-time incentive payment that is equal to the price difference between one foot of sisal and plastic twine.</p> <p><u>155-23: I. Zotter – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved to include the use of sisal twine in the list of acceptable activities under GROW: Upland Enhancement, beginning April 1, 2024. A one-time Incentive payment is to be established in the amount of the price difference between one foot of sisal and plastic twine.</p>	CARRIED
9.0	<p>GROW: Cover Crop Program: cap per acre</p> <p>Committee members discussed the necessity of establishing a maximum allowed cost for seed per acre under the Cover Crop Program to prevent some unprecedented scenarios in the future.</p> <p>The cost of soil health crops can vary greatly based on the number of species sown, practices used, and targets set. The price per acre might range between \$35 and \$150.</p> <p><u>156-23 H. Rosing – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved to establish a maximum allowed seed cost per acre of up to \$120 for soil health crops.</p> <p>It was proposed that members discuss this program when all members are present, as this program may serve better if we establish a clear difference within the program between sowing a cover crop and seeding polycrops.</p>	CARRIED
10.0	<p>GROW: Upland Enhancement – common practices.</p> <p>Tabled until the next meeting</p>	

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 29-23

NAME Local GROW Committee PAGE Page 5 of 7
 LOCATION WIWD Office DATE October 16, 2023

ITEM		ACTION BY
11.0	<p>Shelterbelt establishment and enhancement</p> <p>The WIWD received only three (3) applications for the establishment of Shelterbelt, despite the fact that numerous programs are available: GROW and the 2 Billion Trees (2BT)</p> <p>D. Kaartinen provided a template to determine the budget for the three applications on hand; however, calculating the cost accurately is difficult due to the district's lack of expertise in executing this type of project.</p> <p>Members agreed to implement first few projects as pilot projects and to use C. Kaartinen project as a template.</p> <p><u>157-23 I. Zotter – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approves the establishment of 5 project sites with shelterbelts throughout the district area and the funding of these projects at 90% of the total project cost, provided that these projects are developed, accepted, and completed under the careful supervision of the WIWD staff.</p>	CARRIED
12.0	<p>GROW Advertisement / MFGA 2023 Regenerative Agriculture Conference</p> <p>The WIWD had a chance to place an advertisement during the “Boyz and Bullz” event on October 13th.</p> <p>Committee members were presented with available options via email.</p> <p>I.Zotter solicited committee members' feedback by phone or email. All members expressed support for placing an advertisement during this event; the following option was chosen: The Chute Gate package (valued at \$1000.00) includes: - Air time for up to a 60 second; commercial played on the LED video wall prior to, during and after the event - Logo or Business name placed in rotation on our LED video wall - Announcer Mentions company name each time the specific Chute used</p> <p><u>157-23 I. Zotter – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approves to place an Advertisement up to \$1000.00 during Boyz and Bullz event</p> <p>The MFGA Regenerative Ag Conference's information and agenda were presented to the committee members. The committee felt that attending the conference would be very beneficial.</p> <p>I. Zotter will get in touch with the remaining committee members and inquire about their interest in coming to this event.</p> <p>As of today, the following members – B. Fleury, H. Rosing. B. Sigfusson, and I. Zotter have confirmed their attendance at the conference. Registration, accommodation and transportation will be covered by GROW funds.</p> <p><u>158-23 I. Zotter – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approves the GROW committee members' attendance at the 2023 MFGA Regenerative Ag Conference and to cover expenditures (registration, lodging, and transportation) from GROW funds.</p>	CARRIED

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 29-23

NAME Local GROW Committee
 LOCATION WIWD Office

PAGE Page 6 of 7
 DATE October 16, 2023

ITEM		ACTION BY
8.0	Approval of GROW and PWCP Applications	
8.1	<p>Committee reviewed presented Projects.</p> <p>159-23: B. Sigfusson – H. Rosing BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved the following projects based on applications submitted to date, to be funded through the PWCP or GROW Program for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The Project must adhere to all the PWCP or GROW guidelines established by the MAW or the MHHC, as well as the LGC WIWD guidelines. Funding is contingent on the completion of the Final Project Inspection and the availability of funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ BMP: Nitrogen Management: -Activity: Adding Legumes to the crop Rotation John Schultz ➤ BMP: Cover Cropping: Rick Miller ➤ BMP: Rotational Grazing: Dylan GAudry ➤ BMP: Alternative Watering systems and Riparian Fencing Laurie Backman 	
8.0	<p>NEXT MEETING:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">November 20th, 2023</p>	
9.0	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>160-23: H. Rosing - B. Sigfusson BE IT RESOLVED THAT we adjourn at 12:28 p.m.</p>	CARRIED
	<p style="text-align: center;">These minutes are the writer's best interpretation of discussions held during the meeting. Please inform the writer of any noteworthy omissions or errors</p>	
	<hr/> <p>Bill Fleury, LGC Chairperson</p>	

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 29-23

NAME Local GROW Committee
LOCATION WIWD Office

PAGE Page 7 of 7
DATE October 16, 2023

ITEM		ACTION BY
	<hr/> <p>Kaitlyn Christensen, Financial Administrator</p>	