

**MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 30-23**

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 LOCATION                WIWD Office                                      DATE      November 20, 2023

PRESENT:      B. Fleury                                      Member (Chairperson)                      Producer / WIWD  
                   H. Rosing                                      Member (Vice- Chair)                      Producer  
                   B. Sigfusson                                      Member                                      WIWD  
                   T. Cook                                      Member                                      Producer  
                   J. Cruise                                      Member                                      Producer / WIWD  
                   G. Metner                                      Sub District Member                      WIWD  
                   D. Timmerman                                      Watershed Planner                      ARD  
                   I. Zotter                                      Member (GROW Coordinator)                      WIWD  
                   K. Christensen                                      Financial Administrator                      WIWD  
                   D. Kaartinen                                      Resource Technician                      WIWD

REGRETS:      N. Brandstrom                                      Member                                      WIWD

WRITTEN BY: K. Christensen

ITEM		ACTION BY
1.0	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b> B. Fleury called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.	
2.0	<b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b> <u>161-23 H. Rosing – J. Cruise</u> <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Local Grow Committee (LGC) approved the agenda as presented.	<b>CARRIED</b>
3.0	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b> <u>162-23: H. Rosing – J. Cruise</u> <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the LGC approved the minutes of the LGC Meeting # 29-23 October 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 as presented.	<b>CARRIED</b>
4.0	<b>GROW and PWCP Funds and Programs terms Update</b>  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.  Awarded GROW Funds for Project Establishment over these three terms: \$1,146,762.00  Expended to date: \$572,403.60  Remaining available funds: \$574,358.40  Estimated projected funds for approved applications: \$335,640.00  WIWD will have approximately \$238,718.40 left if all submitted projects are completed before March 31, 2024.  There was no update on PWCP funds, as they had been fully allocated previously.	

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4.0	<p>The projected costs of the projects on hand remained unchanged.</p> <p>Rotational Grazing: \$567,433.54            Cover Crops: \$118,359.85            Nitrogen Management: \$219,977.52            Total Projected cost: \$905,770.91            Funds are fully allocated in the amount of \$905,770.91</p> <p>Documentation of current funds is on file at the WIWD office.</p>	
5.0	<p><b>GROW 2024-2026; Proposal</b></p> <p>A Letter of Interest was submitted through the MHC portal on October 3, 2023.</p> <p>The WIWD was invited to submit a full proposal, however, there was mention that the GROW fund was oversubscribed this year and MHC will be more selective in approving proposals.</p> <p>Members had discussion on what projects are of higher priority for the district, the possibility of needing to adjust our score sheets, and the possibility that we may need to lower our funding rates to allow more producers to access funding.</p> <p>The GROW coordinator has not yet started on the proposal, but will do so in the coming days. A copy will be sent to members prior to submission.</p>	
6.0	<p><b>PWCP: Nitrogen Management - Adding Legumes to crop rotation</b></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><b>GROW, Upland Enhancement: Ineligible Expenses – common practices</b></p> <p>It is stated in the 2023 GROW Guide, on page 24 that “Practices that are considered standard for operations (ex: zero tillage, green manure for organic crops, forage rejuvenation for livestock producers)” are ineligible.</p> <p>Members discussed whether the above-mentioned practices were standard for the majority of producers within the district.</p> <p>Staff are to ask MHC for clarity on their definition of “forage rejuvenation”.</p> <p>LGC will discuss further once more information is known.</p>	

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8.0	<p><b>Shelterbelt Establishment and Enhancement</b></p> <p>The question “How do we, as a district, promote the practice of leaving natural bush areas standing, instead of knocking the bush down to convert the land to annual crop land?” was raised as members are seeing more and more bush land being cleared for cropping purposes.</p> <p>Members discussed the possibility of providing incentive payments to landowners for leaving the natural bushed areas intact. It was agreed upon by members that a scoring sheet to evaluate the benefits of incentivising bush land and marginal land areas would need to be developed prior to implementing such a program.</p> <p>D. Kaartinen provided an update on the revised stipulations, based off previous meeting discussions, pertaining to the current GROW shelterbelt program.</p>	
9.0	<p><b>MFGA 2023 Regenerative Agriculture Conference and Membership</b></p> <p>I. Zotter, B. Fleury, H. Rosing and B. Sigfusson attended the Regen Ag conference on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, &amp; 15<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>I. Zotter said she would like to see more members attend the conference next year, as it was very informational.</p> <p>I. Zotter proposed the LGC do a sponsorship for the 2024-2025 year for the MFGA. Discussion is tabled till the next meeting.</p>	<b>TABLED</b>
10.0	<p><b>Manitoba Beef &amp; Forage Production Conference</b></p> <p>The Manitoba Beef &amp; Forage Production Conference is being held December 12<sup>th</sup> &amp; 13<sup>th</sup> at the Victoria Inn in Brandon.</p> <p>I. Zotter has reserved 6 conference tickets, and 6 rooms at the Victoria Inn.</p> <p><b><u>163-23: I. Zotter – J. Cruise</u></b>  <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the LGC approved to cover the costs associated with 6 members attending the Manitoba Beef &amp; Forage Production conference. Such costs include, conference registration, hotel rooms, meals and mileage.</p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
11.0	<p><b>Approval of GROW and PWCP Applications</b></p> <p>The GROW Committee conducted a review of L. Backman's application for the installation of the alternative watering system during GROW Committee Meeting on October 16, 2023. During the evaluation, committee members raised concerns regarding the power output stated in the provided quote. A consensus was reached that preliminary approval would be granted via email or phone call contingent upon the fulfillment of the following conditions:</p> <p>a) Staff would carry out a site inspection.          b) I. Zotter would communicate with the supplier to verify the specifications in the quote.</p> <p>The subsequent actions were taken:</p> <p>a) The staff successfully completed the inspection on October 16, 2023 and confirmed the site's suitability for the project implementation.          b) I. Zotter reached out to the supplier, resulting in an adjustment to the quote for the AWS, aligning it with the required specifications. The revised quote has been submitted.</p>	

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11.0	<p>Preliminary approval was granted on October 25, 2023, via email or phone call by the majority of members: I. Zotter, B. Fleury, J. Cruise, H. Rosing, B. Sigfusson, and T. Cook.</p> <p><b>164-23: J. Cruise – B. Sigfusson</b>  <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC</b> approves L. Backman application for the installation of alternative watering system, which was informally approved via emails and phone call as of October</p> <p>Committee reviewed presented Projects.</p> <p><b>165-23: J. Cruise – H. Rosing</b>  <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC</b> 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"> <li>➤ <b>BMP: Perennial Establishment:</b>            Stephen Reykdal            Charles Holm</li> <li>➤ <b>BMP: Alternative Watering Systems and Riparian Fencing:</b>            Darren Cook</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
12.0	<p><b>New Members</b></p> <p>A Dog Lake Sub-district member, G. Metner, expressed interest in joining the LGC and attended the meeting to observe and learn the function of the LGC.</p> <p><b>166-23: J. Cruise – H. Rosing</b>  <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC</b> make a recommendation to appoint Glen Metner to the LGC.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
13.0	<p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b></p> <p><b>December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>  <b>9:00 a.m.</b>  <b>WIWD Office</b></p>	
14.0	<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p> <p><b>167-23: B. Sigfusson</b>  <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> we adjourn at 12:02 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
	<p><b>These minutes are the writer's best interpretation of discussions held during the meeting. Please inform the writer of any noteworthy omissions or errors</b></p>	

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ITEM		ACTION BY
	<hr/> <p>Bill Fleury, LGC Chairperson</p> <hr/> <p>Kaitlyn Christensen, Financial Administrator</p>	