

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 32-24

NAME Local GROW Committee PAGE Page 1 of 5
 LOCATION WIWD Office DATE January 29, 2024

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

REGRETS:

WRITTEN BY: K. Christensen

ITEM		ACTION BY
1.0	CALL TO ORDER B. Fleury called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.	
2.0	APPROVAL OF AGENDA <u>173-24 H. Rosing – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Local Grow Committee (LGC) approved the agenda as presented with the addition of 12.0	CARRIED
3.0	APPROVAL OF MINUTES <u>174-24: J. Cruise – I. Zotter</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved the minutes of the LGC Meeting # 31-23 December 11 th , 2023 as presented.	CARRIED
4.0	GROW and PWCP Funds and Programs terms Update The GROW Coordinator updated committee members on available funds on hands 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: \$687,280.19 Remaining available funds: \$459,481.81 Estimated projected funds for approved applications: \$192,859.00 The WIWD will have approximately \$266,622.81 left for the next fiscal year if all approved projects are completed before March 31, 2024. Technician updated committee members on the current PWCP budget. The projected costs of the projects on hand are as follows: Rotational Grazing: \$550,379.46 Cover Crops: \$141,004.85 Nitrogen Management: \$209,532.38 Total Projected cost: \$900,916.69 Funds are fully allocated.	

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	<p>Documentation of current funds is on file at the WIWD office.</p> <p>The LGC reviewed R. Osmonds project; due to weather conditions, the area enrolled in an agreement through the Cover Crop program, has not been seeded for two consecutive years.</p> <p>175-24: J. Cruise – H. Rosing BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC is terminating the three-year contract between the WIWD and R. Osmond, effective immediately.</p>	CARRIED
5.0	<p>GROW 2024-2026; Proposal</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>A complete proposal was submitted on November 29th, 2023. Proposal asked for \$1,727,004.00 towards project establishment and delivery costs, and \$153,750.00 towards annual incentive payments, for a total of \$1,880,754.00.</p> <p>Due to time restraints, a copy of the proposal was not sent out for review to the LGC prior to submission. Approval notifications will not be received till April of 2024.</p> <p>The WIWD’s grant associate from Manitoba Habitat Conservancy (MHC) requested the output table for the GROW 2024-2026 proposal be revised, before being reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee. The GROW Coordinator made the requested adjustments and submitted back to MHC. The GROW 2024-2026 proposal is now under review.</p>	
6.0	<p>GROW, Upland Enhancement: Ineligible Expenses – common practices</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, and forage rejuvenation for livestock producers)” are ineligible.</p> <p>During the December 11th meeting, the GROW Coordinator asked all committee members to share their thoughts and comments on what practices are common and uncommon in the Interlake region. Members input will be used to assist staff in drafting a letter to Manitoba Habitat Conservancy to present WIWD’s perspectives and arguments on why the practices in question cannot be considered common in the Interlake region.</p>	
7.0	<p>Shelterbelt Establishment and Enhancement</p> <p>Technician gave an update on the current 4 pilot shelterbelt projects. Trees were ordered through the 2 Billion Tree program, however, not all species ordered were available. D. Kaartinen re-designed shelterbelt plans to accommodate the new list of species that are available. Over 2,000 trees will be planted amongst the 4 project sites.</p> <p>There was discussion on what improvements can be done to the program to make it more appealing to landowners. Due to the high intensity of labour involved, a tree planter and weed suppression measures/ materials would be a great asset to the program.</p>	

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8.0	<p>RALP Applications</p> <p>The following 3 proposals for the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program were submitted on December 14th:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agroforestry Establishment in the West Interlake Watershed District 2024</i> for the amount of \$20,000.00 • <i>Exclusion Fencing in the West Interlake Watershed District to Enhance and Restore Riparian Areas – 2024</i> in the amount of \$100,000.00 • <i>Cultivating Environmental Resilience through Perennial Forage Establishment.</i> In the amount of \$100,000.00 <p>Approvals will be received in April 2024.</p> <p>Staff have not yet received the reporting templates for the 2023-24 RALP projects. Once reporting templates are received, staff will complete the necessary reports on the work completed to date.</p>	
9.0	<p>GROW Committee members</p> <p>Manager contacted 3 producers to invite them to join the LGC, responses had not been received at the time of the meeting.</p>	
10.0	<p>Approval of GROW and PWCP Applications</p> <p>Technician gave an overview on PWCP projects, cross-fencing project maps were reviewed.</p> <p><u>175-24: B. Sigfusson – T. Cook</u> 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 MHC, 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: Alternative Watering Systems and Riparian Fencing: Allen Rawluk ➤ BMP: PWCP Cover Crops James Ryden Kyle McCosh Oluf Christensen Stacy Meisner Lorne Erickson ➤ BMP: PWCP: Soil Testing Paul Ryden Lee Wirgau Ryan Hueging ➤ BMP: PWCP Legumes Ryan Hueging ➤ BMP: PWCP Manure Stacy Meisner ➤ BMP: PWCP Cross Fencing Stacy Meisner 	CARRIED

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	<p><u>176-24: I. Zotter – J. Cruise</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved to move In-Camera at 2:30 p.m.</p> <p><u>177-24: H. Rosing – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved to move Out-of-Camera at 2:52 p.m.</p> <p>The LGC discussed concerns that staff had.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	
<p>11.0</p>	<p>Aquanty Model</p> <p>Manager addressed the idea of acquiring the Aquanty model, and/or Strategic Systems Engineering services, or other LiDAR based models, to assist staff and producers forecasting the effects of weather events. Manager consulted other Watershed Districts to receive insight and feedback. After consultation, the potential cost could exceed \$40,000.00 - \$50,000,.00 per sub-district.</p> <p>Documents pertaining to examples of differing models were included in members meeting packages, and are on file at the office.</p> <p>The LGC discussed possible funding avenues that could be pursued to obtain funds for acquiring such models.</p>	
<p>12.0</p>	<p>GROW Funds and PWCP Limits</p> <p>A member raised concerns about the growing awareness and demand for the WIWD programming, and suggested the LGC explore the feasibility of implementing limits and/or caps on the maximum reimbursement amount per applicant per year, for each beneficial management practice (BMP).</p> <p>The LGC discussed that the following 3 rules below have always been implemented, however, further discussion on setting limits will be reviewed at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All applications are reviewed by the LGC for approval/disapproval. • The LGC will set limitations based upon fair distribution of PWCP funds, and the EGS goals of the WIWD. • Rates will be reviewed as deemed necessary, and are subject to changes. 	
<p>14.0</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 26th, 2024 1:00 p.m. WIWD Office</p>	
<p>14.0</p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p><u>178-23: B. Sigfusson – H. Rosing</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT we adjourn at 4:23 p.m.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p>
	<p>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>	

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	<hr/> <p>Bill Fleury, LGC Chairperson</p> <hr/> <p>Irina Zotter, Manager / GROW Coordinator</p>	
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