

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 25-23

NAME	Local GROW Committee	PAGE	Page 1 of 5
LOCATION	WIWD Office/Zoom	DATE	May 18, 2023

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

REGRETS:

WRITTEN BY: K. Christensen

ITEM		ACTION BY
1.0	CALL TO ORDER J. Cruise called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.	
2.0	APPROVAL OF AGENDA <u>123-23 B. B. Sigfusson – H. Rosing</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Local Grow Committee (LGC) approved the agenda as presented.	CARRIED
3.0	APPROVAL OF MINUTES <u>124-23: B. Fleury – N. Brandstrom</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved the minutes of the LGC Meeting # 24-23 April 12, 2023 as presented with the amendments of moving I. Zotter from Present to Regrets.	CARRIED
4.0	GROW and PWCP Programs and Funds Update Verbal update was given by I. Zotter on available funds for both the GROW and PWCP programs. Documentation of current funds is on file at the WIWD office.	
5	GROW Program and Rates Review	
5.1	Proposed new rates for the Perennial Forage Establishment I. Zotter presented the idea of increasing the payment for perennial establishment projects. The current reimbursement rate is 75% of perennial seed cost. The proposed new reimbursement rate is 75% of perennials seed cost plus an additional \$25/acre for seeding. The LGC discussed this matter, and decided to wait for further financial updates to make a decision.	
5.2	Proposed amendments to the Cover Crop Scoring Sheet I. Zotter suggested that the score sheet for cover cropping needs adjusting, as Covers & Co has changed the composition of their seed blend which would result in producers receiving a much lower score. It was suggested to award 5 points under “Soil Armor” if crop stubble is left over winter, as the blend from Covers & Co. Company Blend no longer has any species that will over winter which would award a producer 10 points.	

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	<u>125-23 H. Rosing – N. Brandstrom</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved to add “Stubble left overwinter” under “soil armor” for 5 points on the GROW Trust Project Prioritization Calculator for Soil Health Crops, pending approval from MHHC.	CARRIED
5.3	<p>Proposed amendments to the Shelterbelt Program</p> <p>D. Kaartinen entered the meeting.</p> <p>I. Zotter suggested that the % of reimbursement for the GROW Shelterbelt program be re-visited.</p> <p>The LGC requested staff to collect more information in order to revise this activity and to update the Program</p>	
5.4	<p>Proposed new activities under Upland Enhancement: Sisal Twine Rebate</p> <p>D. Kaartinen informed the LGC of the proposal he submitted to MAW for future eligible activities under the On-Farm Climate Action Program. The proposal included a rebate for the price difference between plastic and sisal twine, as plastic twine has a detrimental effect on the watershed.</p> <p>The LGC supported the proposal. This activity may be a good addition to the GROW Program. Staff to research and to collect more information pertaining to this subject and to initiate the communication with MHCC Grant Associate to suggest to add this practice as eligible under Upland Enhancement Activity.</p>	
6.0	<p>Proposed requirements for the PWCP: Rotational Grazing</p> <p>D. Kaartinen gave a verbal presentation on why the WIWD should not be accepting perimeter fencing as an eligible activity under PWCP. There has been ample interest and application submission for strictly cross-fencing projects to fulfil the budget.</p> <p>D. Kaartinen suggested that if perimeter fencing was to be eligible, it should be percentage based. Example: 70% of project needs to be cross fencing, up to 30% of project can be perimeter fence.</p> <p><u>126-23: T. Cook – N. Brandstrom</u> BE IT RESOLVED that the LGC approved to only allow cross fencing as part of a rotational grazing plan under PWCP for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, no perimeter fence is eligible.</p>	CARRIED
7.0	Approval of GROW Applications	
7.1	<p>Perennial Forage Establishment</p> <p><u>127-23: H. Rosing – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved the following projects to be funded through the GROW program for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, providing projects meet all the guidelines set out by the LGC, including initial and final project site inspection to verify completeness, and pending funding availability. If a project is unable to be completed by March 31st, 2024, it is the applicant’s responsibility to contact the WIWD to request an extension.</p>	CARRIED

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		John Ogilvie Gregory Johnson Craig Bjornson Franklin Plohman James Ryden Darren Hueging Curtis Hueging David Gall Werner Zotter Clint Miller Darcy Mason Walter Kehler Cameron Johnson Allen Rawluk	
7.2	Alternative Watering Systems and Riparian Fencing	<p><u>128-23: H. Rosing – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved the following projects to be funded through the GROW program for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, providing projects meet all the guidelines set out by the LGC, including initial and final project site inspection to verify completeness, and pending funding availability. If a project is unable to be completed by March 31st, 2024, it is the applicant’s responsibility to contact the WIWD to request an extension.</p> <p>Lee Wirgau Cameron Ducharme Karen and Kent Lindal David Gall Allen Rawluk</p>	CARRIED
7.3	Soil Health Crops	<p><u>129-23: H. Rosing – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved the following projects to be funded through the GROW program for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, providing projects meet all the guidelines set out by the LGC, including initial and final project site inspection to verify completeness, and pending funding availability. If a project is unable to be completed by March 31st, 2024, it is the applicant’s responsibility to contact the WIWD to request an extension.</p> <p>Lee Wirgau Craig Bjornson Darcy Mason Sundown Ranch Clint Miller Mark Farthing Lonny Farthing</p>	CARRIED
8.0	Approval of PWCP Applications		
8.1	Nitrogen Management	<p>D. Kaartinen read through list of applicants, document is on file at WIWD office.</p> <p>J. Cruise and K. Christensen left the room – 3:40 p.m.</p>	

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	<p><u>130-23: I. Zotter – N. Brandstrom</u> BE IT RESOLVED that the LGC approved the following projects based off applications submitted, to be funded through the PWCP for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, pending projects meet all the PWCP guidelines set out in the PWCP fact sheets, as well as the WIWD guidelines set out by the LGC, and available funding.</p> <p>-Activity: Soil Testing Jason Bittner Curtis Hueging Darren Hueging Adrian Shabaga Lonny Farthing Mathew Christensen</p> <p>-Activity: ESN/Urease Inhibitors Curtis Hueging Lee Wirgau Lonny Farthing Ken Overby Darren Hueging</p> <p>-Activity: Manure Spreading Jack Cruise Lee Wirgau Curtis Hueging (2022) Curtis Hueging (2023) Darren Hueging (2022) Darren Hueging (2023) David Darknell Lonny Farthing Lorna Law Clint/Rick Miller</p> <p>-Activity: Adding Legumes to the crop Rotation Jack Cruise (2022) Jack Cruise (2023) Curtis Hueging Darren Hueging</p> <p>J. Cruise and K. Christensen re-entered the room – 3:43 p.m.</p>	CARRIED
8.2	<p>Cover Crops</p> <p>D. Kaartinen read through list of applicants, document is on file at the WIWD office.</p> <p>J .Cruise left the room – 4:23 p.m.</p> <p><u>131-23: T. Cook – H. Rosing</u> BE IT RESOLVED that the LGC approved the following projects based off applications submitted, to be funded through the PWCP for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, pending projects meet all the PWCP guidelines set out in the PWCP fact sheets, as well as the WIWD guidelines set out by the LGC, and available funding.</p> <p>Earl Sigurdson Jacalyn Gleich Lee Wirgau David Gall Jack Cruise Kevin Johannson Allen Rawluk Cody Lucier</p> <p>J. Cruise re-entered the room – 4:24 p.m.</p>	CARRIED

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8.3	<p>Rotational Grazing</p> <p>132-23: T. Cook – H. Rosing BE IT RESOLVED that the LGC approved the following projects based off applications submitted, to be funded through the PWCP for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, pending projects meet all the PWCP guidelines set out in the PWCP fact sheets, as well as the WIWD guidelines set out by the LGC, and available funding.</p> <p>Lee Wirgau David Darknell Bob Millar Cameron Ducharme Darren Hueging David Gall David Gall David Gall Craig Bjornson Franklin Plohman Kevin Johannson Allen Rawluk</p>	CARRIED
	<p>Staff and LGC discussed that some projects met requirements for both the GROW and PWCP programs, however, staff work with applicants to ensure the applicant is in the program that is going to work best for them. In some cases, applicants may need to be moved between programs after approval of the application.</p> <p>133-23: I. Zotter – B. Sigfusson BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approves that previously approved applicants can be transferred between the PWCP and GROW programs, provided all requirements are met, funds are available, and applicants are in agreement.</p>	CARRIED
9.0	<p>NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>To be determined</p>	
9.0	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>134-23: B. Sigfusson BE IT RESOLVED THAT we adjourn at 5:00 p.m.</p>	CARRIED
	<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>	
	<hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p>Neil Brandstrom, LGC Chairperson</p> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p>Kelsey Benson, Manager</p>	