West Interlake Watershed District
Box 732, 9 Main Street
Lundar, Manitoba, R0C 1Y0

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 49-26

NAME	Local GROW Committee (LGC)	PAGE	Page **1** of **4**
LOCATION	WIWD Office	DATE	April 20, 2026

PRESENT:	J. Cruise	Member (Chairperson)	Producer / WIWD
	B. Fleury	Member (Vice- Chair)	Producer / WIWD
	B. Sigfusson	Member	WIWD
	C. Cuvelier	Watershed Planer	ECC
	G. Metner	Member	Producer / WIWD
	H. Rosing	Member	Producer
	J. Olson	Peonan Point Representative	Producer
	D. Kaartinen	Resource Technician	WIWD
	I. Zotter	Member (Manager)	WIWD
	Y. Li	Environmental Technician	WIWD
REGRETS:	T. Cook	Member	Producer
	T. Nevakshonoff	Member	WIWD
	K. Christensen	GROW Coordinator	WIWD

WRITTEN BY: Y. Li

ITEM		ACTION BY
1.0	**CALL TO ORDER** J. Cruise called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.	
2.0	**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** **289-26: B. Fleury – J. Olson** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Local Grow Committee (LGC) approved the agenda as presented.	**CARRIED**
3.0	**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** **290-26: B. Sigfusson – J. Olson** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the LGC approved the minutes of the LGC Meeting #48-26, March 9th, 2025, as presented.	**CARRIED**
4.0	**PROGRAMMING UPDATES**	
4.1	**GROW** The LGC members were presented with amended Windbreak Panel Program application form. Following discussion at the previous meeting, notification emails and letters were sent to producers reminding them of the program requirements and restrictions for the Windbreak Panel program. Based on staff availability, the office will arrange site inspections for the program. The Manager provided an update on the submitted GROW proposal. GROW funds in the amount of $578,000.00 were awarded. Staff will revise and adjust the workplan to reflect a reduction of $284,000.00 from the requested amount, based on activities and outputs of WIWD's choosing, with the exception of Temporary Wetland Incentive Payments, which must be maintained at $187,000.00. The office received an extension to finalize the Final 2023–2025 GROW report, as well as the Final 2024–2026 and Interim 2025–2027 reports. Based on discussions at the previous meeting, staff compiled and presented proposed meeting dates and delegation requirements for each partner RM. LGC members will decide whether to split delegation tasks among members and meet with each RM	

	separately or invite RM representatives to attend a joint meeting regarding wetland restoration and water retention. Members will also determine whether the discussion will be limited to water-retention activities only or expanded to include broader program updates. The Watershed Planner will support this process by providing a fact sheet on successful projects.	
4.2	**RALP** The Manager presented the approved RALP activities: Sustainable CAP – Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program: Watershed Resiliency - Agroforestry (approved for funding up to $25,550), Grassland and Grazing Management (approved for funding up to $100,000), and Riparian Area Enhancement (approved for funding up to $100,000).	
4.3	**PWCP** Technician reported on the current allocated funds for PWCP funding for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Awarded PWCP funds: $1,105,000.00 Cover Crops: $ 170,040.00 Rotational Grazing: $ 667,783.30 Nitrogen Management: $ 164,116.30 Total Project cost: $ 1,101,939.60 Supporting documentation of current funds is available on file at the WIWD office. **<u>291-26: B. Fleury – J. Olson</u>** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the GROW Committee approve the proposed list of eligible practices and associated limitations under the Prairie Watershed Climate Program (PWCP) – FY 2026 WIWD Limitations, as presented, for implementation within the West Interlake Watershed District.	**CARRIED**
5.0	**Approval of GROW and PWCP Applications** Technician brought forward a submitted application for cross fencing projects for the Board's consideration. 2:12 p.m. – J. Cruise declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from the meeting, leaving the room. Members discussed the project in detail. **<u>292-26: H. Rosing – B. Fleury</u>** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the LGC approve the following projects for funding through the PWCP Program for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, subject to the conditions that all projects adhere to the applicable program guidelines established by MAW, Manitoba and WIWD; successfully complete the Final Project Inspection; and are contingent on available funds. ➢ **BMP: PWCP Rotational Grazing** J. Cruise ➢ **BMP: PWCP Manure** S. Meisner 2:22 p.m. – J. Cruise re-joined the meeting. Staff provided an overview of the proposed projects up to date, and the GROW Committee members discussed the projects in detail.	**CARRIED**

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293-26: B. Sigfusson – H. Rosing — **CARRIED**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approve the following projects for funding through the PWCP, GROW, or RALP Programs, subject to the conditions that all projects adhere to the applicable program guidelines established by MAW, MHC, Manitoba Agriculture, and WIWD; successfully complete the Final Project Inspection; and are contingent on available funds with fair distribution among participants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the LGC authorize WIWD staff to exercise administrative flexibility to assign or reassign projects between the PWCP, GROW, or RALP Programs, based on the most appropriate program fit and the benefit to the producer, provided that all program guidelines and requirements continue to be met.

- **BMP: PWCP Cover Crops**
- **BMP: PWCP Sod Seeder**
- **BMP: PWCP Soil Testing**
- **BMP: PWCP Legumes**
- **BMP: PWCP Manure**
- **BMP: PWCP ESN/Urease Inhibitors**
- **BMP: PWCP Split Fertilizer Application**
- **BMP: PWCP Rotational Grazing**
- **BMP: PWCP Alternative Watering System**
- **BMP: PWCP Pasture Rejuvenation**
- **BMP: GROW Perennial Forage Establishment**
- **BMP: GROW Alternative Watering System**
  C. Wimmer
  F. Brandson
  H. Beckman
  L. Thorgilsson
- **BMP: GROW Riparian Fencing**
  H. Beckman
- **BMP: GROW Cross Fencing**
  L. Wirgau
- **BMP: GROW Sisal Twine**
- **BMP: GROW Windbreak Panel**
- **BMP: GROW Riparian Area Conservation (retroactive)**
  C. Kaartinen
  D. Thorgilsson
  K. Overby
  L. Wirgau
  SVK Building
  W. Zotter
- **BMP: RALP Riparian Fencing**
- **BMP: RALP Perennials**
- **BMP: RALP Agroforestry**

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6.0	**NEW MEMBER OF LGC** A recommendation was made to invite E. Hummel to join the LGC as an additional committee member, given his extensive knowledge of rotational grazing practices, cover crops, and other BMPs, and his prior involvement with the Saskatchewan Watershed Districts. Members discussed the proposed addition. **294-26: B. Fleury – G. Metner** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the GROW Committee recommend to the WIWD Executive Board the appointment of E. Hummel to the GROW Committee as the representative for agricultural producers; **AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** he be reimbursed in accordance with WIWD's approved rates, and his term be established according to the GROW Committee Policy.	**CARRIED**
7.0	**NEXT MEETING:** **May 11th, 2026** **1:00 p.m.** **WIWD Office**	
8.0	**ADJOURNMENT** **295-26: B. Sigfusson – J. Olson** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** we adjourn at 3:54 p.m.	**CARRIED**
	These minutes are the writer's best interpretation of discussions held during the meeting. Please inform the writer of any noteworthy omissions or errors	
	Jack Cruise, LGC Chairperson **Irina Zotter, Manager**	