

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 31-23

NAME Local GROW Committee PAGE Page 1 of 5
 LOCATION WIWD Office DATE December 11, 2023

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 Sub District Member WIWD
 M. McLelland WIWD Executive Vice-Chair WIWD
 D. Timmerman (zoom) Watershed Planner ARD
 I. Zotter Member (GROW Coordinator) WIWD
 K. Christensen Financial Administrator WIWD

REGRETS: B. Sigfusson Member WIWD

WRITTEN BY: K. Christensen

ITEM		ACTION BY
1.0	CALL TO ORDER B. Fleury called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.	
2.0	APPROVAL OF AGENDA <u>168-23 H. Rosing – J. Cruise</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Local Grow Committee (LGC) approved the agenda as presented.	CARRIED
3.0	APPROVAL OF MINUTES <u>169-23: J. Cruise – I. Zotter</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved the minutes of the LGC Meeting # 30-23 November 20 th , 2023 as presented.	CARRIED
4.0	GROW and PWCP Funds and Programs terms Update 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: \$581,188.39 Remaining available funds: \$565,573.61 Estimated projected funds for approved applications: \$316,329.00 WIWD will have approximately \$249,244.61 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.	

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 31-23

NAME Local GROW Committee PAGE Page 2 of 5
 LOCATION WIWD Office DATE December 11, 2023

ITEM		ACTION BY
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>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 was unable to disperse previously requested funds for annual incentive payments on class 1 and 2 wetlands, and riparian area. I. Zotter explained that after speaking with our Grants Associate from Manitoba Habitat Conservancy, it was recommended for the WIWD to let go of current funds towards annual incentive payments, and apply for those acres in the new proposal (this was done in the 2024-2026 proposal).</p> <p>Members discussed the necessity to revisit and potentially increase the rates for annual incentive payments. It was acknowledged that the current low rate might contribute to the lower than desired intake in the program. This aspect will be thoroughly examined in future discussions. Member J. Cruise emphasized that the conservation benefits should be universally valued, regardless of the land class, suggesting the establishment of a standard rate to reflect this principle. Further deliberation on this matter will be scheduled for a future date.</p>	
6.0	<p>PWCP: Nitrogen Management - Adding Legumes to crop rotation</p> <p>There are no new developments pertaining to this subject.</p>	

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 31-23

NAME Local GROW Committee
 LOCATION WIWD Office

PAGE Page 3 of 5
 DATE December 11, 2023

ITEM		ACTION BY
7.0	<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, forage rejuvenation for livestock producers)” are ineligible.</p> <p>During the November 20th meeting, staff were assigned to inquire with MHC about the definition of "forage rejuvenation." Despite raising the question with MHC representatives at the MAW Conference in Brandon, a clear answer was not provided. It was emphasized that each region is unique. It was suggested that if the Local Grow Committee (LGC) believes "forage rejuvenation" should be an eligible BMP for our region, they should express this viewpoint in a formal letter addressed to the MHC. This letter would outline the distinct characteristics of our region and explain why certain practices in the Interlake area may not align with what the 2023 GROW Guide identifies as 'common'.</p> <p>During the discussion, members explored whether the practices mentioned above were common among the majority of producers within the district.</p> <p>Additionally, I. Zotter asked committee members to share their thoughts and comments on the issue with the office. This input will assist staff in drafting a letter to Manitoba Habitat Conservancy, presenting WIWD's perspectives and arguments on why the practices in question cannot be considered common in the Interlake region.</p>	
8.0	<p>Shelterbelt Establishment and Enhancement</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>LGC and staff are to write a letter to Manitoba Habitat Conservancy (MHC) supporting the WIWD’s want to conserve existing bush area.</p>	
9.0	<p>MFGA 2023 Regenerative Agriculture Conference and Membership</p> <p>I. Zotter proposed at the previous LGC meeting on November 20th, 2023 that the LGC do a sponsorship for the 2024-2025 year for the MFGA, at which time the discussion was tabled till the next meeting.</p> <p><u>170-23: J. Cruise – H. Rosing</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved to do a \$500.00 sponsorship to the Manitoba Forage and Grasslands Association for the 2024 year.</p>	CARRIED
10.0	<p>Manitoba Beef & Forage Production Conference</p> <p>The Manitoba Beef & Forage Production Conference is being held December 12th & 13th at the Victoria Inn in Brandon.</p> <p>I. Zotter, B. Fleury, J. Cruise, H. Rosing, E. Zotter and L. Wirgau will be attending.</p>	

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 31-23

NAME Local GROW Committee
 LOCATION WIWD Office

PAGE Page 4 of 5
 DATE December 11, 2023

ITEM		ACTION BY
11.0	<p>Approval of GROW and PWCP Applications</p> <p>An application for an Alternative Watering System was submitted to the WIWD. The proposed project is projected to use the new 'CAPSULE Year-Round Watering System' from CAP solar. The LGC discussed potential issues that may arise with the system, such as compaction and freezing issues with the drinker being directly above the well, it may drive the frost down and freeze the well. Staff is directed to collect additional information regarding this model of the Watering System and ensure that producers are informed about proper site preparation to mitigate potential frost risks</p> <p>171-23: J. Cruise – T. Cook 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> <p>➤ BMP: Alternative Watering Systems and Riparian Fencing: Stewart Thorgilsson</p>	CARRIED
	NEW BUSINESS	
12.0	<p>RALP Applications</p> <p>Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program intake for applications closes on December 14th, 2023. Staff have been working on the following 3 proposals:</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>Working copies of the proposals were provided in the meeting package. LGC members were to review and provide feedback. Staff will be submitting applications on December 14th, 2023.</p>	
13.0	<p>GROW Committee Members</p> <p>I. Zotter asked the LGC how many members should the LGC have. I. Zotter stated she felt the LGC should be comprised of 10-15 members. J. Cruise felt 8-10 members at most would be sufficient. There was discussion amongst members, it was decided that the LGC would look at adding 1-2 new members, and re-visit the topic at a later date if needed.</p>	
14.0	<p>NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>January 8th, 2024 1:00 p.m. WIWD Office</p>	

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 31-23

NAME Local GROW Committee
 LOCATION WIWD Office

PAGE Page 5 of 5
 DATE December 11, 2023

ITEM		ACTION BY
14.0	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>172-23: I. Zotter BE IT RESOLVED THAT we adjourn at 11:42 a.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> <hr/> <p>Kaitlyn Christensen, Financial Administrator</p>	