

**MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 28-23**

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

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

REGRETS:      D. Timmerman                                Watershed Planner                        ARD

WRITTEN BY: I. Zotter

ITEM		ACTION BY
1.0	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b> B. Fleury called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.	
2.0	<b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b> <b><u>149-23 B. Sigfusson – H. Rosing</u></b> <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> <b><u>150-23: J. Cruise – H. Rosing</u></b> <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the LGC approved the minutes of the LGC Meeting # 27-23 August 15, 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. Most 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: \$448,480.53  Remaining available funds: \$698,281.47  Estimated projected funds for approved applications: \$582,000.50  WIWD will have approximately \$116,280 left if all submitted projects are completed before March 31, 2024.  Technician D. Kaartinen updated committee members on available funds under the PWCP programs.  The WIWD received additional funds under the PWCP.  Up-to-date projected costs of Projects on hand are:  Rotational Grazing: \$528,371.00  Cover Crops: \$108,815.00	

**MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 28-23**

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

ITEM		ACTION BY
	<p>Nitrogen Management: \$222,873</p> <p>Total Projected cost: \$860,059</p> <p>The amount of funding available fluctuates every day depending on projects that are withdrawn or new proposals that are submitted.</p> <p>Documentation of current funds is on file at the WIWD office.</p> <p>Members of the committee commented on how the number of producers is spread around the district and how money are distributed evenly among the producers.</p>	
5.0	<p><b>Cover Crop Program – payment schedule</b></p> <p>The Cover Crop Program payment schedule was addressed by the Local Grow Committee (LGC).</p> <p>Up until now, the payments were made following the completion of the final inspection, which typically occurred in the late fall. The goal was to prevent fall tilling on the land enrolled in the Cover Crop Program, as this is a beneficial practice for soil health and can affect how much money is reimbursed for establishing crops that promote soil health.</p> <p>Many producers are borrowing money to purchase soil health crops and are paying interest while waiting for their projects to be evaluated, processed, and paid out.</p> <p>Furthermore, because of the large number of locations, it is impractical for WIWD employees to verify each one in the late fall. A guarantee that the field won't be tilled following the inspection is also unavailing.</p> <p>The vast majority of producers are truthful and honest. Trust is essential between WIWD and the producers; without it, it will be difficult to deliver any program.</p> <p>Priority of examination will be given to newly enlisted land or land where a large payment is to be made.</p> <p>LGC decided that the payment under the Cover Crop Program can be issued as early as the beginning of July, providing that all information is gathered and validated and the project follows all GROW criteria.</p>	
6.0	<p><b>PWCP: Nitrogen Management - Adding Legumes to crop rotation</b></p> <p>Historically, producers who are seeding perennial forages have made a vast in-kind contribution as a match for project establishment.</p> <p>Additionally, the WIWD can potentially increase financial assistance to those who seeded legumes this year by offering funding for seeding legumes (through PWCP funds).</p> <p>Funds received from the PWCP have been allocated in full. Staff to send request for more funds.</p> <p>This subject will be further discussed in the upcoming LGC meeting.</p>	

**MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 28-23**

NAME	Local GROW Committee	PAGE	Page 3 of 5
LOCATION	WIWD Office	DATE	September 11, 2023

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7.0	<p><b>Contract Termination</b></p> <p>A letter was sent to all listed applicants and inquired about the barriers to establishing a soil health crop in the previous two years. Responses were presented to the members.</p> <p>A termination notice for the GROW Agreement was sent to all previously approved producers. The template was presented to LGC members.</p> <p>K. Sherbeth (enrolled into PWCP in 2023), C. Ives, D. Darknell, K. Gudmundson, L. Thorgilsson, T. Cook. C. Kopec, D. Thorkelson received Termination Notice. Contract was terminated for 1146.8 acres of soil health crops in total.</p> <p>A list of Producer’s names and locations is on file at the office.</p> <p>Future communications with the applicant regarding the terms of the Agreement must be more concise</p> <p>The following details must be included in an additional statement that appears in bold type on the application above the signature.</p> <p>"If, for any reason, you are unable to adhere to the terms of the Agreement, you must contact the Office. Failure to do so will result in a loss of future eligibility to participate for WIWD programming."</p>	
8.0	<p><b>Approval of GROW and PWCP Applications</b></p> <p>The list of Projects was reorganized and presented to the LGC.</p>	
8.1	<p>Committee reviewed presented Projects.</p> <p><b><u>151-23: B. Sigfusson – H. Rosing</u></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> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">➤ <b>BMP: Nitrogen Management:</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><b>-Activity: Soil Testing</b>        John Schultz        Calvin Reykdale        Tyson Cook        Rick Miller</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><b>-Activity: ESN/Urease Inhibitors</b>        Calvin Reykdale        Andy Rawluk</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><b>-Activity: Manure Spreading</b>        John Schultz        Allen Rawluk        Andy Rawluk        Triple Oak Farms</p>	<b>CARRIED</b>

**MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 28-23**

NAME Local GROW Committee PAGE Page 4 of 5  
 LOCATION WIWD Office DATE September 11, 2023

ITEM		ACTION BY
	<p>Gregory Johnson            Franklin Plohman            Melanie Bernier            Paul Ryden</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>-Activity: Adding Legumes to the crop Rotation</b></p> <p>Paul Ryden            Tyson Cook</p> <p>➤ <b>BMP: Cover Cropping:</b></p> <p>Calvin Reykdale            Andy Rawluk            Ken Sherbeth            Triple Oak Farms            C. Kopec</p> <p>➤ <b>BMP: Rotational Grazing:</b></p> <p>Calvin Reykdale            Andy Rawluk            Curtis Hueging            Gage Rawluk            Garnet Sigurdson            Frankie Kehler            Amy Nikkel            Triple Oak Farms</p> <p>➤ <b>BMP: Perennial Forage Establishment</b></p> <p>Calvin Reykdale</p> <p>➤ <b>BMP: Cover Crops</b></p> <p>Andy Rawluk</p> <p>➤ <b>BMP: Alternative Watering systems and Riparian Fencing</b></p> <p>Cameron Ducharme            Tyson Cook</p> <p>One of the previously approved Alternative Watering System projects contains an existing well that is less than ¼ mile from another well utilized for human consumption. Staff to review MB Livestock regulations for livestock winter site establishment, and to report back at the next meeting.</p>	
12.0	<p><b>GROW 2024-2026</b></p> <p>MHHC Spring 2024 call for Conservation and Grow Trust Letters of Interest was open on Wednesday, September 6, 2023.</p> <p>The Conservation Trust and GROW Trust Letters of Interest process will close on October 4, 2023.</p> <p>GROW Coordinator to prepare a letter of interest and to submit it to MHHC. A copy will be distributed among members for their review prior to the submission.</p>	

