

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 27-23

NAME Local GROW Committee
 LOCATION WIWD Office

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 DATE August 15, 2023

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| | <p>Nitrogen Management: \$189,489</p> <p>Total Projected cost: \$674,154</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The amount of funding available fluctuates every day depending on projects that are withdrawn or new proposals that are submitted.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 discussed ideas for other potential projects that can be funded through the PWCP or GROW program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A member brought forward the idea that, in some cases, there might be a unique situation where perimeter fencing can be an eligible expense. The committee decided that the projects could be reviewed on a one-by-one basis where unusual circumstances occurred. - A member brought forward that some districts are allowing seeding soy beans as an eligible practice. This activity can be eligible under the Nitrogen Management category as a "seeding legumes". Depending on the availability of funds, WIWD may take into account incorporating soyabean seeding as an acceptable activity. - Members discussed that some practices (ex., seeding soyabean as part of a rotation every 4-5 years) can be disclosed by the applicants in the application along with other practices implemented over a period of time. <p>Rotational grazing plans were reviewed and signed by B. Nedohin, P.Ag on August 14, 2023</p> | |
| <p>5.0</p> | <p>GROW Meetings Schedule</p> <p>The local Grow Committee (LGC) should set out a specific day of the month for LGC meetings, according to a member's request.</p> <p>The LGC must regularly convene, approve new applications, resolve any concerns due to an increase in funding, applications, and projects.</p> <p>Members discussed the schedule and concluded that the second Monday of each month will work for everyone.</p> <p>LGC is recommending to the WIWD Executive Board that the "meeting schedule" be included in the Standing Committee's Policy.</p> | |
| <p>6.0</p> | <p>Sisal Twine Proposal</p> <p>Members received a draft of the Sisal Twine Proposal. The proposal was presented at the GROW Coordinators meeting and received support from the attendants. In addition, the proposal was uploaded and shared with all other watershed districts.</p> <p>The sisal twine proposal is supported by D. Timmerman, Watershed Planner.</p> <p>Committee members reviewed the proposal and approved its submission to the MHCC.</p> | |
| <p>7.0</p> | <p>PWCP: Nitrogen Management – Adding Legumes to crop rotation</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> | |

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| | <p>Staff to identify producers who may be eligible and to calculate the projected cost of seeding legumes. This subject will be further discussed in the upcoming LGC meeting.</p> | |
| 8.0 | <p>Contract Termination</p> <p>Members were presented with a list of applicants and locations who were enrolled in the Cover Crop Program, but were unable to seed for two consecutive years.</p> <p>Members discussed the next course of action.</p> <p>The primary objective of Cover Crop program is to enhance soil health over a period of three years. Given that the requirements could not be fulfilled for two consecutive years, the fundamental purpose of the program has been compromised.</p> <p>Crop growth is subject to weather conditions and, unfortunately, can be significantly affected by events like droughts or floods.</p> <p>In the future, staff will be reviewing with applicants proposed locations for soil health crop establishment and analyzing if the proposed area is historically prone to flooding.</p> <p>Staff to prepare a letter to all listed applicants and to inquire what the barriers were in order to establish a soil health crop and if the producer was able to seed anything else.</p> <p><u>144-23: J. Cruise – B. Sigfusson</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following applicants received approval from the LGC to terminate their three-year contracts: C. Ives D. Darknell K. Gudmundson L. Thorgilsson T. Cook D. Thorkelson</p> <p>A list of locations is on file at the office.</p> | CARRIED |
| 9.0 | <p>GROW: Perennial Forage Establishment – rates</p> <p>While processing claims for the perennial forage establishment, one claim drew attention and raised some questions, as the cost for the forage establishment was significantly higher than average. Even though the applicant did not exceed the minimal rates for the perennial forages individually permitted by the LGC, a total of more than 50lb per acre was seeded. Members discussed the situation. One of the members suggested using an alternative way of calculation based on the maximum allowable rates if seeded alone. After the calculation is complete, the members will decide how to proceed with the project in question based on the results.</p> <p>The committee discussed what lessons were learned and how similar situations can be prevented in the future. Members made the decision to set a maximum reimbursement rate.</p> <p><u>145-23: N. Brandstrom – H. Rosing</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved to establish a maximum reimbursement rate for the Perennial Forage Establishment at 75% of the seed cost, maximum up to \$100/acre</p> | CARRIED |
| 10.0 | <p>PWCP: compost tea-rates</p> <p>Previously, the LGC discussed and supported the use of compost tea as a natural fertilizer. Committee members discussed the acceptable rates.</p> <p><u>146-23: J. Cruise – B. Sigfusson</u></p> | CARRIED |

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| | <p>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LGC approved to establish a maximum reimbursement rate for the Compost Tea at 85% of the tea cost, maximum up to \$10/acre</p> | |
| 11.0 | <p>Approval of GROW Applications</p> <p>LGC temporarily suspended the intake of new applications as of June 5, 2023 and created a “waiting list”.</p> <p>New funds received in the amount of \$300,000.00 under the PWCP. The Committee is resuming the intake of applications for the PWCP and GROW Program with an additional stream of funds.</p> <p>The list of Projects was reorganized and presented to the LGC.</p> | |
| 7.1 | <p>Committee reviewed presented Projects.</p> <p>147-23: B. Sigfusson – N. Brandstrom</p> <p>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 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>➤ BMP: Nitrogen Management:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">-Activity: Soil Testing</p> <p>Ken Overby Chris Wimmer Ryan Hueging Darrell Hueging Ross Jeremy Farrell Pott</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">-Activity: ESN/Urease Inhibitors</p> <p>Jack Cruise Chris Wimmer Ryan Hueging Darrell Hueging</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">-Activity: Manure Spreading</p> <p>Kevin Johannson Gordon Strick Mark Emilson Ross Jeremy Kevin Gudmundson</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">-Activity: Adding Legumes to the crop Rotation</p> <p>Darrell Hueging</p> <p>➤ BMP: Cover Cropping:</p> <p>Robert Kinhead Tyson Tober</p> | CARRIED |

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| | <p>Gordon Strick Mathew Christensen Brad Procter Farrell Pott Ken Overby John Ogilvie</p> <p>➤ BMP: Rotational Grazing:</p> <p>Ed Hummel Avery Coltart Darcy Hueging Michael Hueging Chris Wimmer Perry Gaudry Mathew Christensen</p> <p>➤ BMP: Perennial Forage Establishment</p> <p>Gordon Strick Don Law</p> <p>➤ BMP: Cover Crops</p> <p>Stephen Reykdale</p> <p>➤ BMP: Alternative Watering systems and Riparian Fencing</p> <p>Perry Gaudry Sam Hofer Ken Sherbeth</p> | |
| 12.0 | <p>GROW 2024-2026</p> <p>Committee members were presented with a copy of an email from MHHC informing them that the MHHC Spring 2024 call for Conservation and Grow Trust Letters of Interest will 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>Staff will prepare a letter of interest and submit it to MHHC.</p> | |
| 8.0 | <p>NEXT MEETING:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To be determined</p> | |
| 9.0 | <p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p><u>148-23: B. Sigfusson – T. Cook</u> BE IT RESOLVED THAT we adjourn at 12:17 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> | |

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| | <hr/> <p>Bill Fleury, LGC Chairperson</p> <hr/> <p>Kaitlyn Christensen, Financial Administrator</p> | |
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