



GROUNDSWELL

STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

Groundswell Advisory Council - Quarterly Meeting

Date: September 9, 2024

Time: 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Location: DeVos 502C (Amway Board Room)

Topic: Groundswell Advisory Council Meeting

Attendees (in person):

Groundswell Advisory Council

Michelle Storey, EGLE (GAC Chair)

Courney Marek, Ada Parks (GAC Vice Chair)

Christina Catanese, GVSU Annis Water Resources Institute (GAC Secretary)

Wendi Vogel, Kent ISD (Professional Learning Chair)

Micah Herrboldt, Kent County Department of Public Works (Projects Committee Chair)

Kieth Piccard, Allendale Public Schools & GVSU (Teacher Committee Chair)

Groundswell

Vicky Wright, GVSU Center for Educational Partnerships (CEP)

Clay Pelon, GVSU CEP

Allison Palm, GVSU CEP

Mara Spears, GVSU CEP

Welcome

- Approval of [June Meeting Minutes](#) (Michelle)
 - Approved without questions or amendment
 - Thank you for reviewing minutes and noting any corrections to GAC Secretary Christina Catanese (catanesc@gvsu.edu)

Grant/Gift updates

Groundswell staff provided updates on grants received as well as grants pending

Grants Received

- Baldwin Foundation (Vicky)
 - Received, \$6k per year for 2 years. All funds go toward supporting student projects.
- Great Lakes Fisheries Trust (Clay)
 - Missing a check from May (on the foundation end). Otherwise, nothing to report.
- Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (Vicky)
 - The GS team is working with the GVSU Development office on proposing a change in scope. Funds can't be used outside of the Foundation's geographic area (Grand Haven PS, Spring Lake PS, 2 other schools that are possible to work with). Decided as a Groundswell team that they won't be able to do what was written in the original proposal (monthly PDs for just these schools), but do not want to have to return funds.



GROUNDSWELL

STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE


- NOAA (Vicky)
 - Almost done! Goes until the end of September, time to do reporting after that. Will be some time before trying again on this one.
- Wege (Clay)
 - We have more funds from Wege that need to be used this year for professional learning opportunities and projects.
 - Working with 2 schools to develop PBSE teacher teams within their school: Union Middle School and East Kentwood Freshman Campus. Kevin Holohan, faculty at GVSU, is working with the teachers to help develop their project scope. Allison is the liaison for EKFC and Mara is the liaison for Union.

Grant Proposals Submitted

(Mara noted that we should be clear in any conversations with teachers that projects are not for sure until grants are officially awarded to Groundswell - do not want to get teachers' hopes up that they will be receiving funding or support until we know the grant has been received and the project is moving forward)

- EGLE Environmental Justice grant has been submitted
- EPA Community Change Grant
 - Track 1 with ODC (moved to next phase)
 - Track 2 with GLSI (moved to next phase)
- MiSTEM - due 9/23, \$10K for Summer Institute, some questions about partners needed to submit

Updates/Announcements

- Outcomes of First GAC Retreat
 - [Expectations Document](#)
 - Discussed Vicky's transcription of expectations developed at GAC summer retreat - anything the GAC wished to add/change/clarify
 - Question: is GS staff responsible for communicating any grant requirements related to committee activities?
 - Question: When can people join committees - Midyear or beginning of school year?
 - No issue was seen with joining midyear. Onboarding for new PL committee members has looked like: meet in advance with Mara/PL Chair, attend first meeting primarily as listener, full participant following month
 - GAC Committee Directory was recently updated:  [GAC Directory 24-26](#)
 - [Committee Meeting Dates](#) - for all committees
 - These dates were discussed and confirmed by the GAC
- [Partner Survey](#)
 - Sent out to partner network recently
 - Goal: better coordination with partners (not stepping on toes with scheduling events on conflicting dates), accurate blurb about services to share with teachers and pricing document. This will make it smoother working with collaborators, and provide more info to teachers upfront.
 - Need more partners to fill out the survey!
- [Summer Institute Preliminary Evaluation](#)
 - Vicky reviewed the evaluations compiled after the Summer Institute. Largely, they were fairly



GROUNDSWELL

STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

positive. 14 people responded when it was given out at the Institute (out of 24 attendees on the third day, more attended throughout the week).

Committee Updates

- Projects Committee (Micah)
 - Met once to review one proposal (GH area teacher on dunes, school parking lot goes directly up to a dune)
 - [New Brainstorm Doc & Project Process](#)
 - Developed by Mara and Allison with feedback from Micah, used it on the first proposal to see how it worked. Will note any gaps as teachers continue to fill it out and submit. Learning about how it works in practice.
 - 35 project cap for the year
 - Instituted this due to staff capacity of being able to support the projects
 - Average has been 30, most Mara has seen is 32. Have only been growing since COVID. For last school year, if everyone who had started an application followed through, would have been ~40. Too many projects means they may not get the needed support.
 - Using the 6 Elements of PBE as a lens in the projects, new process seeks to enable teachers to go through the process but understand it isn't linear
- Professional Learning Committee (Wendi)
 - First meeting coming up on 9/17. One person stepped down (Janet Vail - taking a break to focus on teaching)
 - Fall Kickoff, September 19th
 - Speed dating style event, where each educator gets to speak with each partner in attendance
 - Dinner & Dialogue, December 12th
 - Have not started planning specifically for this, networking will still exist but in a different format. Will take place at Seidman Center.
 - October PL will likely be at Calvin, focused on native plants
- Teacher Committee (Keith)
 - First meeting upcoming at Trailpoint 10/14
 - Students contributing to datasets that can be used in the real world is empowering. Keith noted that he would like to discuss how to turn projects into longitudinal studies, enabling teachers to build on projects in the future instead of reinventing the wheel each time.
 - It was noted that GS/GAC can bring ideas/questions to this committee if interested in a teacher "focus group."
- Advancement (Clay)
 - This committee is more than just development and fundraising - growing Groundswell into the future in multiple ways. If interested in joining, let Clay know. First meeting upcoming after needing to postpone, have not scheduled all meetings for the year yet.

Discussion & Share-out

The GAC is an integral part of Groundswell and provides guidance and support needed for the initiative to be successful.



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STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

Next Meeting - December 9, 2024, 3:30 -5 PM, location TBD