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TO: City Council
FROM: Pat McGinnis, City Manager
DATE: November 14, 2008
SUBJECT: Green Update

As we were putting this report together for the City Council, Kristin Keery sent me the following quote from Thomas Jefferson:

*"I say the earth belongs to each generation during its course, fully and in its own right, (But) no generation can contract debts greater than can be paid during the course of its own existence".
(Thomas Jefferson, 1798)*

Of seven new goals established by City Council for 2008/2009, two are directly linked to a **greener** Grand Haven:

Establish renewable energy partnership with the Board of Light and Power, and
Promote sustainable Grand Haven

Of the other five goals, several are peripherally related to environmental interest:

Attract research and development industry
Intergovernmental cooperation; greater regional efforts
Initiate healthy walking tours

This report covers the extent of ecological initiative underway in the City. The following is a list of efforts that we are engaged in as good stewards of the natural environment. The list is followed by additional detail on every item. This report will be posted on the web to assure citizens that we are committed to a sustainable earth.

1. Tree City, USA
2. Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership (MBP³)
3. Grand Haven Green Retail Store
4. Project Light Change
5. North Ottawa County Sustainability Coalition
6. Master Plan
7. Sensitive Overlay & Natural Features Inventory
8. Environment and Natural Resources Committee

9. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI)
10. Source Water Intake Protection Plan (SWIPP)
11. Clean Water Legacy Plan
12. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
13. Solar/Wind Powered Street Light
14. Lake Shore Earth Day Task Force
15. Great Lakes/St Lawrence Cities Initiative
16. Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI)

1. Tree City, USA

The City of Grand Haven has been designated a Tree City USA for 13 years. There are 3,216 cities nationwide and 115 statewide with this designation.

Two of the requirements to be designated as a Tree City USA city are an Arbor Day Observance (event) and a City Council Proclamation. The Proclamation was signed by the Grand Haven City Council on April 21st and Arbor Day 2008 was celebrated on April 28th with a tree planting involving pre-school children from the Tri-Cities Family YMCA.

This year we also submitted application and were approved for a Tree City USA Growth Award. A city must have been designated a Tree City USA for 2 previous years in order to qualify for application. There are 523 cities nationwide and 10 statewide who have earned this award.

While the Tree City USA Award is to recognize cities that have a tree management plan and program, the Growth Award is for recognition of environmental improvements made within the City that are above and beyond the basic tree management program. We submitted the Magnolia tree planting as the major project for this award. Also submitted was the tree purchasing program for residents.

We are only in the planning stages for Arbor Day 2009. One idea from Julie Beaton is to plant some larger trees at Lake Forest Cemetery to replace the trees that were lost in the windstorm. Another idea would be to partner with an elementary class and have them research, with Denny Swartout's assistance, the role of the white pine in early Grand Haven and then plant one at a location significant to early logging days.

2. Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership (MBP³)

The Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership is a voluntary program open to all Michigan businesses interested in initiating or expanding pollution prevention practices. Developed jointly by the business community and state government, the MBP3 program is managed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Environmental Science and Services Division, who are responsible for providing pollution prevention assistance, recognizing participants, and reporting on the program's progress.

The City of Grand Haven became a member of MBP³ around in 2002. The initial goals of the City included the elimination of all styrofoam cup usage and was instrumental in getting recycling receptacles at each desk in City Hall. Over the years more initiatives have been started and stalled, however we are at a point where there is interest in picking up the pace to really make a difference.

Out of the more than 300 partners, Grand Haven is the only city as a whole who participates in the program. Because of our involvement, we receive valuable information on sustainability, including public recognition, free program assistance, and an information exchange with technology updates via email. The program is also used as a motivational tool for employees and management to encourage sustainability. Our BLP just enrolled in the program this fall.

Staff had been discussing the revision of our city goals to include an increased promotion of energy saving and recycling efforts among city employees and continue sustainability education efforts for the public. There has been interest shown in forming an employee committee for the effort.

3. Grand Haven Green Retail Store

The Grand Haven Green Store was conceived in an afternoon of brainstorming how to keep Chinook Pier a full and lively for the summer and accomplish some of the City Council's stated Goals. The idea of the "Green Store" was fostered with a goal of showcasing local companies manufacturing or implementing green initiatives as well as teaching everyone that walked into the store one simple task to make a difference.

In preparing for the store opening, eco-friendly paint was used for the walls, and Light Corp provided energy saving lighting that included light harvesters (harvesters sense the amount of light coming into a room and adjusts a fixtures light output to further save energy). Eco-friendly tips and green advice was posted all over the store. All of the displays were from recycled materials, and well over 30 community businesses contributed to the store's educational, promotional, and retail products. Some of the more popular items and topics were Light Corps lights, Hortech's living roof system, Biosolutions cleaning products, Rycenga's low flow shower heads and the Bookman's contribution of green living books. The marine friendly sunscreen was also a hit; however that was one of the few non-local products that the store featured. The store was looked at as a learning tool, more than a retail outlet.

After only one month of preparation, the store opened the first weekend in June. It was a goal that the store have consistent hours during high traffic periods. The store was open 10 hours a day, 7 days a week. In just 8 weeks, over 3,000 customers visited and sales topped \$3,000 (total budget was \$10,000 for products and staffing). The media was very friendly to the effort, as 5 separate articles were featured on the store, 2 of which were front page. Local and visiting individuals were very complimentary of the effort.

4. Project Light Change

Lindsey Frye, a Grand Haven High School graduate with a degree in environmental economics from MSU, appeared before the City of Grand Haven City Council and the Board of Light and Power in

December of 2007 to present her “Project Light Change” concept. Her plan was to distribute one FREE Compact Florescent Light (CFL) bulb to the 5,000 households in Grand Haven in order to help make a difference in our environment. According to Lindsey, by switching just one old incandescent bulb for a 13 Watt CFL, the user could save \$47 over the life of the bulb. Additionally, if all of the 5,000 bulbs are used, the community could save \$235,000 on electric bills and prevent 3.4 million pounds of carbon dioxide from going into the environment.

Another goal of the project is to educate people that, yes, CFL's contain only a very small amount of mercury and are safe. On average each bulb has only 3-5 mg of mercury (about 1/5th of that found in the average watch battery and 1/100th of the mercury found in a dental filling). Since the bulbs do have mercury, they do need to be disposed of properly and education on that disposal is important. In Grand Haven, there are disposal sites at Wal-Mart, Home Depot, and the Ottawa County Resource Recovery Center.

Lindsey obtained a \$100,000 grant from the West Michigan Environmental Council to pilot the project, and is hoping to receive additional funds to spread the project further. The bulbs may eventually be distributed. Lindsey has organized a group of Grand Haven High School students to help deliver the CFL bulbs to the Grand Haven residences.

5. NW Ottawa Sustainability Coalition

In early 2008 the NW Ottawa Sustainability Coalition began meeting under the guidance and leadership of John Nash, Spring Lake Township Supervisor. To date, all of the meetings have been hosted by the City of Grand Haven at the Community Center. The Coalition has been meeting monthly and is made up of passionate members who represent a very diverse range of organizations (see attached membership list). The meeting agenda's vary from focused discussions of related topics including:

- The “three legs” of sustainability; business, the environment and the people
- Master planning and sustainability/sustainable codes
- Watershed and resource protection
- An overview by each Coalition member of what their individual organization is doing

Some meetings have provided for opportunities for others to come and present. To date, Allied Waste, Herman Miller, the City of Grand Rapids (Mayor), Corky Overmyer, Sustainability Director for the City Grand Rapids and a representative from the Muskegon Area Sustainability Coalition have given interesting and inspiring presentations. In additional, a tour was conducted at the GVSU Renewable Energy Center and future tour dates are scheduled for Allied Waster and Herman Miller.

From the beginning, the Coalition decided that it was critical that a vision, mission statement and defining sustainability was important to the success of the group. To date, the following has been drafted:

Vision – To make Northwestern Ottawa County a best place to live, learn, work and play.

Mission – Through communication of all types, education and networking expand the concepts of sustainability.

Definition – Sustainability is the concept of recognizing that for a society to succeed it needs to deal the issues of people, economic services and the environment which all must work in conjunction for people to have a good place to live, learn, work and play.

In addition, each member of the Coalition was asked to go back to their governing bodies and request adoption of a resolution. The City of Grand Haven did this in July of 2008.

6. Master Plan and Sustainability

When the Master Plan RFP was drafted, ‘Green Infrastructure/Sustainable Development’ was a topic that was specifically identified as an important element of the master plan rewrite. Developing new sustainable development policies and incorporating them into the implementation strategy is a requirement of the project. In addition, to ensure that this element is incorporated throughout the master plan, Roman Wilson of Lakeshore Environmental was asked to sit on the rewrite committee.

7. Sensitive Area Overlay District Update

The ENRC has recently met to review the current draft of the maps and proposed ordinance language. Meeting dates were September 4th and September 24th. Staff was given a slew of edits to be made and questions to pose to the consultants. A revised draft was reviewed by the ENRC at an October special meeting. This will be reviewed by the Planning Commission in December.

8. Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENROC)

ENROC has been through a variety of formats and remains a valuable consulting/advisory arm of the City organization. Initially chartered in 2002 as an ad hoc Committee by the Mayor and Council, this group of knowledgeable citizens identify, research, discuss, debate and recommend important environmental policy for the City. Current membership:

Bob Monetza, Chair
Kurt Koella, Vice Chair
Dan Small
Leon Bakke
Bruce Callen
Dennis Scott
Bill Hunter

Here is some of the recent and coming activity underway at our environmental “think tank”:

- Reviewed and provided recommendations to staff on the City’s current Illicit Discharge Ordinance.
- The Committee supported the Clean Water Legacy Plan.

- The Committee made a recommendation to City Council that an ordinance restricting the use of phosphorous was not necessarily, instead educating the public on the importance of soil sampling.
- The Committee developed a recommended tree list for the City of Grand Haven
- The Committee is currently reviewing and making recommendations to staff on a Storm Water Ordinance. 80% complete with this task.
- The Committee will complete their review of the Sensitive Area Ordinance and the Natural Features inventory by the end of this month.
- Source Water Intake Protection Plan (SWIPP) Joe Vanderstel would like the group to work on this next.
- Management has asked the group to consider the extent of groundwater contamination and to propose the most reasonable course of action to protect public health.

9. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI)

The City of Grand Haven's NPDES Phase II storm water permit requires a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI). This SWPPI has been designed and implemented to reduce, to the maximum extent practicable, the discharge of storm water pollutants to the surface waters in our community. What is happening under the auspices of the SWPPI?

1. Two discharge points need following up on:
 - a. The first location is at the end of Washington & Harbor. This discharges point has been televised and no illicit discharges could be detected. A bacteriological sample was taken and the results of the samples indicated that the discharge meet the thresholds used for public bathing (City Beach). Further sampling will be needed and funding has been applied for (City share is \$500), according to FTC&H, the Lower Grand River Water Shed Management Groups engineer.
 - b. The second location, Oakes & Hopkins. This discharge point is the Warber drain. It is a large system to trace. Our game plan is to clean every basin connected to this discharge point and resample. If this doesn't solve it, we will have to trace back and maybe even smoke the system. Smoking the system will prove to be difficult, due to the size of the pipe and the extent of the system.
2. Training for our employees, the watershed as a group is developing training plan for all of our employees.
3. Storm Water Ordinance is currently under review by the ENRC. When this is complete, I will forward this to the City Attorney for his review and then prepare the final draft to the City Council for their adoption.
4. Sensitive Area and Natural Features Inventory completed by the end of October.
5. The Poplar Trail sewer installation will eliminate 10 more septic tanks.

6. Ongoing cleaning of catch basins, storm structures, storm channels and outfalls.
7. 75% of our storm system is now mapped onto our GIS system.

10. Source Water Intake Protection Plan (SWIPP)

The SWAP (Source Water Assessment Program/Report) was completed in April 2004 and this document outlines the SWIPP (Source Water Intake Protection Plan). At this point there has been no movement on providing this un-mandated plan. Lakeshore Environmental has been supportive and helping NOWS look for some possible grant money to fund this plan. They also provided a quote for \$7K to put this plan together.

SWIPP is basically a surface water well head protection program (WHP). A SWIPP should have the same basic seven elements that a WHP program has. These are:

1. Defining roles and duties of government units and water supply agencies.
2. Designating a source water protection area for each water supply source based on the state's defined source water area.
3. Identifying potential contaminant sources within each source water protection area.
4. Utilizing management approaches for protection of source water, including but not limited to education and regulatory approaches.
5. Creating contingency plans for public water supply sources including the location of alternate drinking water sources.
6. Assuring proper sizing on new water sources to minimize potential contamination.
7. Encouraging public participation.

Communities may add other items as appropriate, and are encouraged to submit a work plan for review before proceeding with development of their SWIPP.

11. Clean Water Legacy Plan

The Lower Grand River Watershed begins in Ionia County and flows westward, ultimately draining into Lake Michigan here in Grand Haven. In 2007, the City approached the North Ottawa Water System and Grand Haven Area Sewer Authority to seek local support for a grant funded project to create a permanent plan to restore our pure water resources. Both utility

boards embraced the concept, a grant was secured from DEQ, Lakeshore Environmental was hired, and the Clean Water Legacy Plan was born in 2008.

The plan was created following a gigantic public input effort. The final Legacy Plan includes:

1. Background Information on the Lower Grand River Watershed, and
2. A review of all existing compiled information, and
3. Identified data and knowledge gaps, and
4. Recommended action plans to address pollution issues in the Greater Tri-Cities area.

The Plan is available on the City of Grand Haven web site (www.grandhaven.org) and is a template for further involvement across all organizations interested in preserving our CLEAN WATER LEGACY for all future generations.

12. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

State of Michigan Statutes grant significant tools to the City of Grand Haven to redevelop contaminated underutilized properties. Grand Haven accessed these programs early on, and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority is directly responsible for millions of dollars in private and public investment in Grand Haven over the past five years.

Current Membership on the Brownfield Redevelopment Board:

Mike Zolik, Chair
Denny Van Hall
Louis Abid
Joy Gaasch
James Bonamy
Roger Bergman
Ed Nieuwenhuis
Roman Wilson

Environmental and public health threats have been reduced or eliminated at Grand Landing and the former Bastion Blessing site. In both cases, the Brownfield Board used innovative debt financing, to be paid back with future property tax revenues, to bolster private investment and remove environmental contamination.

This Authority continues to make the tools approved by the State Legislature available to clean up the environmental mistakes of the past. Property owners in Grand Haven are assured that

their property can be made safe and profitable here by using proactive devices as approved by the State.

13. Solar/Wind Powered Street Light

In 2008, City Council authorized a grant application to the Michigan Energy Office for a Michigan Community Energy Grant, sponsored by the United States Department of Energy. Management Intern Sean Adams was thinking way outside the box when he proposed a solar and wind powered street light.

While making *absolutely no economic sense*, this effort alerted City leaders and the public that the technology exists to install street lights that are completely independent, renewable, clean and **off** the electric grid. City leaders acknowledge that the future holds a much different energy picture, and we are willing to test the waters and be leaders in advocating environmentally sensible and economically sustainable resource development.

We did not get the grant, but we are better off for the effort.

14. Lakeshore Earth Day Task Force

This group became known to City Hall in 2008, and we are members on the mailing list. We are putting Earth Day on the 2009 calendar with all other City events and will promote participation, awareness and earth-friendly discussion on Earth Day and throughout the year.

15. Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI)

The GLSLCI is an organization of mayors and other local elected officials advocating for the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. The organization was founded in 2003 by Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago, with Mayor David Miller of Toronto as the lead from Canada. United States and Canadian cities from across the basin are working together to improve water quality, water conservation and waterfront vitality. GLSLCI now has seats at most of the key decision making tables, develops and exchanges best practices, and works for preservation and restoration wherever and whenever possible.

Grand Haven joined the initiative in 2008, pledging to pay the \$2,500 annual membership fee and to maintain an active interest in GLSLCI programs and projects. Along with the City of Ferrysburg, we are part of a much larger entity, and with numbers there is strength.

16. Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI)

In 2005 the City applied for and received a grant for \$500,000 from the Clean Michigan Initiative to implement storm water best management practices (BMPs) in Grand Haven. At the

time we were anticipating a successful millage election in November of 2005 followed by several years of aggressive infrastructure investment. The \$500,000 would go toward BMPs such as rain gardens, perforated drain fields, storm drain structures that capture solids, pervious parking lots, green roofs and other emerging technologies. These project add-ons would make our gigantic infrastructure investment more environmentally sustainable while not adding significant cost to the projects.

The millage did not pass as expected in 2005, so we were not able to apply the grant to the slew of projects we had hoped for.

MDEQ, the granting agency, allowed us to apply balances to three significant projects – downtown parking lot improvements (underground detention basins and stormceptors installed to trap solids), mapping and locating of all City storm drains and a major redesign and green restoration of the RV Terrill Building Public Works Yard. These projects will provide permanent storm water cleaning benefit for all of Grand Haven, and this investment makes a big dent in the pollutants entering the Grand River.