

**Grand River Voices
Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting #5
October 18, 2022
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology (WMCAT)
614 First St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees (in-Person): Attah Obande, Emily Aleman-McAlpine, Eric Haslinger, Jessica Ledesma, Julieta Tablante-Blanco, Julio Cano, Keli Christopher, Lynee Wells, Stacy Stout, Teresa Branson, plus support staffing by Cynthia Guzman and Leah Hubbard (Estolano Advisors), Candy Isabel (Khamai Strategies), Andy Guy and James Peacock (DGRI), Adnoris Bo Torres (GRI)

Attendees (video): Elaine Isely, Tiawanna Ezell, Synia Gant-Jordan

Not Attending: Angelica Velasquez, Jason Quigno

Meeting Discussion & Actions

1. The meeting was called to order.
2. Estolano Advisors (EA) presented the agenda and shared a grounding exercise. Participants shared their fondest memory of the Grand River and other rivers around the country and the world.
3. EA reviewed the purpose of SAB Meeting #5.
4. EA shared updates on previous stakeholder engagement themes and upcoming stakeholder engagement happening during the weeks of October 17th and 24th.
5. EA presented the general outline of the Framework for feedback. A board member suggested placing the Vision & Values section before the Community Engagement section to bring a strong grounding further up in the report. Another board member suggested writing a clear recommendations about how public agencies will implement and engage with the Framework.
6. EA presented Framework Goals from last to first, six goals in total. There were a number of questions and suggestions, including:
 - a. the order and priority of the Goals
 - b. the list of river organizations, sorted by type to encourage diversity of mission and composition, as well as location and service area
 - c. rules of engagement for included organizations
 - d. resources required to carry out actions as suggested in the report, including larger systemic inequality
 - e. The role of the newly created river nonprofit and its governance

- f. the establishment of an oversight authority and equitable
 - g. responsible real estate development that meets local needs
 - h. the importance of developing assets along the river and including and engaging colleges/universities/institutions.
 - i. frameworks that include advocacy for transit so that more folks can more efficiently access the river, including explicit strategies connecting to beyond-downtown communities (Madison, Baxter, Grandville corridor) as they have the most difficulty getting to the river.
 - j. how strategies can adjust existing discriminatory practices so that existing inequality is not replicated.
 - k. the value of quiet passive spaces along the river.
7. existing watershed organizations doing water quality education and testing work (e.g. LGROW, WMEAC & Plaster Creek Stewards).
 8. Level of detail: Determine how to capture resources and clear equity efforts but not over-detailing the Framework and not over-burdening any organizations
 9. Questions were asked about the role of the new nonprofit and whether it had already been created. Other questions included:
 - a. Is there a board?
 - b. How was the board determined?
 10. A series of specific edits to Strategies and Action steps were made and recorded by EA, to be reflected in the document.
 11. A list of further requests were made by the SAB as part of next steps in the process, including:
 - a. an email detailing next steps for comments and review
 - b. timing to update and share a revised version for further SAB review
 - c. more information about the new nonprofit and the interviewed stakeholders
 12. The meeting was adjourned with a next meeting to take place after Thanksgiving, likely in December.