

**Grand River Voices
Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting #6
December 14, 2022
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees (video): Angelica Velasquez, Emily Aleman-McAlpine, Eric Haslinger, Julieta Tablante-Blanco, Julio Cano, Keli Christopher, Lynee Wells, Stacy Stout, Synia Gant-Jordan, Teresa Branson, Tiawanna Ezell, plus support staffing by Daniel Tellalian and Monica Carlos (ACA), Leah Hubbard (Estolano Advisors), Andy Guy and James Peacock (DGRI), Adnoris 'Bo' Torres (GRN) and Ciarra Adkins (City of GR OEE)

Attendee (phone): Jessica Ledesma

Not Attending: Attah Obande, Elaine Isley, Jason Quigno, plus support staff Cynthia Guzman (Estolano Advisors)

Meeting Discussion & Actions

1. The meeting was called to order.
2. **Administrative Recap: Where Have We Been, Key Elements of Equity Framework, Implementation Strategy, & Next Steps**
 - a. Where have we been?
 - Role of SAB members across six meetings
 - Community engagement & feedback loop in place
 - Evolution of how river equity framework evolved with input
 - Six goals, 15 strategies & 91 action items
 - b. There are currently 106 metrics which include 38 priority outcomes
3. **Board Discussion and Input: Framework Document**

Daniel Tellalian made presentations across all the goals and priority outcomes for the framework. Board members provided active and specific input.

 - *Goal 1: Equitable Economic Development.* The SAB discussed the priority outcomes and suggested modifications of language, targets, and the importance of words in setting an intention publicly. Modifications will be incorporated into the framework document.
 - *Goal #2: An Accessible River.* The SAB discussed the priority outcomes and suggested modifications of language, targets, how to address privately-owned shoreline, empowering communities outside of downtown, baseline metrics, and the need for implementation plans to detail the findings of the equity framework. Modifications will be incorporated into the framework document.
 - *Goal #3: An Inviting, Inclusive River.* The SAB discussed the priority outcomes and suggested modifications of language, targets, programming and safety, public infrastructure, the

unhoused, quiet spaces, diverse artwork, water safety, and air pollution. Modifications will be incorporated into the framework document.

- *Goal #4: A Healthy River & Community.* The SAB discussed the priority outcomes and suggested modifications of language, targets, water quality and habitat health, PFAS education, and channels for public education. Modifications will be incorporated into the framework document.
- *Goal #5: Engaged, Supported Youth.* The SAB discussed the priority outcomes and suggested modifications of language, targets, educational resource disparities, workforce development, outdoor classrooms, and river internships. Modifications will be incorporated into the framework document.
- *Goal #6: Implementation and Accountability.* The SAB discussed the priority outcomes and suggested modifications of language, targets, and the checks and balances in managing the river project. More detail was provided about the evolution of the river nonprofit tasked with executing the project – its leadership and DEI agenda. A discussion of endorsements ensued. Modifications will be incorporated into the framework document.

4. Board Discussion and Input: Implementation Strategy

The Board discussed an endorsements strategy for the framework document. It was deemed important that the SAB publicly endorse the process and the product, as well as bring the framework to their organizations and networks to spread information and seek further institutional endorsements.

A blind poll was taken and 100% of present SAB members voted approval to endorse the Equity Framework Document in a cover letter to the report.

Daniel shared graphic of organizational endorsements with the SAB and GRI being priority endorsements and DGRI and City of GR being the next key supporters, followed by other organizations and entities. The SAB suggested a number of organizations that should be approached to endorse the framework.

Stacy suggested the City could start with education, lining the equity framework goals up against their strategic plan. Ciarra agrees this is the best way to introduce the framework into the City.

5. Update: Project Timeline

Daniel shared the schedule for further review, editorial changes, copyediting, layout and design to the document prior to publication over the next 90 days.

6. Reflection

The Board reflected upon the six month process, the strengths and weaknesses of the Advisory Board, Team, and Deliverable. Each board member was given the opportunity to share.

Stacy suggested having a workshop about the equity strategy at the Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit on Saturday, May 20, 2023.

Several board members expressed concern about continuing and deepening community engagement across the river project. One board member expressed concern about turning the document into results for the community.

Andy extended great thanks to those (including Ciarra, Emily, and Bo) who have been part of the river equity conversation since 2020. He affirmed this is not the end, but the beginning. Bo is currently chairing an engagement committee for the river nonprofit and developing an engagement guide for next phase.

7. **Wind Up.** The meeting was adjourned. The work of the time-limited Stakeholder Advisory Board was concluded and the Board disbanded.