



## HELP SHEET FOR STAFFING THE 'SHED

### 1) TAKE TIME TO ORIENT YOURSELF WITH THE EXHIBIT

- This sheet, as well as the information found in the Operator's Guide, will help you to become familiar with the exhibit and the resources available to you when answering questions from visitors.
- Review the Event Evaluation form (see Section 4 of the Operator's Guide). At the end of your shift, be prepared to complete the form with as much information as possible to assist the WaterShed Partners in year-end reporting for grants.

#### **Table 1 - What is a WaterShed?**

Table 1 introduces the visitors to watershed. By turning the handle, the visitor makes it rain on two watershed models. One of the models is developed with streets and houses, the other is a natural, undeveloped watershed. By watching the water accumulate in the reservoir, the visitor can see the difference development makes in the ability of the land to absorb water and control runoff-related pollution.

In the undeveloped watershed, the rain is soaked up by the soil, grass, and trees. Then it slowly goes through the ground and into the river, being filtered along the way. In the developed watershed, rainwater flows quickly down the streets, carrying with it anything that is on the streets and lawns. All this water goes into the storm drains, and is dumped directly into the river. You could ask them "What would happen if there was some trash/oil/etc. on the street?" In case of pump malfunction, please place the green or blue sheet found at the end of the section on or near the pump.

#### **Table 2 - What is your WaterShed Address?**

Table 2 has a map of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area with puzzle pieces that you lift to reveal the name of the watershed in which you live. Graphic panels give more information and depict the larger watersheds within the entire United States.

Some people need help finding their watershed address. Have them point out their neighborhood and suspend their finger above it while you move the puzzle piece away. When they put their finger down, it should be in the correct watershed.

If a visitor's town or city is not on this map, please refer them to the kiosk computer system; the module depicting the United States allows visitors to type in their zip-code to find their watershed. If visitors have questions about their watershed district, have them contact their city to get the phone number to the watershed district in which they live, or refer to the Minnesota Watershed Districts list found in Section 5 of this manual.

### **Table 3 - Your Streets Flows to the River**

Table 3 exemplifies the problems of and solutions for our everyday activities in our own yard and driveway, and how they can impact the entire watershed. Many people are unaware that the water that flows into the storm drains in the streets goes directly to the lakes and rivers of their community and carries with it the pollutants that cause the lakes and streams to become fouled. You can ask people “Do you know the answers?” And tell them to flip up the panels to find the answers to the questions. For kids, I usually read them the questions and have them try to answer before I lift the panel.

### **Table 4 - Interactive Kiosks**

After walking away from the kiosk, visitors should have a clear understanding that polluted runoff from their household flows directly, untreated, to the Mississippi River. The kiosk will also, hopefully, empower visitors to engage in stewardship activities that will reduce non-point source pollution.

The interactive program on the computers is the only thing that should be run. The program is loaded directly into the start-up menu. There is no need for visitors to use the keyboard or to touch the screen. By simply turning the computers on, the program should start automatically.

## **2) KEEP THE EXHIBIT CLEAN AND OPERATING PROPERLY**

Our exhibit was quite expensive to make, thus making repairs costly. By doing simple maintenance one use at a time, the exhibit will last much longer.

- Clean the surface with the cleaner found in the purple storage tub. Use the soft paper towels provided.
- Check the pump system regularly to see that it is running properly. Should the pump system fail, leave the exhibit intact but disconnect the flow of water. In the Operator’s Guide (section 1), you will find a blue sign that can be hung on the water unit apologizing for the inconvenience.

## **3) TIPS FOR ESTIMATING THE NUMBER OF VISITORS**

It is very important that we know the number of people who visit the WaterShed Exhibit. The easiest thing to do is take a few 5-minute counts. For 5 minutes, count the exact number of people who visit the Exhibit (this includes anyone who takes time to look at or interact with it). Then multiply this number by 12 to get a per-hour estimate. At the end of your shift, use your data to figure out the total number of visitors during your four-hour shift. If you don’t have time to do all this, please just write your 5-minute counts on the evaluation form, and I can do the calculations for you later.

## **4) THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI PASSPORT**

The WaterShed Exhibit is listed as an activity in the Mighty Mississippi Passport program. The Passport lists different river-related activities for families to participate in throughout the

summer. When someone asks you to stamp his or her passport, use the Partners stamp (located in the purple Literature tub under Table 4).

**IF ANY PROBLEMS ARISE...**

- Please call Carla Truax at 651-523-2895 or Brenda Erickson at 651-523-2591.

**BEFORE YOU LEAVE...**

- Please complete the Event Evaluation form.

**Thanks for your help!!**

