



MINUTES

April 12, 2000

ATTENDEES:

Ann Sarneke, MNRRRA
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works
Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD
Dan McGuiness, Nat'l Audubon Society
Jay Michels, MPCA
Jerome Wagner, Capitol Region WSD
Jerry Spetzman, Dept. of Agriculture
Jim Falvey, Miss. River Basin Alliance
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of MN
Kary Schumpert, Friends of Miss. River
Lisa Gilliland, Anoka County Parks

Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRRA
Mary Gullickson, Anoka Conservation Dist.
Michele Hanson, Rice Creek WSD
Randi Quanbeck
Ron Struss, BWSR/Extension
Shannon Lotthammer, MPCA
Shelley Shreffler, SP Neighbor. Energy Cnsrtm
Sue McDonald, MN Valley Nat Wildlife Refuge
Tracy Fallon, Hamline - CGEE
Tracy Fredin, Hamline - CGEE
Tricia Mangold, Hennepin Conserv. Dist.

PARTNER UPDATES:

Jim F.

- The Fillmore Mississippi Heritage Conference 2000 will be held May 3-5 at the RiverCentre in St. Paul. FFI: Patrick Nunnally at 612-625-0347, nunn0006@tc.umn.edu, or <http://www.missriver.umn.edu>.

Lyndon

- A new USGS report on water quality of Twin Cities streams correlates impervious surfaces and urban runoff (road salt, pesticides, fecal coliform, etc.) with fish species diversity and richness. The 18-page report is called "Water Quality, Physical Habitat, and Fish Community Composition in Streams in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Minnesota, 1997-98." It is available from USGS, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225. FFI: 888-ASK-USGS.

Lisa

- The Kids Fishing Clinic date has been changed from May 6th to May 20th. The Clinic will be held at the Coon Rapids Dam. FFI: 651-429-8007.

Jay

- The E-Team program has finished. Over 12 sessions were offered, with 45-65 people in attendance for each.
- Kudos to Charlotte Shover for the success of the Vermilion River Youth Congress!!

MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI RIVER PASSPORT PROGRAM

Lyndon and Ann S.

- The Mighty Mississippi Passport program is underway! The Passport promotes citizen involvement in Mississippi River related events and activities by listing them and offering prizes for those who complete the program. Visitors can have their Passport stamped at the listed events/activities, including any event that is hosting the WaterShed exhibit. There are Passports to be given out at events that host the exhibit for visitors who may not have one.
- Stan Zobel with MNRRA is setting up a calendar of events for the program. If you have not reserved the 'Shed for your summer event, please do so by following the normal reservation procedure AND by filling out a special form that lists the extra information required by the program. If you already have the 'Shed reserved, you too must fill out this form. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!! To download the form for the Passport website, please see <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/meetings>.

WATERSHED EXHIBIT TASK FORCE UPDATE

Tracy Fredin

- Several pieces of the existing WaterShed Exhibit were at the Science Museum's Exhibit Shop for repairs. The repairs will make the exhibit more presentable and will ensure the longevity of the pieces we already have.
- As a part of the most recent grant from the Met Council, the Task Force has moved forward on this year's additions/changes to the exhibit. There will be a second Table 3 – Your Street Flows to the River for Partners to reserve. It is the most preferred table and this will allow for expanded usage of our exhibit. The Task Force is also working with John Shepard from CGEE to create a multi-media interactive version of Table 4 – Clean Water Starts With You.

VOLUNTEER MONITORING PROGRAM UPDATE

Michelle

- Even though the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) encouraged the WaterShed Partners to combine their two proposals, the Partners decided to leave them separate. The Volunteer Monitoring proposal and the WaterShed Education Network proposals are both in the education category.
- Students are writing letters to their legislators, asking them to support the volunteer stream monitoring proposal. A classroom in Anoka County has gone so far as to invite Representative Tinglestad to join them for a day in the field to sample macroinvertebrates.
- GOOD NEWS!!!! Connie Fortin was not at this meeting because she was preparing for the Met Council's Targeted Grant Meeting. At the time of typing these minutes, the WaterShed Partners just learned that the Met Council approved the Volunteer Monitoring Program for \$400,000 over the next 5 years!!!! This money will allow the program to implement its strategic plan, including the hiring of a person to administer the program. Congratulations to everyone involved in this effort!!

LCMR UPDATE AND STRATEGY DISCUSSION

Tracy Fredin

- The Education Committee is working on promoting the WaterShed Education Network LCMR proposal. A one-page flyer about the request will be available soon, allowing for the Committee to pursue a champion.
- A list of LCMR legislators will be made available to all WaterShed Partners with the hope that each Partner will contact their legislator requesting support of the two WaterShed Partner proposals. Your assistance will be needed to help the Partners succeed!!

WATERSHED PARTNERS IN 2000-2001

Shelley

- The WaterShed Partners were formed several years ago to bring together organizations with common goals pertaining to watershed education. The Partners have grown astronomically over the past few years, adding new committees and bringing in new sources of funding. It's time to revisit where the Partners are going and be proactive as to the impending needs for continued success. The May WaterShed Partners meeting will focus on just that. The April 24th Steering Committee meeting will develop the framework for this discussion. As always, all WaterShed Partners are welcome to attend. Before May 10th, please be thinking about the following and be prepared to discuss it:
 - Should the Partners stay opportunistic, or should they focus their efforts?
 - If the Partners choose to focus on a few topics, which would you prefer and why?
 - If the Partners opted to stay opportunistic, do you have any suggestions for new initiatives that fall within the scope of the Partners mission?
 - Do you have any suggestions for other sources of funding for the Partners?
 - What would you change about the current structure of the WaterShed Partners?
 - Others suggestions?
- It is the responsibility of each WaterShed Partner to educate themselves on the mission, goals, and initiatives of the Partners. The website has been updated to make this very easy. <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/> Please take time to surf through the pages. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the Steering Committee members.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CAMPAIGN

Dan McGuinness

- The mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. Founded in 1905, the National Audubon Society is named for John James Audubon (1785-1851), famed ornithologist, explorer, and wildlife artist.
Statistics:
 - 550,000 members
 - 508 chapters in the Americas
 - 100 Audubon Sanctuaries and nature centers nationwide

- 300 full time staff including scientists, educators, sanctuary managers, regional and state directors, and government affairs specialist.
- The vision of the Upper Mississippi River Campaign is for the Upper Mississippi River and its Watershed to be a place where people prosper, and birds, fish and wildlife thrive, in a healthy environment. Please see <http://www.audubon.org/campaign/umr/> for more information on how you can get involved. The campaign intends to:
 - Inform People about the ecological significance of the Upper Mississippi River and its Watershed for birds, fish, wildlife, habitat and humans.
 - Take Direct Action at selected urban, rural and natural places on the river and in its watershed, resulting in definitive protection of existing habitat and restoring habitat that has been lost.
- The Minnesota Audubon chapter and the campaign have many exciting events coming up.
 - In June, the Discovery Channel will air a report on the National Audubon Society.
 - In 2001, there will be a canoe flotilla from Lake Itasca to St. Anthony Falls, ending on the Summer Solstice.
 - Check out the calendar of events at the National Eagle Center. The National Eagle Center (<http://www.eaglewatch.org/welcome.html>) is a partnership project between the National Audubon Society, EagleWatch, Inc. and the City of Wabasha.

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Mon, April 24, 2pm**, at the Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE), Hamline University. The Steering Committee meets regularly on the 4th Monday of each month, 2-4pm, at Hamline. Meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wed, May 10, 9am**, at the Dept. of Ag., St. Paul. Let a Steering Committee member know if you have an agenda item for the meeting. Meetings of the WaterShed Partners are regularly the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 9-11am.

2000 STEERING COMMITTEE:

Cliff Aichinger, 651-777-6037
 Jim Falvey, 612-870-3441
 Connie Fortin, 612-553-2926
 Tracy Fredin, 651-523-3105

Michelle Hanson, 651-766-4192
 Shelley Shreffler, 651-221-4462
 Jerry Spetzman, 651-297-7269
 Ron Struss, 651-215-1950

FFI: Shelley Shreffler, 651-221-4462; shelleys@spnec.org or Tracy Fallon, 651-523-2591; tfallon@gw.hamline.edu