



MINUTES December 13, 2000

ATTENDEES

Alyssa Hawkins, Friends of the Miss. River
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works
Barb Liukkonen, MN Ext. - Water Res. Center
Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD
Connie Fortin, Fortin Consulting
Irene Jones, Friends of the Miss. River
Jay Michels, MPCA
Jeff Ledermann, MN OEA
Jerry Spetzman, Dept. of Ag.
Jim Falvey, Miss. River Basin Alliance
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of MN
John Bilota, Carver County

Julie Westerlund, MN DNR
Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA
Marcia Holmberg, Mpls. Parks & Rec. Board
Mary Gullickson, Anoka Conservation Dist.
Michele Hanson, Rice Creek WSD
Pam Davis, St. Croix River Basin
Ron Struss, MN Extension Service/BWSR
Sage Passi, Eco Education
Shelley Shreffler, St. Paul NEC
Tim Reese, Hennepin Conservation District
Tracy Fallon, Hamline – CGEE
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE

PARTNER UPDATES:

Pam

- The St. Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team has produced an informational brochure to describe their goals. If you would like to learn more about this interagency cooperative, contact Pam at pam_davis@nps.gov.
- On Feb. 22nd, the 2nd annual conference on “Protecting the St. Croix: Managing Nutrients and Sediment” will take place at the Trollhaugen Convention Center in Dresser, WI.

Barb

- The Extension Service has created a new display on “Lawn Care Practices to Protect Water Quality” that will be available through the U’s distribution center. For more information, contact Barb at 612-625-9256.
- The Arrowhead Water Quality Team has a new video “Rivers: Ribbons of Life” for purchase by MN and WI residents for \$6 plus \$8.50 shipping and handling. Copies are available for purchase from the UofM Distribution Center (1-800-876-8636). Ask for item number VH-7542. Two copies were sent to each county in Minnesota (1 to the Extension agent and 1 to the county’s water plan coordinator).

Jay

- The Minnesota Erosion Control Association’s (MECA) annual conference will be held on March 7-9 at the Doubletree Inn in St. Louis Park. FFI: Jay at 651-351-0630.
- MECA, the Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District, and Minnesota Land Trust will be hosting a Low Impact Development Conference on March 14-15 in Eagan.

Lyndon

- Dave Wiggins, formerly with the Minnesota Historical Society, has been appointed as the director of the planned Mississippi River National Center. The Center, a facility for information about the Mississippi and National Parks, will be located in the lobby of the Science Museum.

Jeff

- *A Greenprint for Minnesota, 2nd Edition* is available from the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance. You can download it by going to the SEEK website at <http://www.seek.state.mn.us> or call Jeff at 651-215-0236.

Ron

- The Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation conference was held in early December and was a success. At the session on the use of phosphorus, 130 people were in attendance.

Anne

- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has issued the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis their storm water permits. The 3-year permits start December 1, 2000. FFI: Anne at 651-266-6245.

Tracy Fallon

- The Center for Global Environmental Education would like to thank every one of the WaterShed Partners who submitted letters of support during CGEE's recent Program Review by Hamline University. The Review document has been submitted to the Provost and will be discussed by the Board of Trustees during their January meeting.

NEMO UPDATE

Jay

- The group is finishing the workplan to be submitted to the Met Council.
- With funding from the Department of Natural Resources, this group is going to bring the coordinators from the Connecticut NEMO here on February 26-27, 2001. There will be a Scoping Session on the 26th and a Train the Trainers on the 27th, both to be held at Hamline University. Also with this money, the metro NEMO group will be sending 4 people to Connecticut for further training.
- The NEMO group has been invited to give a presentation on the project to the Dakota County Board.

VOLUNTEER STREAM MONITORING UPDATE

Barb

- The Volunteer Stream Monitoring Partnership has hired two new employees to begin implementing the metro-wide program. Mary Gullickson is the Technical Coordinator (612-625-6781). She started in this new position on December 1. Julia Frost, the Program Coordinator (612-624-7460) will begin on January 2.
- The contract with the Met Council has been signed!

- The project's Steering Committee meets monthly on the 1st Thursday from 9-11am at the PCA. These meetings are open to anyone interested.
- On February 12th, there will be a Stakeholder Meeting open to all interested Partners to discuss the direction and implementation of the program. You'll be provided with an update on the partnership, proposals written and funding secured, and plans for the next year. Then in small groups, ideas will be generated for technical work, communications, strengthening ties with local units of government and educators, supporting existing programs and building new ones, managing and using the data, and piloting the matrix. If you have ideas about other things we should consider at the meeting, please contact Barb at 612-625-9256 or Mary at 612-625-6781.

THE GRATE MATES PROJECT

Cliff and Shelley

- In late November, Theron Shaw with PlanetCPR visited with several WaterShed Partners. The purpose of PlanetCPR's meetings in Minnesota was to assess the feasibility of replicating the Grate Mate program here. Grate Mates are catch basin inserts made of a special cloth filter that fits under the grates of storm drains in parking lots. Catch basin inserts have been used for years at construction sites to collect silt and other debris, and are being tested by the City of Seattle and other counties in Washington. Each filter costs \$98.50, of which \$50 is tax-deductible.
- Interest in the filters was high, but with the metro's strong storm-drain stenciling program and Minnesota's harsh winters, the general consensus was that the cost was too high and that the WaterShed Partners would spread the word but not sponsor the project.
- The Grate Mate project would be ideal for a corporation to sponsor at a high school parking lot to show the students just how much waste is washed from that particular lot. Groups could also use it as a fundraiser.
- Shelley and Irene will continue to communicate with PlanetCPR and keep the WaterShed Partners informed.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Tracy Fredin

- The Metro WaterShed Education Network (MWEN) will be compiling information on the resources available to teachers from the WaterShed Partners. This information will be incorporated into the existing SEEK (Sharing EE Knowledge - <http://www.seek.state.mn.us>) database and accessible through the soon-to-be-completed MWEN web site.
- A School-to-Work grant has been submitted on behalf of the WaterShed Partners Education Committee to the Dept. of CFL. The grant will require the Education Committee to identify 4 Partners to work with teachers and their students. More information will be made available soon. FFI: Peggy Knapp at 651-523-2393.
- Tracy Fallon has developed a web site for Rich and Sue Cairn's WaterShed Resources Youth Stewardship Project entitled *WaterShed Action* (<http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/action>). The site will be tested in late December and made available to the public in January. The site is a wonderful resource for teachers, parents, youth leaders, etc. who would like to undertake a service-learning project.

- CGEE will be offering a summer, 2001 institute on water issues. Several WaterShed Partners will be assembled to help teachers understand the issues surrounding our rivers and their impact to them. FFI: Renee Wonser at 651-523-2419.
- Survey research will be conducted through the Report Card on Minnesota Citizens' Environmental Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors project. The results will be used to better inform environmental educators and state agencies in Minnesota. Tony Murphy from the Center for Global Environmental Education and Jeff Ledermann from the OEA are coordinating the survey.
- The Education Committee will meet after the January 10, 2001 WaterShed Partners meeting.
- The Water on the Web teacher workshop will be held at the Science Museum on April 25-26. The workshop is for high school teachers. FFI: Barb at 612-625-9256.

STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION

- Due to a lack of time, the majority of this discussion will be tabled until the January meeting.

2001 STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee is an annually elected group composed of a representative cross section of the WaterShed Partners who are responsible for continuing the Partners award-winning decision-making through consensus. Nominations were taken for the 2001 Steering Committee and will be discussed at the December 18th Steering Committee meeting.

NOTES:

Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wed, January 10, 2001, 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, 651-704-2089
 Jim Falvey, 612-870-3441
 Connie Fortin, 763-478-3606
 Tracy Fredin, 651-523-3105

Michele Hanson, 651-772-6152
 Shelley Shreffler, 651-221-4462
 Jerry Spetzman, 651-297-7269
 Ron Struss, 651-215-1950

FFI: Steering Committee members or Tracy Fallon, 651-523-2591; tfallon@gw.hamline.edu