

WaterShed Partners

Minutes – February 9, 2000

ATTENDEES:

Barb Liukkonen, UofM Water Resources	Lisa Gilliland, Anoka Co. Parks
Brook Waalen, Mpls. Environmental Mgmt.	Lori Forkner, Hamline - CGEE
Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD	Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA
Connie Fortin, Fortin Consulting	Marleane Callaghan, M'haha Creek WSD
Irene Jones, Friends of Miss. River	Mary Gullickson, Anoka Conservation Dist.
Gary Botzek, Capitol Connections	Michele Hanson, Rice Creek WSD
Jay Michels, MPCA	Ray Bohn, MN Assoc. of WS Districts
Jerome Wagner, Citizen, Capitol Reg. WSD	Tracy Fallon, Hamline - CGEE
Jim Falvey, Miss. River Basin Alliance	Tracy Fredin, Hamline - CGEE
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of MN	Tricia Mangold, Hennepin Conserv. Dist.
Kathy Dougherty, Great River Greening	Wendy Griffin, Wash. Co. Soil & Water

PARTNER UPDATES:

Irene

- The Rivers Council of Minnesota will be hosting their annual State of the River Conference at Hamline University February 24-26. FFI: 218-547-3583.
- The workshop “Protecting the St. Croix: Reducing and Managing Phosphorus” will be on February 24, 2000 at Trollhaugen in Dresser, WI. WaterShed Partners are welcome to attend, but over 1000 people have been invited from within the St. Croix basin so they will have to limit attendance from areas outside the basin. For general registration info., call 612-624-4194.
- The Friends of the Mississippi River’s Annual Celebration will be held at the new Science Museum of Minnesota on April 13th, 5-8pm. FFI: Irene at 651-222-2193.
- The Friends of the Mississippi River and the Dakota County Parks department will be hosting a snowshoeing event at the Vermillion River bottoms near Hastings on February 27th. There is a waiting list, but if you really want to attend, contact Irene immediately.

Kathy

- There are job openings at Great River Greening. Deadline for applications for these positions is March 6, 2000. In addition, they will also be hiring a Business Manager. FFI about this position contact Rob Buffler, 651-665-9500.
 - Field Coordinator (full-time, year round) - will implement restoration and ecological management plans along the Mississippi and Minnesota River corridors in the Twin Cities.

- Restoration Technician (Full-time, Apr. - Oct.) - will assist Field Coordinator with implementation activities.
- Restoration Technician Intern (Part-time, Apr. - Oct.) – will maintain native plantings in St. Paul river valley.
- On April 29th, 50 to 100 volunteers are needed to start the "ecological clean up" of the bluff in St. Paul.
- On May 20th, a River Valley Restoration in Dakota County will require 300 volunteers to remove exotic species and plant native trees and shrubs. The event is being co-sponsored by Great River Greening and Friends of the Mississippi River. To volunteer, contact Kathy 651- 665-9500 x16.

Barb

- The Water Resources Center is hosting a focus group to introduce the new Lake Access web site for their EMPACT (Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking) project on February 29th, 1-4pm at a Hennepin County park to be named. FFI: Barb at 612-625-9256.

Lyndon

- The Mississippi National River & Recreation Area (National Park Service) will be presenting a series of free, public forums on three topics in a variety of Twin Cities locations:
 - "Natural Approach to Designing Residential Landscapes" (2/24 in Brooklyn Center & 3/2 in South St. Paul)
 - "Resident's Guide to Historic Home Restoration" (3/16 in Hastings & 3/30 in Anoka)
 - "Birds of the Mississippi" (Apr 13 in Champlin and Apr 27 in Cottage Grove)
 - All programs are 7-9 pm. For further information, locations and to RSVP call MNRRA at 651-290-4160, x221.
- The evaluation by the Wilder Research Center is complete. A draft was circulated for comments and they will present the final report at our next WaterShed Partners meeting.
- This meeting will be the last one at Galtier Plaza. MNRRA is moving to the Kellogg Square building in March. The March WaterShed Partners meeting will be at Hamline University and then from April on, they will be held at the Department of Agriculture.

Marleane

- The Long Lake Shoreland Habitat Restoration Project has received the Minnesota Horticulture Society's "President's Award." The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District will receive the award on the 26th at the Minnesota Greening Conference.
- February 18th will be Marleane's last day with M'haha Creek. She has accepted a position with Fortin Consulting.

Jay

- The Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA) is co-sponsoring the following E-team (Erosion Team) workshops: Scott County (2/10 & 2/17), Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (2/11 & 2/18), Washington County (3/2 & 3/13), Hennepin County

(3/16 & 3/23), Rice Creek WSD and Coon Creek WSD (3/17), Wright County (3/30 & 4/6), and Lake County (3/31). The first session concentrates on developing the program and a study of successful programs. The second session is "Rules and Tools" and covers the NPDES permit requirements, the tools that are available to meet the permit requirements, what goes into developing erosion control plans, implementing the plans, field inspection, and enforcement.

- The MECA's 11th Annual Conference will be held at the Doubletree Park Place Hotel in St. Louis Park on March 9th and 10th. FFI: Jay at 651-296-7036.

Tracy Fallon

- The Center for Global Environmental Education will be hosting a special event on March 14th at noon to unveil the newly released "Waters to the Sea: Rivers of the Upper Mississippi River" CD-ROM. Invites will be mailed in the next few weeks. If you would like to order a CD, please see <http://cgee.hamline.edu/waters2thesea>.
- We are proud to report that the WaterShed Partners received two grants from the Metro Environment Partnership. The Metro WaterShed Education Network received \$35,000 and the WaterShed Exhibit received \$50,000. Other Partners received MEP grants for their particular projects: Friends of the Mississippi River, Rice Creek Watershed District, Minnesota Erosion Control Association, Hennepin Conservation District, MNRRRA for Big River Journey, and the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium. Congratulations to everyone!!

Jim H.

- The Science Museum of Minnesota plans to develop an outdoor exhibit area. Ideas are welcome. The area will be for paying customers only and will face the river. FFI: Jim at 651-221-4724.

Brook

- The Mississippi Corridor Neighborhood Coalition/Industry Alliance (referred to as the Alliance) invites all to attend a discussion of a draft of a citizen participation process for the conceptual plan entitled Above the Falls: A Master Plan for the Upper River in Minneapolis. The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance has agreed to facilitate this meeting. The Alliance is pushing to delay the Master Plan's approval process primarily because of a perceived lack of citizen involvement in the planning process. This discussion is one of several taking place throughout Minneapolis and beyond that relate directly to the future of the Upper River in Minneapolis. This short and denuded stretch of the Mississippi River is overdue for a facelift that better reflects the pre/historical heritage that is a major component of the most complex ecosystem in North American. FFI: Brook at 612-673-3179.

WATERSHED EXHIBIT UPDATE

Tracy Fallon

- The WaterShed Exhibit will be at the Quad Cities Earth Day event during the weekend of Earth Day. The weeks before and after Earth Day (April 22) are reserved for an event/events to be determined by the WaterShed Partners. The priority deadline was January 31. These two high profile weeks are still open, so if you know of an event, please submit a reservation request.
- Don't forget to utilize the WaterShed Partners web site when preparing to reserve the exhibit. Check out <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/exhibit> for a calendar of events and the necessary forms.
- The new Table 1 is finally complete. A special thanks to Tom Gagnen and his crew at the Science Museum for their time and attention to detail. The new table will be on display during the March 8th WaterShed Partners meeting, which is being held at Hamline University for that purpose.

LCMR PROPOSAL UPDATES

Connie

- The WaterShed Partners Coordinated Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program submitted an LCMR proposal for \$473,000 (\$273,000 for core program, staff, outreach, advertising, etc. and \$200,000 for local and new programs). The fiscal agent for this grant would be the UofM's Water Resources Center.

Tracy Fredin

- The WaterShed Partners Community Outreach Program submitted an LCMR proposal for \$500,000 for new tools for the WaterShed Exhibit and for the development of the WaterShed Education Network. This proposal is an outline of where the WaterShed Partners are going and a draft for grants to other funders. The fiscal agent for this grant would be the Center for Global Environmental Education at Hamline University.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ON THE LCMR GRANT PROCESS

Gary Botzek and Ray Bohn

- The LCMR grant proposal process is much different than any other legislative process. Gary and Ray have both been involved with the LCMR process and were asked to attend our meeting to give their insight. Gary is a consultant with Capitol Connections and Ray is the administrator and lobbyist for the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts.

Below is a summary of the Gary and Ray's comments:

- At the time of our meeting, there had been 409 proposals submitted for a total of \$400,000,000. There is only \$44,000,000 available!!
- The support of the LCMR staff and citizen advisory committee is very important.
- Strong, quality partnerships are very helpful, as are financial matches to the requested LCMR funds.
- LCMR commission members will take the time to visit the various projects.
- Keep the proposal short – brief and concise.

- The timetable is: Legislators have more time after the legislative session ends, the 1st cut for the proposals is in May, and hearing will begin in June.
- You need a legislator to “champion” your cause....to ensure that your project doesn’t get lost in the pile.
- Flexible project, or projects that could be in more than one of the LCMR’s categories, can be good or bad. It’s good because it could move from one large pile to another somewhat smaller pile. It’s bad because the commission can get confused as to what you are trying to do.
- Remember, this is an election year!! Handwritten letters from their constituents will be taken very seriously this year.
- Watersheds are well understood by this LCMR commission.
- Several members of the commission are from the metro area.

LCMR COMMISSION MEMBERS

Senators

Leonard Price, Chair	Bob Lessard
Dennis Frederickson	James Metzen
Jerry Janezich	Martha Robertson
Jane Krentz	Jim Vickerman
Gary Laidig	

Representatives

Irv Anderson	Mark Olson
Dave Bishop	Dennis Ozment
Steve Dehler	Tom Osthoff
Ron Erhardt	Leslie Schumacher
Mark Hosten	Kathy Tingelstad

LCMR PROPOSAL STRATEGIES FOR WATERSHED PARTNERS

Tracy Fredin

- After hearing the presentation by Gary and Ray, time was set aside for brainstorming ideas for our situation. Below are some of the ideas:
 - Have the schools that we work with support us by writing letters to their legislators.
 - We need to create a one-page info. sheet to take with us when we visit legislators.
 - We need to build a support system for each proposal and reference both proposals when discussing one of them with a legislator.
 - We need two “champions” right now – one for each proposal.
 - The web site must be updated to clearly tell the story of each of the committees.
 - We should consider hiring a lobbyist.
 - Coordinate with the LCMR staff to get the commission members to see the WaterShed Exhibit.

CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION OF LYNDON TORSTENSON

Lyndon Torstenson and the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) have been involved with the WaterShed Partners since this group was just a thought. Lyndon’s job description has changed and he is no longer able to serve on the WaterShed Partners Steering Committee. The Partners took this time to thank Lyndon for his unending devotion to this organization. Tracy Fredin gave a history of Lyndon’s involvement, Michelle brought a cake,

and Tracy Fallon presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Steering Committee. Thanks Lyndon...we can't say that enough!!

NEXT WATERSHED PARTNERS MEETING:

Wednesday, March 8th, 9-11am at Hamline University (Law and Graduate Schools Bldg., St. Paul). **NOTE THE LOCATION!!** Contact Shelley Shreffler (651-221-4462) or any other Steering Committee member if you have an agenda item for the meeting.

NEXT TWO STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday, February 28th and March 27th, 2-4pm (note new time), at the Center for Global Environmental Education, Hamline University (1536 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul). Steering Committee usually meets on the 4th Monday of each month, 2pm, at Hamline. Meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.

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