



MINUTES

June 14, 2000

Attendees

Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works
Barb Liukkonen, UofM Water Resources
Bruce Johnson, Rivers Council of MN
Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD
Jerry Spetzman, Dept. of Ag.
Jim Falvey, Miss. River Basin Alliance
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of MN
John Billota, Carver County EE
John Shepard, Hamline – CGEE
Jon Steadland, Mpls. Environmental Mgmt.
Julie Westerlund, DNR – WS Protection
Kary Schumpert, Friends of the Miss. River
Lisa Gilliland, Anoka County Parks

Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA
Lynette Anderson, Warner Nature Center
Mary Gullickson, Anoka Conservation Dist.
Marylee Hardenbergh, Hamline – CGEE
Michele Hanson, Rice Creek WSD
Pauline Langsdorf, Met Council
Randy Thoreson, St. Croix Nat'l Riverway
Ron Struss, MN BWSR and Extension
Sally Leider, Consultant
Shannon Lotthammer, MN PCA
Stan Zobel, MNRRA
Tracy Fallon, Hamline – CGEE
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE

PARTNER UPDATES:

Cliff

- There are many new faces with the WaterShed Partners. Here's a brief introduction of the new folks that were able to attend the meeting and some that weren't.
 - Bruce Johnson is the new Executive Director of the Rivers Council of Minnesota.
 - John Billota is new to the Carver County Environmental Education program.
 - Jon Steadland has taken Brooke Waalen's position with the Minneapolis Environmental Management.
 - Julie Westerlund will represent the DNR's Watershed Protection Initiative (note the new name – formerly Metro Trout Stream Initiative), in place of Kevin Bigalke who left the DNR for a new position.
 - Lynette Anderson, a naturalist with the Warner Nature Center, and Sally Leider, a former Minneapolis teacher, are working with 5th and 6th grade classrooms in Washington County.
 - Jon Michels will represent Washington County Public Health and Environment now that Cindy Weckwerth has received a promotion.
 - Jill Torres will represent the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge now that Sue McDonald has moved to Montana.
 - Eric Evenson will represent the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.
 - We are waiting to hear about new representatives for the Hennepin Conservation District and the Minneapolis Parks and Rec. Board.
 - April Rust was recently hired to fill the vacancy at the DNR – Project WET and will be attending Partner meetings soon.

- Water Fest 2000 was a huge success on June 3rd. The weather was great and the event was well attended. Thanks to all the Partners who helped out. There are extra t-shirts available for \$5.

Lisa

- Carp Fest 2000 will be Saturday, June 17th at the Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park.

Randy

- The St. Croix Expo will happen again this year, September 23rd at the St. Croix Falls High School. More information to come as it's made available.

Lyndon

- MNRRA offices have moved to Kellogg Square (111 E. Kellogg Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55101-1288). The phone numbers have not changed.

Ron

- As stated in a humorous email message awhile back, there are **Think Clean Water** magnets available for events hosted by WaterShed Partners. FFI: Ron at 651-215-1950.

John B.

- The Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board will be hosting a conference called "Projects on the Ground, Results in the Water" on July 12 and 13 with several tours available for participants. Registrations must be received by July 1. FFI: Tricia at 952-361-6590 or see <http://mrbdc.mankato.msus.edu>.

Tracy Fallon

- Last summer, a nomination for the WaterShed Partners was submitted to CF Industries for their National Watershed Award. This award is a partnership between CF Industries, the Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society. We received a letter stating, "... (we) commend you for the quality of your work. Although we could not include you as a finalist this year, we would like to reconsider your project for next year's awards and will do so if you send us a brief update..." If you are interested in assisting with this update, please contact Tracy at 651-523-2591 or tfallon@gw.hamline.edu.

WATERSHED EXHIBIT AT THE STATE FAIR

Tracy Fallon

- It has been confirmed that the WaterShed Exhibit will be displayed at the DNR building during the 2000 State Fair!!!! We will, however, have to make different plans for next year, as the DNR is installing permanent exhibits in the building that will not allow for the open floor space. Discussion on this topic will begin immediately, so if you have some ideas, please forward them to Tracy Fallon.
- As in past years, ALL WATERSHED PARTNERS will be asked to volunteer their time for staffing the exhibit during the Fair. Displaying the 'Shed at the Fair allows us to interact with over 77,000 visitors! The sign-up page has been posted at <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/exhibit/00fairsignup.htm> - you can access this page

from the Exhibit home page and the Meetings home page. All volunteers will receive free admission into the Fair. You'll be hearing more about this in the near future.

Volunteer Stream Monitoring Update

Michele

- The Volunteer Stream Monitoring program's LCMR proposal was selected to receive a hearing regarding its potential funding. The hearing was in early June and attended by WaterShed Partners and a teacher and students from Forest Lake. For a list of the Environmental Education projects selected to be heard, go to the LCMR's web site at <http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcmr/2001%20proposals/proposals%20to%20be%20heard.htm#EDUCATION>.
- The Met Council has granted \$400,000 over the next 5 years for this project. The group needs to create a work plan and post job announcements for necessary staff.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Tracy Fredin

- The Education Committee met immediately following this Partners meeting to pull together a work plan for the recent Met Council grant. Peggy Knapp, producer of CGEE's Rivers of Life will coordinate the Education Committee from now on.
- A proposal to the OEA was been put on hold until fall to supply the funding that was cut from the original proposal to the Met Council to support the projects of the Education Committee. The OEA and their SEEK project will be meeting with the Education Committee to see how SEEK can be updated and made more useful to teachers looking for information on watershed education projects.

TWIN CITIES WATERSHED SUMMIT

Cliff

- The topic of whether the WaterShed Partners should remain opportunistic or move to a more formalized structure was discussed. The general tone was that this informal structure should remain in place until such time that the reasons that cause this annual discussion are better defined. Those reasons are:
 - Legal liability of the WaterShed Exhibit,
 - The need for full time staff,
 - Funding, etc.
- Instead of taking a short amount of time discussing the future of the WaterShed Partners, there was a motion to organize a retreat on November 8th. An agenda for this day-long retreat would be ironed out by the Steering Committee and they would look into the feasibility of having a moderator on hand to keep the day on track. This retreat would be in place of the monthly meeting and should be attended by all WaterShed Partners. More information will be made available after the upcoming Steering Committee meeting.

WATERSHED EXHIBIT TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

John Shepard

- The Exhibit Task Force is moving forward on revising Table 4 – Clean Water Starts With You. The new Table 4 will include a multimedia kiosk to complement the existing brochures that help to educate visitors on their connection to the Mississippi River watershed and to empowering visitors to engage in stewardship activities that will reduce non-point pollution. At the meeting, John handed out copies of the kiosk treatment, which will be made available to Partners through the web.
- The timeline is to have the kiosk ready for the State Fair.

SOLSTICE RIVER CELEBRATION

Marylee Hardenbergh

- The Solstice River dance will be held on June 20 and 21 at the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis. This site-specific performance will celebrate our living river on the longest day of the year. This spectacle weaves together the world of manmade wonders with the world of nature. In addition to dancers on the dike of the lock, the banks, and mooring cells, solo dancers appear high up on a smokestack here, on the roof of another building there. By the end of the performance, dancers and fabric make a panoramic splash. A glorious addition this year is a bevy of kayaks pirouetting for the audience. The music will be simulcast over local radio stations.
- If you would like to have a front-row seat for this event, volunteers are needed to greet visitors and help staff the WaterShed Exhibit. FFI: Tracy Fallon at 651-523-2591.

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Mon, June 26th, 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.
- **THERE WILL NOT BE A PARTNERS MEETING IN JULY!!!!**
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wed, August 9th, 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