



MINUTES

September 13, 2000

ATTENDEES

Alyssa Hawkins, Friends of the Miss. River
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works
Bruce Johnson, Rivers Council of MN
Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD
Connie Fortin, Fortin Consulting
Greg Aamodt, Carver County
Irene Jones, Friends of the Miss. River
Jay Michels, MPCA
Jay Riggs, Dakota County SWCD
Jerry Spetzman, Dept. of Ag.
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of MN
John Shepard, Hamline – CGEE
Jon Steadland, Mpls. Environmental Mgmt.
Julie Westerlund, MN DNR

Kevin Bigalke, Lower Minnesota River WSD
Lisa Gilliland, Anoka Co. Parks – Wargo
Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA
Maria Olson, Great River Greening
Marleane Callaghan, Fortin Consulting
Mary Gullickson, Anoka Conservation Dist.
Michele Hanson, Rice Creek WSD
Monica Gross, Minnehaha Creek WSD
Pam Davis, St. Croix River Basin
Pauline Langsdorf, Met Council
Randy Thoreson, NPS – RTCA
Ron Struss, MN Extension Service/BWSR
Tracy Fallon, Hamline – CGEE
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE

PARTNER UPDATES:

Lyndon

- Big River Journey, a school program for grades 4-6 that connects kids to the river and promotes stewardship, is now taking reservation requests for 2001. Reservations will be by lottery, and requests must be submitted by October 5, 2000. Big River Journey combines an on-river field trip with classroom activities; it features science and stewardship learning stations on the river, coupled with thematic activities in the classroom. Big River Journey is a partnership program coordinated by the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area. For flyers, reservation forms, or further information, contact Lyndon Torstenson at 651-290-3030, x232.

Randy

- The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program has a “pizza box” of information available to anyone interested in learning more about this program. The materials will be sent to you in a box that resembles that of a pizza box! FFI: Randy at 651-290-3004.

Pauline

- The Department of Natural Resources has a new poster “How does your watershed flow?” available. You can acquire them by contacting April Rust (the new Project WET coordinator) at 651-297-4951.

Ron

- Reminder – the Metro Children’s Water Festival is coming up on September 27th at the State Fairgrounds. Volunteers are still needed. FFI: Charlotte Shover at 651-480-7734.

Pam

- The St. Croix River Basin Water Resources Management Planning Team has a nutrient technical subcommittee conducting a study on phosphorus loading from the tributaries into the St. Croix. Nutrient loading from the tributaries is considered by the water quality managers as the biggest threat to the St. Croix. Through an interagency effort (including a citizen monitoring group), sampling was done during the summers of 1998 and 1999. The Team is now modeling and analyzing the data to be able to review management scenarios in regards to phosphorus loading. They are very interested in NEMO because they want the local officials, businesses, and citizens to be involved in creating/reviewing the management scenarios and implementation.

Charlotte (sent via email)

- A statewide Master Gardener emphasis next year is "to educate homeowners and other on how to control runoff fertilizer and other common household pollutants from lawns, gardens, driveways, and sidewalks." The button and promo logo says "*Your Choice: Clean or Green. Want help in keeping our waters clean? Ask a Master Gardener.*" Kudos to the WaterShed Partners for getting the message out...people are listening!

WATERSHED PARTNERS STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION – NOVEMBER 8, 2000

Michele

Connie Fortin has been looking into options for a facilitator for the WaterShed Partners Strategic Planning Session on November 8th. **ALL ACTIVE WATERSHED PARTNERS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND THIS DAY-LONG MEETING.** The meeting will be held at Hamline University and is meant to help the Partners set short-term and long-term goals to continue the group’s success. Official invitations will be sent out soon.

PRESENTATION BY JAY RIGGS ON LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE IN DAKOTA COUNTY

Urban development causes an overall imbalance in the hydrology of a watershed. As sidewalks, roads, parking lots, rooftops, and other hard surfaces that inhibit water from infiltrating into the ground are constructed, more water runs off the land and less water is incorporated into groundwater. During storms, the rainwater flows off impervious areas very quickly into storm sewers that often discharge directly into natural streams, wetlands, and lakes. Decreased flow during dry weather periods and increased flow during storms have an adverse impact on local surface waters.

Low impact development (LID) integrates ecological and environmental considerations into all phases of urban planning, design, and construction. The goal of low impact development is to eliminate or minimize the impacts of urbanization on the natural water processes occurring within the watershed.

The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), in partnership with the Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Land Trust, developing cities and townships, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, developers, and others, is undertaking an intensive campaign to promote and reinforce incorporation of low impact development concepts into new and existing developments. For more information about Dakota County's efforts, contact Jay Riggs at 651-480-7779 or jay.riggs@co.dakota.mn.us.

PREMIERE OF THE WATER QUALITY INTERACTIVE

John Shepard

- The new kiosk for Table 4, from here on being referred to as the Water Quality Interactive, was completed in time for the Minnesota State Fair and was a huge success. John Shepard attended the Partners meeting and premiered the 4 modules of the interactive.
- The laptop used at the State Fair is property of Hamline University and was used as a temporary tool due to last minute changes. The Partners will have to purchase a laptop very soon for use on Table 4. If you know of anyone willing to contribute a laptop, please contact Tracy Fredin at 651-523-3105 or tfredin@gw.hamline.edu.
- Due to the demand for reserving just Table 4, changes have been made to the Reservation Request form. If you didn't receive a copy at the Partners meeting, you can find the form at <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/exhibit/hosting.htm>.

PROJECT NEMO

Julie

- The minutes from the first metro Project NEMO meeting held at the DNR Metro offices on August 15th can be found at <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/nemo/meeting1.pdf>. The information from this document was the core of the discussion. Project NEMO and its obvious fit with the WaterShed Partners Education Committee was to be discussed at the Ed. Committee meeting following the Partners meeting.

UPDATE ON GRANTS FOR THE PARTNERS

Tracy Fredin

- For the WaterShed Exhibit, a proposal will be submitted to the Met Council's Metro Environment Partnership funding program. The MEP 2001 grant will allow the WaterShed Partners to improve pieces of the exhibit and expand upon the interactive pieces in the Water Quality Interactive.
- For the Metro WaterShed Education Network, grant proposals have been submitted to the Watershed Assistance Grants program, the Office of Environmental Assistance, and a few smaller grantors. Money for the Education Network will allow the Partners to expand on the goals being outlined during Education Committee meetings.

VOLUNTEER STREAM MONITORING UPDATE

Michele

The WaterShed Partners Volunteer Stream Monitoring program is looking to hire a Program Coordinator and a Technical Coordinator. Send resume and names of 3 references to Maria Juergens, Water Resource Center, 173 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108 by September 22. For additional information, contact Sylvia McCollor, Chair, Search Committee, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 651-296-7249, sylvia.mccollor@pca.state.mn.us.

PHOSPHORUS LEGISLATION UPDATE

Jerry

As you may recall, the Department of Agriculture introduced a bill to the State legislature regarding the use of phosphorus in fertilizers. The legislature requested that some of the issue be resolved and then the bill could be resubmitted for the 2001 legislative session. The Department of Agriculture held two facilitated meetings to bring the key stakeholders together to resolve the various issues. A second meeting of those groups will take place on October 2nd. FFI: Jerry at 651-297-7269.

REVIEW OF THE STATE FAIR AND PREPARATION FOR NEXT YEAR

Tracy Fallon

Having the WaterShed Exhibit in the DNR Building during the Minnesota State Fair was once again a success for the Partners and for the DNR. A huge THANK YOU to all the WaterShed Partners who volunteered their time and the time of their co-workers to staff the 'Shed during the Fair!! The following are some statistics:

- Of the 41 active organizations that make up the WaterShed Partners, 23 of them volunteered to staff the WaterShed Exhibit during the 12-day State Fair.
- We had 4 volunteers from the greater "Friends of the WaterShed Partners" list step forward to help!!
- We had only 4 shifts in which no one was staffing the Exhibit. That's better than in 1999 where 9 shifts were not staffed!!
- The Minnesota State Fair web site (<http://www.mnstatefair.org>) indicates that total attendance was up 8,000 from 1999. It also indicates that on average, weekend attendance was lower than last year but that attendance was up during the weekdays.
- Overall, Table 1 (What is a Watershed?) was the most visited portion of the Exhibit, with Table 4 (Clean Water Starts With You) coming in a close second. The new interactive kiosk on Table 4 was very successful, considering that the program was a beta version with obvious glitches due to time constraints.
- When volunteers were asked where the WaterShed Exhibit should be displayed if it could no longer be inside the DNR building during the Fair, the following responses were logged:
 - 8 votes for the Education Building (*no specific location within the building was indicated*)
 - 2 votes for the Empire Commons Building, near the OEA display
 - 6 votes for outside the DNR Building (*either just outside the same door or near Adopt-a-River*)
 - 4 votes for encouraging the DNR to allow us to stay inside the DNR Building

- 1 vote for under the Grandstand
- 1 vote for near the main Cheese Curd booth
- 1 vote for the 4H Building

Volunteers made it very clear in their evaluations of the printed materials that a new brochure rack is needed to better display the 4 WaterShed Partner brochures and that we need more materials for children. Reminder – stickers are not allowed on State Fair grounds! Also, we need to have stools for volunteers to use during their 4-hour shift.

Because of changes being made by the DNR to their fairground facilities, there is a chance that the WaterShed Exhibit will not be displayed there next year. The committee formerly known as the Scheduling Committee will be resurrected as the Exhibit Committee and will work to secure a location for the WaterShed Exhibit to be displayed during future Fairs. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Tracy Fallon at 651-623-2591 or tfallon@gw.hamline.edu.

EPA PRESENTATION UPDATE

Ron

The EPA Region 5 Outreach office out of Chicago is very interested in coming to the Twin Cities and meeting with the WaterShed Partners. But, due to potential budget freezes, this meeting will be postponed until the January WaterShed Partners meeting. More information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Mon, Sept. 25, 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, October 11, 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, 763-478-3606

Tracy Fredin, 651-523-3105

Michele Hanson, 651-766-4192

Shelley Shreffler, 651-221-4462

Jerry Spetzman, 651-297-7269

Ron Struss, 651-215-1950

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