



MINUTES

April 11, 2001

ATTENDEES:

Shelley Shreffler, St. Paul NEC
Jane Dusek, Capitol Region WD
John Bilotta, UofM Extension – Carver Co.
Julie Westerlund, MN DNR
Ron Struss, MN Board of Water & Soil Resources
Tim Reese, Hennepin Conservation District
Jeff Ledermann, MN OEA
Daniel Huff, Dakota Co. EE Program
Tom Ibsen, MNRRA
Alyssa Hawkins, Friends of the Mississippi River

Pamela Jessup, Hamline–CGEE
Pauline Langsdorf, Met Council ES
Julia Frost, VSMP
Tracy Fredin, Hamline–CGEE
Randy Thoreson, NPS
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of MN
Pam Davis, Boundary Area Commission
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works
Janell Miersch, Rice Creek WD
Dan Stoddard, MN DNR

PARTNER UPDATES

Alyssa

- The Friends of the Mississippi River “Special Places Tours and Outings 2001” brochures are now available. Contact FMR at 651-222-2193 or www.fmr.org

Randy

- The Minnesota Lakes Association and Minnesota Rivers Council will have a joint conference on May 3-5 at Cragen’s Resort. More information is available at www.mnlakes.org
- The Interagency River Manager’s (National Conference) will be held near the National Wildlife Refuge at the Airport Hilton, May 7-10. Please go to www.river_managers.org
- The Fillmore Mississippi Heritage Conference 2001 will be held at Touchstone Energy Place at RiverCentre, May 9-11. Contact Jennifer Hawkins at 612-625-2636 with any questions or go to www.missriver.umn.edu

Tom

- National Park Service announces Environmental Education Volunteer Opportunity on the Mississippi River. “Big River Journey” Science Field Trips for Kids on the Mississippi River! May 10, 15th-16th, 21-24th, 2001. For further information contact Tom Ibsen, Volunteers In Parks Program Coordinator/Park Ranger. 651-290-3030 x233 or e-mail: Thomas_ibsen@nps.gov

Pam Jessup

- CGEE is looking for environmental workplace sites willing to host teachers and students for a real-world work experience during the summer and fall of 2001 as part of School to Work Grant: Teachers in the Workplace.. Each of the 20 teachers will be looking for a quality 3-day workplace experience. Contact Peggy Knapp if you are interested in participating 651-523-2393.

Ron

- Mark your calendars now for the Children's Water Festival to be held at State Fair Grounds on September 26, 2001. Ron will contact people who were involved last year and is always looking for new volunteers.

Shelley

- St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium, Capitol Region Watershed District and Ramsey County Master Gardeners are sponsoring a Healthy Lawns for Healthy Lakes Community Fair and Cleanup at Como Lakeside Pavilion on April 28 from 10 a.m. – 1p.m. Everyone is invited to join in the festivities and help cleanup Como Lake. The NEC will also do a pilot GrateMate installation in the parking lots next to the Pavilion.

Tim

- A River Summit will be held at Science Museum of Minnesota on Nov. 15, 2001 for students involved in wetland monitoring.

PHOSPHORUS LEGISLATION UPDATE

Dan Stoddard, Assistant Director, Agronomy & Plant Protection Division MNDNR

- As of last week the bills to restrict phosphorus fertilizers use were dead for this year. Hearings in House committees went well with the bill passing in three important committees. Department of Ag staff had worked hard to build consensus among interested parties. At the end, local government representatives lobbied hard against it because they did not want to give up their authority to create their own ordinances. The lawn products retailers originally supported the legislation because there would be a uniform standard. Faced with the possibility of numerous different local ordinances, they withdrew their support. No compromise could be reached. Many people were recognized and thanked for their hard work on the legislation. At this time there are no plans to reintroduce the legislation next session.

EPA VISIT DE-BRIEF

Ron Struss

- EPA Region V staff from Chicago were scheduled to visit the Twin Cities April 10 and 11 but canceled when only one of the original five people could attend. Despite the canceled trip, good things came out of the planned visit. Most importantly, the WaterShed Partners and the work we are doing in Minnesota is now on EPA's radar screen and opportunities for information sharing are presenting themselves. EPA will be sharing a draft copy of an educational CD on the Upper Mississippi for our review later this year. Shelley Shreffler has been in contact with EPA staff to set up an informal meeting with them and any WaterShed Partner attending the Non-point Source Education Conference in Chicago in May.

URBAN STORM WATER MANAGEMENT LIST SERVE

Ron Struss

- Urban Storm Water Management list serve
Ron expressed an interest in creating an Urban Storm Water Management listserve for the Minnesota area. There are good national listserves, but nothing focused on this area. It would be set up as a

semi-moderated subscriber list. The U of MN has offered to host the site. There was interest in pursuing it and MNRUNOFF was suggested as a name.

VOLUNTEER STREAM MONITORING

Julia Frost

- There is training coming up in Anoka and Dakota Counties. April 21st training for assistant to help school groups. Press release send out has brought in interested people from the public. Newsletters are coming out monthly....

PROJECT NEMO

Julie Westerlund

- It does appear that the Met Council will be funding Project NEMO but they would like to have more input in the design of the project. There are many questions about how things would work and whether or not it would remain a WaterShed Partners project. Jay Michels has a meeting with Met Council staff later in April. The first hurdle is the Council does not like the name "Project NEMO", and wants the initiative called something different. The second problem is the "fragmented" approach. Once we get the materials put together, we will probably have to wait until next year for funding for implementation. This is not to say that NEMO couldn't take the materials and "hit the street" with funding from pilot projects and other sources. Third, who owns the materials that are developed under the grant and are they available for use if the Council decides not to continue funding the implementation of the project? Julie Westerlund, Jay Riggs, and Jay Michels have been doing some leg work on putting a "generic" presentation together. They have discovered that much of the GIS type graphic material is available through the DNR, MPCA, and Met Council, which is a "huge" leap forward. Julie Westerlund and Jay M. have given several presentations to communities, engineering firms, and other folks. NEMO has a strong interest from people who are interested in serving on a technical advisory panel, to develop follow-up presentations.
- There is going to be a steering committee meeting next Tuesday, the 24th, at 1:00 PM at the BWSR conference room. All are welcomed to attend, and any comments that folks might have should be directed to Jay Michels at jmichels@skypoint.com.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Tracy Fredin

- Working on getting the Network connected
- Rivers Institute July 24-26th. Fifty People will be there. Working with four schools in Minneapolis to use the river as an interactive
- A pre-proposal will be submitted to the McKnight Foundation on April 15. If accepted, we will submit a full grant proposal for funding the WaterShed Exhibit, Project NEMO, and the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Partnership for three years.
- Our last Met Council grant was awarded. The WaterShed Partners will receive \$110,000 over the next three years.

WATERSHED EXHIBIT UPDATE

Tracy Fredin

New Van for Watershed Exhibit!!

We would like to get another insert for Table 2 to be the entire state of Minnesota puzzle piece for those who do not live in the Metro Area. Approximately 7 new puzzle pieces would be needed to represent the state of Minnesota.

Multi media tools are coming along.

Additions to Kiosk. Functionality of “where’s your watershed” – so everything on Tables 1-3 is on the kiosk (table 4)

Reconfigure table 4 with small backdrop

Graphics needed on van for ID. Those won’t be done until much later on.

We need to come up with a new procedure for the check in and check out of Watershed Exhibit. Once the shelving is finished all tables will be stored in the van all the time. A form will be used to check in the van, and possibly a fee (how much is still to be determined) will be charged in order to use the van to cover the mileage, wear and tear costs, oil changes/tires/gas. A question that will need to be addressed is will people still be able to use their own vehicle?

There will be a training session after the May WaterShed Partners meeting for all drivers of van. The training sessions will be at Hamline and are on CD Rom with a written exam following. The certification process will take approximately 2 hours to complete. The van will possibly be available to drive for practice purposes at the training.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Shelley Shreffler

- During the November 2000 strategic planning session, WaterShed Partners developed a list of items that they felt needed improvement. At a later meeting, Partners were asked to classify them according to their priority. Items that were highest priority needing attention in the next few months were classified A; items that were high priority, but not immediate needs were classified as B; low priority items were classified C and items that were not a priority were classified D. This information was collated and the results presented to the group.

WHAT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT?

“A” ranking:

- Diversity of funding
- Rely too much on Steering Committee (too few people doing the work)
- Water Shed Exhibit is under utilized

“A/B” ranking

- Need Full Time Coordinator
- Lack of organizational diversity – both internal and external
- Outreach to other organizations
- Don’t have a well-defined set of criteria for what projects to take on.

“B” ranking

- Organizations don't feel ownership
- Improve orientation of new groups
- Lack of private sector involvement
- Don't publicize ourselves enough
- Improve check in and check out of exhibits
- Outreach to other organizations
- Get more city officials involved

“C/D” ranking

- WaterShed Partners needs to look at larger geographical picture.

Many of the “A” and “A/B” items have been or are being addressed. Two items that have not had much attention yet is outreach to other organizations, agencies, businesses or local units of government and creating a more well-defined set of criteria for what projects to take on.

NOTES

The next WaterShed Partners meeting will be Wednesday May 9, 9-11 at Hamline University. For directions, please see <http://cgee.hamline.edu/about/directions.html>. Immediately following the meeting will be the WaterShed Exhibit van drivers training and certification from 11:30-2. Let a steering committee member know if you have an agenda item for the meeting. The WaterShed Partners meet regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 9-11 a.m.

2001 STEERING COMMITTEE

Cliff Aichinger, 651-704-2089

Jay Michels, 651-351-0630

Jim Falvey, 612-334-9460 x112

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, 651-214-1950

FFI: Contact a Steering Committee member or Pamela Jessup, 651-523-2591, pjessup@gw.hamline.edu