



## MINUTES

### December 13, 2001

#### ATTENDEES

Alyssa Hawkins, Friends of the Mississippi River  
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works  
Jay Michels, MPCA  
Jeff Ledermann, MN Office of Environmental Assistan  
Jerry Spetzman, Department of Agriculture  
Kathy Kinzig, Eco Education  
Louise Watson, Ramsey-Washington Metro WD  
Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA  
Margie Vigoren, City of Plymouth  
Michele Hanson, MN DNR - VSMP

Pam Davis, St. Croix River Basin  
Pamela Jessup, Hamline -- CGEE  
Pauline Langsdorf, Met Council  
Randy Thoreson, NPS – RTCA  
Ron Struss, MN Extension Service/BWSR  
Sage Passi, RWMWD  
Sarah Riddle, Eco Education  
Shelley Shreffler, Shreffler and Associates  
Tim Reese, Hennepin Conservation District  
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE

#### **PARTNER UPDATES:**

##### **MICHELE HANSON**

There are two resources: 1. Map Your Vermillion River Watershed- Communities Connected by Water (this map is easily adaptable for use in your watershed by adding your own map into the file document.) If you have a use for this, please contact Michele at (651) 772-6152 or [Michele.hanson@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:Michele.hanson@dnr.state.mn.us)  
2. New Publication- Beyond the Suburbs: A Landowner's Guide to Conservation Management If you'd like a copy, contact Michele or Dave at [Dave.schuller@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:Dave.schuller@dnr.state.mn.us)

##### **KATHY KINZIG AND SARAH RIDDLE**

EcoEd is recruiting schools for the 2002-03 school year. They are looking for teams or teachers in 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Minneapolis and St. Paul to partner for two years to work with students and teachers on investigating local environmental issues in the vicinity of their schools. Teacher training, on-going support, funds for field trips, and mini-grants are available. FFI: Sarah @ (651) 222-7691 or [sriddle@ecoeducation.org](mailto:sriddle@ecoeducation.org)

##### **RANDY THORESON**

Tom's of Maine has given initial notice of funding assistance to river stewardship/watershed awareness programs. Randy is in process of finding out more about the grants. It is tied with a national partnership with the National Park Service. More information to follow at a future WSP meeting. FFI: Randy @ (651) 290-3004 or [RANDY\\_THORESON@NPS.GOV](mailto:RANDY_THORESON@NPS.GOV)

##### **MARGIE VIGOREN**

The City of Plymouth and Birchview Elementary School are presenting the 2002 Environmental Quality Fair from 6pm- 8pm on February 21, 2002. The emphasis of the fair is water quality and how watershed practices and behaviors affect water quality. There will be opportunities for classroom or grade-level presentations or activities in the weeks before the fair, as well as for booths, exhibits, or activities at the fair. All of these can be focused on the water quality message. We are looking for individuals and organizations to participate in any or all of these aspects of the fair. FFI: Margie @ (763) 509-5506 or [mvigoren@ci.plymouth.mn.us](mailto:mvigoren@ci.plymouth.mn.us)

## **PAM DAVIS**

The St. Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Status Report for 2001 is completed; it is also available on CD ROM. There are 5 main topics presented in the report. They are as follows: 1. Information on St. Croix decision makers 2. Physical description 3. Water resource update on St. Croix 4. Regulations 5. Key issues affecting St. Croix FFI: Pam at (651) 766-8419 or [Davi0395etc@umn.edu](mailto:Davi0395etc@umn.edu)

## **ANNE WEBER**

The St. Paul City Council passed an ordinance regulating the use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus on December 5, 2001. This ordinance restricts the use of fertilizer containing phosphorus unless a resident has a testing that phosphorous is needed or a residence is starting a new lawn. Retailers are required to post notice of this ordinance. If you would like a copy of the ordinance, please contact Anne Weber at [anne.weber@ci.st.paul.mn.us](mailto:anne.weber@ci.st.paul.mn.us)

## **LOUISE WATSON**

WaterFest 2002 will be held Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at Lake Phalen Park Pavillion and lakeshore. Water activities include canoe and kayak lessons, pontoon boat rides with watersampling demos and lakeshore tour, student performances, Youth Expo, MinnAqua, clowns, games. New activity: A map of RWMWD subwatersheds on the lawn on a slope to show flows from upland suburbs to the Mississippi River. FFI: Louise @ (651) 704-2089 or [louise@rwmwd.org](mailto:louise@rwmwd.org)

## **JAY MICHELS**

Eteam Presentations Scheduled- Developing Local Erosion

The dates for the presentations are as follows: Dakota County- 1/23 Minnehaha Creek WD- 1/23 Ramsey Washington- 2/1 Sherburne- 2/7 Washington County- 2/8 Carver County- 2/20 Scott County- 2/22 Hennepin County- 3/12 Anoka County- 3/14 Wright County- 3/21 Riley Purgatory????- TBA Slides and/or presentations on for homeowners are needed. FFI: Jay @ (651)351-0630 or [Jmichels@skypoint.com](mailto:Jmichels@skypoint.com)

## **NED BROOKS**

Event: Minnesota Sustainable Living Fair When: April 26 and 27, 2002 (Friday-Saturday) Where: Minnesota Capitol Grounds and Armory, St. Paul

**Concept:** A two-day event that provides Minnesotans with information, ideas, resources, products and motivation to live more sustainably. **Target Audience:** Adults contemplating the adoption of more sustainable lifestyle and consumer choices. Friday emphasis on secondary school students and St. Paul-based employees with a commuter and health/wellness focus. Desired attendance of 5,000 **Objectives:** Attendees learn about and adopt more ecologically sustainable practices, Attendees are more aware of the environmental impacts of their day to day choices, Build public support for initiatives and policies that bring us towards a more sustainable society **Features:** Indoor exposition area with displays of products, services, information, and practices to reduce impact in targeted areas; Outdoor exhibits of technologies and products; Concurrent workshops on specific topics; Entertainment/fun activities; Activities/displays for kids.

## **SHELLEY SHREFFLER**

Shelley has taken a new position at the McKnight Foundation. December is her last Metro Watershed Partners Meeting. She will no longer be on the Steering Committee. Congratulations to Shelley on her new job, and her wonderful contribution over the years to the WaterShed Partners! Best Wishes!

## **METRO WATERSHED PARTNERS UPDATES**

**NEMO (Jay Michels)**

There are 3 programs scheduled for Minnetonka, Lino Lakes, and Le Sueur. This Friday there is a meeting with Bayport and Afton. Jay gave NEMO presentations to both the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts and the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Both of which have received a tremendous response. The Metro WaterShed Partners will be viewing a presentation on NEMO in January.

#### **VSMP (Michelle Hanson)**

Kevin Proescheldt will be filling the Outreach Coordinator, on January 2, 2002. Kevin comes to Volunteer Stream Monitoring Partnership from the Friends of the Boundary Waters. VSMP will be spending time on increasing the number of volunteers monitoring during the upcoming year. The River Summit held at the Science Museum of Minnesota on Nov. 15, 2001 was very successful with 230 people in attendance.

#### **METRO MEDIA CAMPAIGN (Ron Struss)**

Ron submitted the grant for MEP Proposal for media campaign. Met Council would like other state agencies to contribute to this campaign idea. Ron has 10 volunteers for the work group. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting at Bachman's conference center in Lyndale 9-11:30 a.m. So far there are 20 people who will be there. The topic will be to look at point of sale information. Discussions will be about getting a poster together, or a brochure to explain phosphorous in fertilizer to vendors and the public. These have to be distributed to people who buy fertilizer.

#### **MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION GRANT (Tracy Fredin)**

The McKnight Foundation Grant budget was altered to give an increase in funding by \$5,000 to each group (NEMO, VSMP, WaterShed Exhibit). That decreased the funds to support the Partners by \$15,000. The good news is the Partners have stable funding for the next 2 years. Tracy also met with Cargill funders. They are interested in the MWP. Small mini grants of \$2,500 are available to fund water festivals. 3 points we can focus on in the upcoming year are 1. Giving a non-monetary Metro WaterShed Partners Award for doing good things to cities. Example: a city that passes a no phosphorous bill would receive the award. 2. CGEE has many old Macintosh computers that were donated to us. We would like to begin distributing them throughout the twin cities to have the WaterShed Exhibit kiosk on. We could have them set up in one location for 1-2 months at a time. This would be a pilot project-based internship at Hamline University with the College of Liberal Arts students. 3. Funding has been received from the Metropolitan Council to convert "Streets to "Streams" Video into a national version.

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE (Shelley Shreffler)**

If you are interested in serving on the 2002 Steering Committee please come to the next Steering Committee meeting on Monday December 17 from 2-4 at Hamline University CGEE.

#### **K-12 EDUCATION UPDATES (Partners)**

Louise Watson

Youth Lawn Care Certification Training in partnership with Extension Master Gardeners, 4H, School District 622, local lawn mower store owner, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, with Friends of the Mississippi River presenting similar information to the adults who (we may presume) probably are the parents of the youth taking the Certification course at the same time. The Certified Youth get a certificate, a T-shirt saying "Certified Lawn Care Specialist" and an opportunity to develop a summer lawn care business--and opportunities to promote the business at future lawn care workshop being held at the Maplewood Nature Center with Fr. of the Miss. as the presenters again. This program meets the needs of the School District, hopefully some youth, goals of public education on lawn care for water quality. It leverages relevant strengths of various community members (the organizations involved). It is another way to link in a relevant way to local school-based community. Full-time Watershed Education Specialist responsible for schools and youth outreach at RWMWD--a very busy job. RWMWD outreach to schools is a two-way street: we can enhance the education

opportunities of schools to use the environment as an integrating context for learning (EIC concept), and as we deliver this service to the school-based community of our jurisdiction, that community itself becomes and "integrating context for the delivery of the various watershed stewardship messages to the various target audiences of our public education program.

Jeff Lederman – Office of Environmental Assistance

The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance has been involved in many K-12 EE activities. We are currently funding Jean Tushie's position at the Department of Children, Families and Learning. We sponsor workshops and trainings in EE with a focus on a train-the-trainer approach. Our regional EE staff serve as a resource for educators and coordinate much of the training and workshops. OEA has provided several thousand dollars each year in grants for K-12 EE. We manage the statewide EE database called SEEK, which is a clearinghouse for EE resources in Minnesota. Lastly, we have led the effort to revise and promote Minnesota's State Plan for EE, the GreenPrint. The GreenPrint is a summary of the outcomes, needs and strategies identified by EE providers in order to meet the State Goals for EE, and gives guidance to program development for various audiences, including K-12 students and teachers.

John Bilotta University of Minnesota Extension Service Carver County Phone 952-361-1814  
email [jbilotta@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:jbilotta@co.carver.mn.us)

We complete programming in several ways right now. One is coordination with the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program that we just initiated this fall. It sounds as though all is going well for our first involved schools, and more to come on line this spring. We have excellent resources locally, combined with the VSMP staff and School District 112 to make a very promising program.

I also work in conjunction with our local SWCD to sponsor the SWCD Conservation Days held 4-5 times in the fall at the Arboretum. 5-6th grade classes are brought in to learn about usually 5-6 different environmental topics. It takes place outdoor, is interactive, and provides small group sessions. Our schools and classes attending are local. The SWCD also sponsors a poster and essay contest every year about conservation.

Lisa Gilliland Wargo Nature Center

The Wargo Nature Center's (part of Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department) mission is to create awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of natural and cultural environments and their resources. We strive to foster responsible stewardship and lifelong learning in people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds through environmental and recreational programs and actions. K-12 education is a large part of what we do – both educationally and recreationally as we see over 35,000 students annually. Most all of our programs have a water-related component. Specifically we have K-12 curricula with pre- and post-activities for school groups, have offered day-long Water Resources days, are involved with water testing of our local lake, and conduct recreational/educational programs with a water focus. Programs are conducted both at the Coon Rapids Dam and Banfill Locke Center for the Arts (both along the Mighty Miss), at Wargo, at a local park, or at the school itself. We are working on more on-line connections with schools to involve water testing, weather station/phenology, and in the field data collection. Although I cannot be at the meeting, I, and therefore Wargo, would love to be included in any WaterShed Partner involvement with K-12 education.

Tim Reese Hennepin Conservation District

HCD coordinates a River Watch program with 25 Junior and Senior High Schools.

Tracy Fredin – Hamline University Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE)

CGEE offers teachers an environmental education certificate. There will be a global rivers environmental summit this upcoming summer. CGEE is working with EIC doing an online class with Jean Tushie. Our multi-media products for kids include the Waters to the Sea CD Rom. We also have an online course for teachers for Waters to the Sea. Alex the Frog media line with videos, and more CD Roms explaining the

Water Cycle. We offer free Minnesota Frog posters and \$10 for Frog Educators Guide. CGEE offers project based learning including the Rivers of Life and Mississippi Adventure through partnering with the National Audubon Society.

Lyndon Torstenson – Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA)

MNRRA connects kids to the river with direct experiences. Big River Journey for ages 4-6. Learning stations are set up on paddle boats. It was discovered that a longer term effort is needed, projects need to be designed for several weeks or months to get the students to understand. River trunks were developed to be in St. Paul Public Schools. MNRRA has birding boats that are not age specific, but kids love them.

Pauline Langsdorf – Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Teacher training workshops for nonpoint source pollution are put on by the Cairns and funded by Met Council. These workshops for teachers are very popular and always have a waiting list. There is usually 4 training sessions per year, and includes other people besides teachers. The Envirosapes are being used in schools, sometimes they are brought out by Met Council staff and set up. Staff at the Met Council are largely encouraged to sign up to volunteer for educational experiences. The Met Council has developed a new Waste Water Program on their Website. It's available also on CD Rom and hard copy, but the website is the most useful. <http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/kids> Currently the Met Council is trying to purchase a new facility next to the Empire Waste Water Treatment Plant to do Volunteer Stream Monitoring. Tours of the Waste Water treatment plant help facilitate learning about storm sewers and sanitary sewers. Met Council is also working with Friends of the Mississippi River for same area to develop wetlands to make it useful to the entire community and used by schools.

Sarah Riddle

Eco Education was founded in 1991 as a nonprofit 501c(3) organization. Our mission is to foster within young individuals the appreciation, knowledge, values, and skills necessary to inspire ecologically-sound decisions and actions. There are currently 3 programs. The current focus is the combination of two of our programs to create our Model Schools in Urban Environmental Education Initiative. City Connections is an interdisciplinary curriculum created to fill the need for environmental education with an urban focus. It provides middle school level (5th-8th) environmental education and training with specific references to the Twin Cities. Urban Stewards is a service-learning program for middle school students in core city neighborhoods. The program encourages students to initiate and lead their own environmental improvement projects. Teachers and Eco Education staff serve as facilitators who connect out-of-classroom experiences to the curriculum. The Eco Outreach Speaker Network brings environmental professionals into K-12 classrooms and other learning settings across Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. Our speakers actively involved children in presentations -- from singing, dancing and drawing, to the use of live animals.

Shelley Shreffler facilitated a discussion about the role of K-12 education in the coming year for Metro WaterShed Partners. Questions raised included: is there an interest in working together on K-12 education? How would people like to work together? What can we do as a group? What is the role of the education committee? Ideas discussed were create a clearinghouse of opportunities and who is doing what, create a more effective collaboration (avoid or decrease overload on teachers), more strategic planning of how we use our resources, map out the location of K-12 education projects - where is there a lot of activity, where are the gaps. Metro WaterShed Partners could provide support for teachers to be able to do more; facilitate relationships with teachers (an environmental education network). We could hold a workshop for ourselves on how to set up an effective K-12 partnerships.

## **YEAR IN REVIEW (Shelley Shreffler)**

Highest Priority Goals:

1. Diversify Funding (received McKnight Foundation Grant)
2. Share the Workload (more partners were involved with the exhibit)
3. Increase the use of the WaterShed Exhibit (220,000 people saw the exhibit this year versus 88,000 last year).

#### High Priority

1. Increase organizational diversity
2. define criteria for taking on new projects
3. improve orientation of new members
4. staffing/coordinator needed
5. outreach to other organizations

#### NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday December 17, 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: Wednesday January 9, 9am**, at the Dept. of Ag., St. Paul. 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, 9-11am.

#### 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, 651-766-4192  
Shelley Shreffler, 651-221-4462  
Jerry Spetzman, 651-297-7269  
Ron Struss, 651-215-1950

**FFI:** Contact a Steering Committee member or Pamela Jessup, 651-523-2591 / [pajessup@gw.hamline.edu](mailto:pajessup@gw.hamline.edu)