



## MINUTES Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001

### ATTENDEES

Alison Fong, Minneapolis Environmental Mgmt.  
Alyssa Hawkins, Friends of the Mississippi River  
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works  
April Rust, MN DNR – Project WET  
Barb Luikkonen, UM Water Resource Center  
Chris Elvrum, Met Council Environmental Services  
Irene Jones, Friends of the Mississippi River  
Jane Dusek, Capitol Region WaterShed District  
Jay Michels, MECA  
Jeff Lederman, Mn. OEA  
Jerry Spetzman, Department of Agriculture  
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of MN  
Kathy Kinzig, Eco Education  
Katie Galloway, Friends of Mississippi River  
Louise Watson, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed D

Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA  
Marcia Holmberg, Minneapolis Park & Rec Board  
Maria Olson, Great River Greening  
Michele Hanson, MN DNR  
Pam Davis, St. Croix River Basin  
Pamela Jessup, Center for Global Environ. Educat.  
Pauline Langsdorf, Met Council  
Randy Thoreson, NPS – RTCA  
Rich Cairn, Cairn and Associates  
Ron Struss, MN Extension Service/BWSR  
Sage Passi, Ramsey Washington Metro WSD  
Sarah Riddle, Eco Education  
Shelley Shreffler, Shreffler and Associates  
Tim Reese, Hennepin Conservation District  
Tracy Fredin, Center for Global Environ. Education

### **PARTNER UPDATES:**

#### **PAM DAVIS**

Announcing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on Feb. 21, 2002 at the Trollhaugen Convention Center in Dresser, WI. Protecting the St. Croix: Reducing and Managing Nutrients and Sediments. Population Growth Dynamics in the St. Croix Basin followed by breakout sessions on urban runoff, point source pollutants, groundwater, monitoring, agriculture and local water resource planning. \$40 admission. Questions contact: John Haack, UWEX St. Croix Basin Education, 751-635-7406.

#### **BARB LUIKKONEN**

MN Water 2002 and MN. Lakes and Rivers present “Working Together in a Climate of Change” conference April 17-20, 2002 at the St. Cloud Convention Center. Call for papers due Dec. 7, 2001. Registration needs to be sent out in February 2002. FFI: Contact Barb 612-625-9256, email: [liukk001@umn.edu](mailto:liukk001@umn.edu)

#### **APRIL RUST**

1. Project Wet/Wild/Learning Tree Workshop at MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington on Jan. 25-26, 2002. For more information go to:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/calendar/showcal.jsp?keywords=&month=1&year=2002>

2. Project WET/WILD/Learning Tree facilitator workshop at Underwater Adventures and MVNWR in Bloomington. Feb. 7-8, 2002 -- Free! For more information go to:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/calendar/showcal.jsp?keywords=&month=2&year=2002>

## **IRENE JONES**

Friends of the Mississippi River is having their annual holiday party on December 13<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m. at their office in downtown St. Paul 46 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Everyone is invited to attend.

## **LOUISE WATSON**

Sage Passi is now working for Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District.

## **SHELLY SHREFFLER**

There will be a holiday party following the Metro WaterShed Partners meeting Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. The agenda items will be shortened to provide time for the party.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **METRO WATERSHED PARTNER UPDATES:**

#### **NEMO (Jay Michels)**

NEMO is in the process of setting up actual presentations. The cities of Lino Lakes, Minnetonka, and North Field are all set to go. Afton, Birchwood and Woodbury will be the upcoming project targets. It's moving along.

#### **VSMP (Michele Hanson)**

The River Summit Conference will be held on November 15, 2001 at the Science Museum of Minnesota. There are 230+ people expected to attend. VSMP will be hiring a new person hopefully by December 1<sup>st</sup>. There were a lot of teachers that participated in the training sessions this fall.

#### **WaterShed Exhibit (Pamela Jessup)**

The WaterShed van was brought in to the mechanics last month for a maintenance check. All is working well. The exhibit calendar is open from now through the new year, so feel free to reserve the exhibit for any events that it would be appropriate at. There are 2 kiosks set up in the City of Minnetonka for 2 months for the public to use. One is at the City Hall in the community center, and the other is at the Ridgedale Library. One goal we are working towards is getting the kiosk program installed on old Macintosh computers to distribute around the metro area.

#### **Statewide Exhibit (Ron Struss)**

The statewide exhibit committee is proposing 3 new state-wide inserts for the Watershed Exhibit. Specifically looking at demonstrating how to manage nutrients in a shoreline area. The proposal will include another van to hold the new exhibit. The Center for Global Environmental Education at Hamline University would be responsible for the storage of the exhibit and the fiscal agents.

### **STEERING COMMITTEE (SHELLEY SHREFFLER)**

There are currently 8 people on the steering committee, which meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. The steering committee handles the day-to-day work on the Watershed Partners. If you would like to serve on the steering committee, please let a steering committee member know in December. All interested persons are invited to attend the Steering Committee meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> where the 2002 Steering Committee will be selected. If more than 10 people are interested then the large group will vote in January. Feel free to ask the current committee members about serving. The current members are:

Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD 651-704-2089  
Jay Michels, MECA 651-351-0630  
Jim Falvey, MRBA 612-334-9460 x112

Michele Hanson, VSMP 651-766-4192  
Shelley Shreffler, Shreffler and Associates 651-657-9307  
Jerry Spetzman, MN Dept. of Agriculture 651-297-7269

Connie Fortin, Fortin Consulting 763-478-3606 Ron Struss, BWSR 651-215-1950  
Tracy Fredin, CGEE 651-523-3105

#### **MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION GRANT (TRACY FREDIN)**

Metro WaterShed Partners has been approved for a 2-year grant of \$150,000. We have the first half of \$75,000 right now, and the last half will be sent to us next year. We will be sending them a summary of past projects, and how we are managing the funds for the next 2 years. There was a meeting immediately following the WSP addressing budget concerns. The distribution of the grant money will be presented at the next WSP meeting.

#### **METRO MEDIA CAMPAIGN (RON STRUSS)**

The original “Think Clean Water” media campaign began in 1999 and went well. An October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting was held to review the 1999 campaign and decide whether a 2002 revival was a good idea. The group supported to reviving the campaign and a grant proposal went in to the Metropolitan Environmental Program (MEP) for the following set of 2002-2003 activities: 1) Create “Think Clean Water II” media materials, 2) Placement of “Think Clean Water II” materials in media, 3) Create and distribute clean water images and publications on CD, 3) Electronic distribution of key education materials to cities, 4) Train garden & home improvement store staff, 5) Create and distribute in-store education materials, 6) Include WQ education messages in existing TV shows, 7) Develop celebrity TV spot concept, secure funding, 8) Evaluate campaign and develop continuation strategy. A part time position to coordinate the campaign is also being recommended. The grant request of \$180,000 was more than what MEP was expecting, and it is likely that less will be offered. Additional funding will be sought from sources other than MEP. The fiscal agent for the funds will be the Center For Global Environmental Education - Hamline University if we are awarded the grant. Ron Struss will be recruiting a 10 – 12 member steering committee to move the project forward.”

#### **CLEAN WATER ACT 30TH ANNIVERSARY (SHELLEY SHREFFLER)**

Was moved to the December Agenda

#### **DEPT. OF CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES & LEARNING PRESENTATION ABOUT EIC (JEAN TUSHIE)**

EIC (Environment as the Integrating Context for Learning) The goal of the EIC model is to use a school’s surroundings and community as a framework in which students can construct their own learning, guided by teachers and administrators using proven education practices. These practices include the following: integrated, interdisciplinary instruction, hands-on learning experiences, often using problem-solving and issue-based activities, team-teaching strategies, learner-centered, constructivist (student construct learning with teacher as coach) approaches, knowledge, understanding and appreciation of their community’s environment and natural surroundings. Jean provides training and ongoing support for k12 teachers. FFI: contact Jean Tushie EIC coordinator at 651-582-8336 or [jean.tushie@state.mn.us](mailto:jean.tushie@state.mn.us)

#### **HOW ARE PARTNERS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN K-12 EDUCATION? ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Jerry Spetzman, Minnesota Department of Agriculture 651-297-7269,

Several Watershed Partners organizations, including the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, were involved in the Phalen Stewards and Eastview Highschool projects. Both projects introduced watershed and water quality protection concepts into classrooms. A primary outcome of the projects was the development of curriculum designed to teach 5th - 6th grades, and high school students these concepts. The curriculum includes information and service learning lessons along with suggestions on how to tap into the resources of the surrounding

community.

Rich and Susan Cairn - Cairn & Associates 3715 45th Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55406-2910 (612) 722-5806; 722-6062 fax email: [cairn@umn.edu](mailto:cairn@umn.edu) website: <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/action/>

Cairn & Associates received an Environmental Trust Fund grant to help teachers meet Minnesota Graduation Standards through water quality monitoring. Many teachers and monitoring networks have expressed strong interest, including the major networks in Greater Minnesota. We urge all water quality educators working with K-12 to find ways to help teachers meet Grad Standards through environmental projects. It builds essential legitimacy and accountability for our educational work. In January, Cairn & Associates launched the Watershed Action Web Site (<http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/action>) as a one-stop-shop for educators to get organizing water quality-related service-learning projects. A PLEA: If you develop or discover new resources (virtual or real-world) to which the WAWS site should be referring people, please alert Rich Cairn.

Jim Heintzman; Educational Materials Manager The Science Museum of Minnesota 651.221.9413 website: <http://www.smm.org>

The Science Museum's school outreach program does direct programming with over 180,000 students in their schools every year, all over the state. About 200,000 students come to our building, which includes the Mississippi River Gallery, on field trips every year. The school outreach numbers include about 70,000 using our Museum Trunk program; the rest are for school assemblies and residencies (We have Water programs for all three.) We rent a variety of trunks on different topics, including Water, for two-week periods. They are shipped and picked up automatically by commercial shipper. The focus is on interesting 3D objects, models, engaging activities, and other supplementary resources that will help teachers who are teaching that topic. If we were to develop a Watershed Trunk, it could include some of the models and props I brought (or modifications of them and new ideas), classroom activities, and watershed maps printed to order for each school from our GIS map lab, as well as resources and information about all of the k-12 programs available from the Watershed Partners-all in one trunk.

Marcia Homberg; Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board; 612-303-7723

*Billy Bass and Crystal Clear Program:* Billy and Crystal are two costumed characters who provide educational programs on water resources, watersheds and non-point source pollution. Billy and Crystal visit elementary schools, both public and private, throughout the City of Minneapolis.

*Catch Basin Stenciling:* Catch basin stenciling programs in the City of Minneapolis are implemented by the Friends of the Mississippi River. The Friends develop and coordinate stenciling programs with schools, neighborhood groups and park recreation centers throughout the City of Minneapolis.

*Community Outreach:* Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Environmental Operations Staff attend community festivals and events citywide with information on non-point source pollution. Educational displays are set up and printed information is available at each event attended.

*Neighborhood Naturalist Programs:* Park Board Naturalists present interactive programs on watersheds and non-point source pollution to youth at recreation centers throughout the city.

*Public Service Announcements:* In 2001 Park Board staff worked with Eller Media and Transtop to develop educational public service announcements on the sources of non-point source pollution. The PSA's were in the form of billboards and bus shelter posters and were displayed throughout the City of Minneapolis. Graphic images for this campaign were borrowed from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Sage Passi – RWMWD

Educational outreach is being planned/implemented to offer teachers and classroom support/service learning instruction on non-source point pollution, water quality monitoring and restoration efforts for East St.

Paul (currently most heavy at Farnsworth) but also being geared toward schools in the Phalen Chain of Lakes

area to include Johnson High School, Prosperity, Frost Lake, Phalen Lake, Ames, Eastern Heights, Mississippi Magnet and Parkway Elementary Schools to coincide with the Watershed's 5 year restoration and water quality efforts in progress at Lake Phalen. Some collaboration going on with Friends of the Mississippi River for teacher trainings for these schools. Another major focus is in the Battle Creek Area. We are working with Battle Creek Elementary School with their 3 year Environment as an Integrating Context magnet focus and with a growing body of teachers at Battle Creek Middle School. Two thrusts there are the Watershed's biomonitoring efforts at the wetland near the elementary school and increasing citizen awareness of sediment pollution and restoration efforts in the Battle Creek neighborhood (school projects). Connections are also being made with Harding High School, Hazel Park Middle School and Hayden Heights Elementary School. In District 622 the Watershed is providing support to Skyview, Cowern, Richardson, Castle, Beaver Lake and other schools in the Oakdale, Maplewood, Woodbury area to increase community awareness of wetland preservation and storm sewer run-off issues.

April Rust, Project WET 651-297-4951

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is an international, interdisciplinary, water science and education program for formal and non-formal educators of K12 students. The goal of the Project WET program is to facilitate and promote the awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through the development and dissemination of classroom ready teaching aids and the establishment of state and internationally sponsored Project WET programs. The Project WET Curriculum and Activity guide is a collection of over 90 innovative activities that are hands-on and fun. They are designed with a commitment to state, provincial, and national educational standards.

Jane Dusek - Capitol Region Watershed District

The CRWD is working with Eco-Education in Saint Paul in K-12 education efforts. The District will also soon launch its Stewardship Grant program.

Alicia Hawkins Friends of the Mississippi River Watershed Education Coordinator (p) 651.222.2193

FMR works with k-12 schools as part of our Storm Drain Stenciling Program. Schools that participate are given at least a one-hour introduction to storm water and the stenciling project, hopefully connecting them to the resource so they feel invested in the project. It's a great way to teach students about an issue and then give them an easy and accessible action step. This project is free to schools, requires no transportation and can be a stand-alone activity or can be accompanied by extra classroom activities, presentations and projects about storm water. The project operates from April through October and in 2001 we worked with over 1500 students in St. Paul, Minneapolis and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Visit us on the web at <http://www.fmr.org>

Lyndon Torstenson Mississippi National River & Recreation Area 651-290-3030, x232

The Mississippi National River & Recreation Area (MNRRA) coordinates and participates in partnership education programs for K-12 teachers, students and school district administrators in order to connect kids to the science and heritage of the river, and promote stewardship. "Big River Journey" (BRJ) offers teacher workshops, the Big River Teacher Guide, river field trips with hands-on learning stations, classroom activities, an art contest, and service learning connections for grades 4-6. BRJ involves over 30 schools, 120 teachers, and 3200 students annually, and activities are connected to MN Grad Standards. Another partnership program, "Birding Boat," offers on-river field trips with hands-on experiences that are open to any school age. Riverboat trunks for use by classroom groups on paddleboats are under development.

Ron Struss, Board of Water and Soil Resources

The Metro Children's Water Festival is an annual event that provides a day of water resources education to 1,200 fifth graders from all over the seven county metro area. Sponsored by MAGWA (Metro Area

Groundwater Association) and heavily supported by volunteers from local, county, regional, state, and national conservation agencies and organizations. Classrooms go through several learning stations that cover all aspects of water and have large group sessions where they learn from the Science Museum, Charlie McGuire the singing Ranger, and Meteorologist Paul Douglas. Classrooms are provided the Water Source curriculum before the event. Pre and Post testing have shown a 21% increase in knowledge two years in a row. Donations support the event's \$20,000 annual budget that allows the event to provide free bus transportation and lunch. Joe Enfield, Carver County Environmental Services, is the current Committee Chair. Joe's number is 952-361-1801.

**NOTES:**

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Mon, Dec. 17, 2-4 p.m.**, at the Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE), Hamline University 1467 Hewitt Ave. St. Paul. 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, Dec, 12, 9-11 a.m.**, at the Department of Agriculture, 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.

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