



MINUTES

February 14, 2001

ATTENDEES

Alison Fong, Mpls Environmental Mgmt.
April Rust, MN DNR – Project WET
Barb Liukkonen, UofM Extension Service
Blake Radner, HECUA
Cheryl Groom,
Daniel Huff, Dakota Co. EE Program
Gregg Thompson
Irene Jones, Friends of the Mississippi River
Jane Dusek, Capitol Region WSD
Janell Miersch, Rice Creek Watershed Dis.
Jay Michels, MECA
Jeff Ledermann, MN OEA
Joan Ellis, Minnehaha Creek WSD
John Bilotta, Dept. of Planning and Zoning

Julie Frost, Volunteering Stream Monitoring
Louise Watson, RWMWD
Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA
Marcey West
Margie Vegoran
Mary Gullickson, UofM Extension Service
Michelle Hanson, MN DNR Wtrshd. Protect.
Ron Struss, MN Extension Service/BWSR
Shelley Shreffler, SP Neighborhood Energy
Tim Reese, Hennepin Conservation District
Tracy Fallon, Hamline – CGEE
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE
Pam Davis, St. Croix River Basin Resources

PARTNER UPDATES:

Jay

- MECA is hosting Project NEMO Scoping and Train the Trainer Workshops at Hamline University February 26 and 27. The Scoping Session will be on the 26th, and the Train the Trainer Session will be the following day.
- MECA is also hosting the 12th annual Erosion Control Conference on March 8-9th at the Doubletree Park Place Hotel in Minneapolis, MN.
- There will also be the Low Impact Development Seminar at the Royal Cliff Conference Center in Eagan, MN on March 14th and 15th. For information about event, contact Jay Michels at 651-351-0630 or by e-mail at jmichels@skypoint.com.

Pam

- The 2nd Annual Workshop: Protecting the St. Croix: Reducing & Managing Nutrients & Sediments will be held at the Trollhaugen Convention Center in Dresser, WI on February 22. She has called for the Watershed Partners to be a big part of the nutrient management. For more information, contact Pam Davis at 651-439-7122 or Pam_DaviseNPS.gov.

Daniel

- Carol Henderson from the DNR will be giving a talk about Landscaping for Water Quality and Wetlands at the Burnsville Civic Center, Council Meeting Room, 100 Civic Center Pkwy, Burnsville on Wed., March 14th from 2-9p.m.

- Dr. Judy Helgen of the PCA will be giving a talk on Vernal Pools and Critters That Live in Wetlands. She will be speaking in the Eagan City Hall, 3830 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan, on Wed., February 21st from 7-9 pm.
- Steve Weston of the MN Ornithologists Union will be speaking on Wetland Birds in the Inver Grove Heights City Hall, 8150 Barbara Ave., Inver Grove Heights. This will be held on Wed., April 25th from 7-9p.m. For further information on any of the above events, contact Daniel Huff at 651-480-7734 or Daniel.huff@co.dakota.mn.us

Jeff

- The MN OEA is working to update their database. Please let Jeff know if you're wanting to rejoin. There will also be the annual conference in August and you can still make a presentation if you'd like.

Irene

- There is an opening for the Volunteer Programs Coordinator position. The expected start date is March 19-30. FFI: Irene at 651-222-2193 or ijones@fmr.org

Blake Radner

- HECUA announcement. There will be a conference about environmental politics.

April

- Project WET will host the "Make a Splash Water Festival" on September 21, 2001. The location of this event has been decided upon and will be at the Old Mill State Park in the NW corner of MN. There will be approximately 500 4th grade students.
- A workshop to highlight the new "Conserve Water" curriculum for environmental educators will take place at William O'Brien State Park in Marine-on-St. Croix on March 8th from 9-4 p.m. The curriculum is for grades 6-12 and was developed by the National Project WET to focus on water conservation. The cost is ten dollars.
- The Project WET, WILD, Learning Tree for resource professionals will be held at Wilder Forest in Marine On St. Croix, MN on February 28th from 8-4:30. FFI: April at 651-297-4951 or april.rust@dnr.state.mn.us.

Tim

- The River Watch Annual Reports for 2000 are available. To request a copy, contact Tim Reese at HCD- tim@hcd.hennepin.mn.us

Shelley

- The US and Illinois Environmental Protection Agencies and the Chicago Botanical Gardens will be hosting the 2nd National Conference on Nonpoint Source Pollution and Education Programs in Chicago, IL at the Congress Plaza Hotel in downtown Chicago. The dates are May 14-17th. Shelley Shreffler will be giving a presentation on the Watershed Partners at the conference. FFI: Bob Kirschner, Conference Coordinator bkirschn@chicagobotanic.org

Lyndon

- A Star Tribune newspaper supplement for kids on the subject of the Mississippi River and preventing run-off pollution is being developed through Wilderness Inquiry and the

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. The supplement, called the “Mighty Mississippi Explorers Guide,” will be distributed to 18,000 students grades 4-8 in the Twin City Metro Area in April. The supplement will connect the “Mighty Mississippi Passport,” and classroom teachers will receive information about the Watershed Education Network. FFI: Lyndon at lyndon_torstenson@nps.gov.

Louise

- A free family celebration of watershed at the WaterFest 2001 will be held at Tanners Lake Park May 19th, 2001 from 10a.m.- 3p.m. FFI: Louise Watson 704-2089

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Volunteer Stream Monitoring Partnership (Julia and Mary)
 - Thanks to all of those who attended the large group meeting on February 12th that updated partners on the progress VSMP has made in the last year and a half. Julia will be creating an update that should be out soon.
 - Chemical/physical monitoring meeting will be held on February 20th from 9-11am in room 5-4 at MPCA. This meeting will cover both chemical and physical monitoring methods, Quality Assurance and Quality Control measures, and data use. If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact Mary at gulli021@umn.edu
- Project NEMO (Jay)
 - Members Kevin Bigalke, Jay Riggs, and Julie Westerlund, and Jay Michels traveled to Connecticut on a grant from the DNR to visit with the original Project NEMO group on the 20th of January and then bring them here in February. They had a wonderful time. On February 26th, 6pm, at Hamline University, the Project NEMO group will host a Scoping Session and then on the 27th, 8am, there will be a day-long Train the Trainers. FFI: Jay at 651-351-0630.
 - The targeted grants have been slowed down due to the Met Council. Hopefully they'll go through soon.
- Education Committee (Tracy Fallon)
 - The Metro WaterShed Education Network (MWEN) is moving forward. We are now waiting for SEEK to get the database going before the website can get up and running.
 - The targeted grant (for the amount of \$70,000) for the Watershed Partners has pushed through the Met Council and has been given to the council for approval later this month.

WATERSHED PARTNERS BUDGET (Tracy Fredin)

- We currently have \$13,000 for a budget. This will be used up very quickly however, if we make the changes to the exhibit. This will be easier once we receive the funds from the Met Council.
- Tracy noted that the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) has put forth a challenge to the WaterShed Partners in order to raise the funds for a new transportation system for the WaterShed Exhibit. For every dollar pledged by other WaterShed Partners, RWMWD will match up to \$5,000! This \$10,000 or more will allow

the Partners to purchase and outfit a van, making it easier to transport the exhibit from event to event. However, we will not receive these benefits if we do not contribute. If your organization can contribute, please contact Tracy Fallon (651-523-2591). Checks can be made payable to Hamline University, with a sub-memo to the Watershed Partners. Invoices can be sent if necessary. Tracy will be working on a letter to send out to the different Partners' organizations as an extra reminder. Jay Michels has talked to MECA and they have allotted \$200 for this purpose.

EXHIBIT DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY TASK FORCE (Tracy Fredin)

- We would like to see more interactive pieces for the kiosk with perhaps more computer activities and to have table 2 include all of Minnesota and part of Western Wisconsin. This can be accomplished with the funds from the Met Council.
- Part of the delivery task force is to figure out an easier way to transport the shed. One way of doing this is to purchase a van in which the shed exhibit will be stored and then the members can check out the entire van with the shed already in it. Tracy has looked into some prices and thinks that the cost for a used van will be around \$6,000. The McKnight foundation may be giving \$5,000, however if we show that other funders are behind this cause, getting the money from McKnight may be easier. The Met Council funds will also be decreasing over the coming years. The competitive grant that was applied for was turned down by the Met Council. However, Tracy has hopes that the van will be ready by May 15th.
- Part of the money that is allotted from the Met Council grant is for the employment of a summer coordinator whose job it would be to take the shed to underserved areas in the Metro Area.

EPA VISIT UPDATE AND CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS (Ron Struss)

- Five members from the EPA will tentatively be visiting the Twin Cities on April 10th and 11th. These dates overlap with the April Watershed Partners meeting. We will use this advantage to update both parties as to who is doing what and to hopefully reduce the duplication of efforts. It will also be advantageous in that they will be able to associate names with faces when we apply for grants through the EPA. There is a tentative dinner and panel discussion at Hamline University with the EPA members. The "Tour Team" (Jay, Michelle, Pauline, Julia, Julie, and Barb) will be coordinating their stay. Any further questions can be brought to Ron at 651-215-1950.

WATERSHED PARTNERS STRATEGIC PLANNING FOLLOW-UP

- ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE (non-profit vs. pursuing the Memorandum of Understanding with Hamline)
 - ADVANTAGES
 - IF NON-PROFIT- Have legal and distinct identity; more long term control of what happens to the organization; name protection stronger
 - PURSUING MEMORANDUM- all the financial benefits of being a part of Hamline University
 - DISADVANTAGES

- IF NON-PROFIT- Higher monetary costs because of the disassociation with Hamline; more legal responsibility; hire staff?; have to deal with bylaws
- PURSUING MEMORANDUM- what happens if Tracy Fredin leaves Hamline?; not as much name protection control; must go through the Hamline grant system; we have no legal standing
- After discussing the pros and cons of the change, there was a consensus among those who felt comfortable in voting that our organization will pursue the memorandum of understanding with Hamline University. Daniel pointed out the option of still looking into the requirements of becoming a non-profit in case this option became a necessity in the future.
- A real-estate company in Minneapolis legally owns the name “Watershed Partners.” After a meeting with the Secretary of State, our new name may be “Metro Watershed Partners.”
- "WHAT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT"
 - Members went through and we took count of the number of votes for each A, B, C, and D. They are ranked through the following system:
 - A = High Priority for the WaterShed Partners
 - B = Priority, but not immediate.
 - C = Low Priority
 - D = Should not be a priority for this group
 - FFI: contact Shelley Shreffler at 651-221-4462

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Mon, February 26, 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, March 14 , 9am**, at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. For directions, please see http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/meetings/mda_directions.htm. 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 Erika Halvorsen, 651-523-812; ehalvorsen@gw.hamline.edu