



MINUTES

March 14, 2001

ATTENDEES

Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works
Christina Peterson, City of Bloomington
Cliff Aichinger, Ramsey-Wash. WSD
Connie Fortin, Fortin Consulting, Inc.
Jaime Sherbon, VSMP
Jane Dusek, Capitol Region WSD
Jeff Ledermann, MN OEA
Jim Falvey, Mississippi River Basin All.
Joan Ellis, Minnehaha Creek WSD
John Bilotta, UofM Extension- Carver Co.
Jon Steadland, Minneapolis Env. Mngmt.
Julia Frost, VSMP

Julie Westerlund, MN DNR
Tom Ibson, MNRRRA
Marcia Holmberg, Minneapolis Park & Rec.
Maria Olson, Great River Greening
Mary Gullickson, UofM Extension Service
Randy Thoreson, National Park Service
Sage Passi, Eco-Education
Shelley Shreffler, SP Neighborhood Energy
Theron Shaw, Planet CPR
Tim Reese, Hennepin Conservation District
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE
Pam Davis, St. Croix River Basin Resources

PARTNER UPDATES:

Pam

- Gave a brief update about the The 2nd Annual Workshop: Protecting the St. Croix: Reducing & Managing Nutrients & Sediments that was on the 22nd of February. She said that it went well, and would like to continue to have the Watershed Partners to be a big part of the nutrient management.

Randy

- MN Lakes/ Rivers Council of MN will be hosting a conference May 3-5 at the Craguns Resort.
- The River Managers' Society will be hosting the rivers conference May 7-10 at the National Wildlife Refuge/ Hilton in Bloomington. FFI on the agendas and topics, please see the MN Lakes/ Rivers Council of MN and the River Managers Society's websites. You can also contact Randy Thoreson at: randy_thoreson@nps.gov

John

- The study of potential projects of the bluffs and ravine of the Minnesota River is complete, and local landowner workshops. They will be taking place the spring and fall 2001 and will take place in Carver County. FFI: John Bilotta- 952-361-1814 or jbilotta@co.carver.mn.

Sage

- There is a job opening at Eco-Education. Please contact Sage Passi at 651-222-7691 for further information.

Mary

- The workshop, Beyond The Pond: Essential Internet Tools for Water Instruction, will be held at the Science Museum on April 25th and 26th. It is aimed at secondary teachers who would like to receive hands-on experience with the latest internet-based water monitoring data and tools. The application deadline is March 12, 2001. For more information, please leave a message for Barb Peichel, Minnesota Sea Grant, at bpeichel@d.umn.edu or 612-624-7456, or Dawn Cameron, Science Museum of Minnesota, at dcameron@smm.org or 651-221-4747.

Tim

- Margie Klein needs someone to host the watershed exhibit at the Carp Festival which will be held at the Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park on June 6th from 10-4. If you're able to help out, please call Margie Klein at 952-474-4822 x704.
- There will also be the Annual River Watch Training Day- please reply to Tim by March 30th at 763-420-2157 or timehed.hennepin.mn.us

Theron Shaw

- This spring, Planet CPR and MN partners will be installing Grate Mate filters to prevent oils and sediments from washing down parking lot drains and into streams, lakes and rivers. They hope to install the filters in the Twin Cities region and greater Minnesota. Please visit the Planet CPR website at: www.planetcpr.org

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

Julia

- VSMP and CGEE are offering a 2 credit graduate course for teachers and community monitors entitled "Stream Ecology." It will be held at Hamline August 13-17 from 9-4. Applications will be available April 1st.
- Carolyn Dindorf will be at the Speaker Forum on April 12th speaking on "Buffers and Bioengineering- Stream Bank Restoration." There will also be dinner. FFI: Julia Frost at 612-624-7460 or jaf@fw.umn.edu

LETTERS TO PARTNERS (Cliff)

- There was need expressed last meeting to have a form letter available to give to the Partner's companies to ask for money for the Watershed Partners. Ron is still in the creating stage, but the letters will be sent out soon through e-mail. We have already received \$2,000, but we still need more. Please continue thinking how you can find more money. Cliff also noted, that the money does not need to be given right away. It is possible to make the commitment now, but write the check later.

TIMELINE FOR MOU AND NAME REGISTRATION (Cliff)

- Cliff simply noted that this process should be completed by May 1st.

EPA VISIT UPDATE (Julia and Jeff)

- 5 members from EPA Region 5 have been invited to visit the Twin Cities on April 10th and 11th. The hopeful outcome of their visit will be:
 - Better utilization of EPA Region V educational resources in MN
 - Better utilization of MN developed resources throughout EPA region V
 - Opportunities for collaboration with EPA Region V and others in region
- There will be a dinner held at Hamline with discussion with the EPA guests and also a panel discussion with the topic, *What does it take for people to take action?* The dinner will be open to all Watershed Partners. Julia will be sending out further information about the dinner, as well as the finalized itinerary. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Struss at 651-215-1950.

PHOSPHORUS UPDATE (Cliff)

- Two new bills have been introduced within the last week regarding the amount of phosphorus in fertilizer. House File #1508 is a statewide bill and calls for 0% phosphorus. (Authors: Higgins, Anderson, Krentz, Ring, Frederickson) House File #1524 has a metro area focus and calls for phosphorus levels no greater than 3%. (Authors: Higgins, Krentz, Price, Dille, Pappas) If have you input on the bill, please contact the authors.

NEMO UPDATE (Julie Westerlund)

- The 2 day conference (The Scoping Session and the Train the Trainers Session) went very well. There were 36 attendees for the Scoping Session and 55 attendees at the Train the Trainers Session. There has been great interest expressed in Project NEMO. They hope to keep the momentum moving forward despite a lack of immediate funding.
- The Met Council has not taken action on the NEMO proposal for targeted MEP funds, and there is no indication of when a decision will be made. The Metro NEMO steering committee will be organizing a letter writing project to show the Met Council

the breadth and depth of support for Project NEMO. If you are interested, in writing a letter of support, please contact Jay Michels. If you have any connections with the Met Council, voice your support for the Metro Project NEMO effort now!

- There will be a meeting held to discuss the pilot project development on Monday, March 19th, 9-11 am at the BWSR Conference Room- 1 West Water St., St. Paul. Although it is meant for the Steering Committee and Pilot Partners, anyone is welcome to attend and give their input. FFI: Julie Westerlund or Jay Michels.

EXHIBIT VAN & DISCUSSION ABOUT CHECK OUT PROCEDURE (Tracy)

- The van has been purchased for \$3,200 from the Science Museum.
 - Shelves will have to be inserted into the van to hold the exhibit.
- The van will be covered under Hamline's insurance policy.
 - Hamline has agreed to allow non-Hamline employees to drive van. However, in order to do so, you must go through a van driving training session. It's a simple two hour process. Tracy will be sending out more information regarding this soon.
- On March 28th at 9 am, The Exhibit Task Force will meet at Hamline to go over the logistics (check in/out procedures, new insert for table two, more kiosks, what areas we will focus on this summer, how we will serve these areas- volunteers, create stipends?, etc.). Anyone is more than welcome to attend. FFI: Tracy Fredin 651-523-3105

MET COUNCIL GRANT UPDATE (Tracy)

- The vote will take place next week (3/19- 3/25), however, it's pretty sure that we will receive \$110,000 over 3 years. This is less than the \$170,000 asked for, however it will provide us with needed money. It's estimated that we will receive \$69,500 this year, and then \$40,000 each year for the following 2 years.
- It's obvious that the Met Council is in its "weaning stages," and that we must look for other funding sources.

MCKNIGHT GRANT (Tracy)

- Gregg Lee formerly from the Dodge Nature Center has been tentatively been hired to work on this grant. We're looking to develop a long-term grant of 1.2 million dollars. The pre-proposal is due April 15th, and the final is due June 1st. If we get the money, over the following 3 years, the Volunteer Stream Monitoring, NEMO and the Watershed Partners will each receive \$300,000. The rest of the money will go to developing the watershed exhibit. These are very broad, sweeping numbers- if you have any questions, please contact Tracy Fredin at 651-523-3105.

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Mon, March 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, April 11th , 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, 651-772-6152

Shelley Shreffler, 651-221-4462

Jerry Spetzman, 651-297-7269

Ron Struss, 651-215-1950

FFI: Contact a Steering Committee member or Tracy Fredin, 651-523-3105, tfredin@gw.hamline.edu