



MINUTES Wed. May 9, 2001

Meeting was held at Hamline University 1536 Hewitt Ave. St. Paul, MN. 55104

ATTENDEES

Alison Fong, Mpls Environmental Mgmt.
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works
Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD
Connie Fortin, Fortin Consulting
Irene Jones, Friends of the Miss. River
James Falvey, Mississippi Rvr Basin Alliance
Janell Miersch, Rice Creek Wtrshed District
Jane Dusek, Capitol Region WSD
Jay Michels, MPCA
Jeff Ledermann, MN OEA
Jerome Wagner, Capitol Region WSD

Jerry Spetzman, Dept. of Ag.
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of MN
John Bilotta, Extension Service – Carver Co
Lisa Gilliland, Anoka Co. Parks – Wargo
Louise Watson, RWMWD
Michele Hanson, MN DNR
Pam Davis, St. Croix River Basin
Pamela Jessup, Hamline -- Univ. CGEE
Pauline Langsdorf, Met Council
Roman Rowan, Rivers Council
Shelley Shreffler, SP Neighborhood Energy
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE

PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lisa Gilliland, Anoka County Parks

- All Carp Afficianados for Mississippi River Carp Festival 2001 at Coon Rapids Dam on June 23. Fish Contest at 8 a.m. –2 p.m., activities from 10 a.m. –4 p.m.. For more information contact Wargo Nature center at 651-429-8007, or e-mail lgilli@goldengate.net

Jay Michels, Mn. Erosion Control Association

- Erosion Control Materials Testing Seminar at American Excelsior Testing Facility in Rice Lake, Wisconsin on June 22, 2001. FFI contact Jay Michels at 651-351-0630 or e-mail at jmichels@skypoint.com

Michele Hanson, Metro Watershed Initiative DNR

- Volunteer needed for Planting Day at the Vermillion River on May 19th from 8:30 a.m.- 12p.m. FFI Contact Michele Hanson at 651-772-6152 or e-mail Michele.hanson@dnr.state.mn.us
- MN legislature. House proposal has eliminated the Community Assistance Program from the DNR. Please use the fact sheet to contact your legislator to express any concerns you have with the elimination of community assistance programs. FFI contact Michele Hanson or Julie Westerlund at 651-772-6152 or e-mail Julie.Westerlund@dnr.state.mn.us

Louise Watson, RWMWD

- Everyone is invited to attend the Waterfest 2001 at Tanners Lake located at I-94 and Hwy 120 in Oakdale on May 19, 2001 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.. FFI contact Louise Watson at 651-704-2089 or e-mail louise@rwmwd.org

Irene Jones, Friends of the Mississippi River

- FMR's Special Places Tours are up and running from April-September. Please help spread the word about these hiking, paddling and biking programs that highlight special places along the Mississippi River. Also, we are now taking registration for the 4th Annual Mississippi River Canoe Adventure on Saturday, July 21. FFI contact Alyssa Hawkins at 651-222-2193 or e-mail <mailto:ahawkins@fmr.org>.

PARTNER UPDATES:

Project NEMO (Jay Michels)

- Negotiations with the Met Council for the grant are still going on. The proposal will be going to the environmental committee next. A prototype presentation will be put together for Dakota County. There is a possibility of putting Project NEMO on the WSP web-site. One roadblock with the Met Council is they are looking for a name other than NEMO.

Volunteer Stream Monitoring (Michele Hanson)

- Nothing new to report

Statewide Task Force (Jerry Spetzman)

- The mission of the WaterShed partners clearly states that activities of the WaterShed Partners need to focus on the Twin Cities metro area. At the same time, many partners have statewide responsibilities within their individual organizations.

There has been interest expressed in creating a watershed exhibit with a more rural focus that could be used in agricultural areas of Minnesota at such events as Farm Fest, agricultural field days, county fairs, etc. Perhaps table 1 could have a cornfield rather than a cityscape, the puzzle table could show the major watersheds throughout Minnesota and adjacent states, and storm drains could be replaced by drain tile (other suggestions are definitely welcome).

Immediately after the June 13 Watershed Partners meeting we would like to have a scoping meeting to determine if there is sufficient interest in creating a statewide exhibit and, if so, what it would take to accomplish it. If you are interested, please join us.

An important item to keep in mind is that this effort would be outside the mission of the watershed partners. We would need to secure our own funding.

Phosphorous Bill (Jerry Spetzman, Dept. of Agriculture)

- The Dept. of Agriculture proposed to the legislature a 0 phosphorous bill. Lawn Care officials, golf courses, and university people met with the Dept. of Ag staff. There wasn't a whole lot of consensus, and most of the opposition came from the lawn care industry. Minnesota retailers were supportive of a fertilizer standard, but did not want to be responsible for enforcing any type of ordinance. The bill made it through the house and got killed in the senate. One goal is to make all cities across the metro area all have the same ordinance about phosphorous. Ideally 0% would be the goal, but 3% is probably more

realistic. In the end, an association of municipal governments opposed the bill because it would limit their ability to create their own ordinances.

McKnight Grant Update (Tracy Fredin)

- McKnight Foundation is interested in reviewing a proposal for up to \$400,000 over 2 years for the WSP traveling watershed education exhibit, its Volunteer Stream Monitoring Partnership and its land use education project for municipal officials. We need to submit 3 copies of our proposal by June 1.

Metro Environment Partnership (MEP) (Tracy Fredin)

- The Metropolitan Council agreed to fund the Watershed at \$110,000 over the next three years. We are sending in a workplan outlining what we will do to implement the grant.

Exhibit Development Taskforce (Tracy Fredin)

- The Watershed Exhibit van now has the shelves inside it, and the van is available for check out. We have been approved to get graphics on it, so that will be the next step.

Meeting Adjourned

Events held after meeting:

Viewing of Van Certification Training on CD Rom
Set up of Watershed Exhibit

NOTES:

- The Steering Committee meets regularly on the 4th Monday of each month, 2-4pm, at CGEE 1467 Hewitt Ave., Hamline University. Meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wed, June 13 , 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