



MINUTES

Wed. February 13, 2002

ATTENDEES

Alison Fong, Mpls Environmental Mgmt.
Alyssa Hawkins, Friends of the Miss. River
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works
April Rust, MN DNR – Project WET
Connie Fortin, Fortin Consulting
Daniel Huff, Dakota Co. EE Program
Erika Lucoff, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
James Falvey, Mississippi Rvr Basin Alliance
Jane Dusek, Capitol Region WSD
Jerry Spetzman, Dept. of Agriculture
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of MN

Kevin Proescholdt, Volunteer Stream Monitoring
Lisa Gilliland, Anoka Co. Parks – Wargo
Louise Watson, RWMWD
Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA
Michele Hanson, MN DNR – Watershed Protection
Pam Davis, St. Croix River Basin
Pamela Jessup, Hamline -- CGEE
Ron Struss, MN Extension Service/BWSR
Sage Passi, RWMWD
Tim Reese, Hennepin Conservation District
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE

PARTNER UPDATES:

PAM DAVIS

1. St. Croix Basin website now has Power Point presentations available online at www.scwatershed.org (then click on Stewardship Tools). The Basin Team prepares the documents, which are to be used for educational purposes only.
2. The third annual workshop *Protecting the St. Croix: Reducing and Managing Nutrients & Sediments* will be held Thursday, Feb 21, at the Trollhaugen Convention Center in Dresser, Wisconsin. The cost is \$40 and pre-registration is required. Contact John Haack at the UW- Extension office, (715) 635-7406 for more details.

CONNIE FORTIN

Saturday, March 9th a Lakescaping and Rain Garden Workshop will be held at the freshwater society. For more information contact 763) 478-3606 fci@iaxs.net

JANE DUSEK

- 1) The CRWD Water Quality Protection Stewardship Grant program is now underway. Applications for grants are now being accepted. Residents, educators, businesses and agencies are eligible to apply. Call Jane Dusek at (651) 488-1467, extension 14, for details, or visit www.ramseyconservation.org (click on the CRWD link).
- 2) The Como Lake Water Festival will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2002, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Como Lake Pavilion and Promenade. Call (651) 488-1467, extension 14, for details jane.dusek@co.ramsey.mn.us

LOUISE WATSON

Lawn Care for Water Quality Workshops for Youth will be held on March 9th and 16th. Concurrent sessions for adults will also take place on these dates. The workshops will be held from 10-noon at the John Glenn Middle School in Maplewood. Registration is \$15 for kids. Contact Louise Watson or School District 622 Community Education Department for more details. (651) 704- 2089, louise@rwmwd.org

DANIEL HUFF

1) Tuesday, April 9th from 7 -9 p.m. at the Creekside Community Center (9801 Penn Ave South, Bloomington), there will be a program on yard care and landscaping for water quality protection. The program will use the new "Restore Your Shore" CD ROM as an educational tool, and Carolyn Dindorf, co-author of "Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality" will be there. This event is free and open to the public.

TIM REESE

On Monday, March 11, from 7 -9 p.m. at the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge (3815 East 80th Street, Bloomington), a program on the frogs and toads of Minnesota will be presented by John Moriarty, a Natural Resource Specialist with the Ramsey County Park system. This program is free and open to the public.

ALYSSA HAWKINS

1) Friend of the Mississippi River, in cooperation with Cairn & Associates will be putting on workshops for St. Paul teachers focusing on water quality and service learning. The workshops will be held on Wednesday, March 6th, from 8-2 at the SPPS District office (1001 Johnson Pkwy), at a cost of \$10, or on Thursday, March 7 from 3-5 at the SPPS District Office (360 Colborn Street), at a cost of \$5. Deadline for registration is Feb. 18th.

2) The possibility exists of reprinting of the Lake Harriet Lawn Care Inserts. Call Alicia for more information (651) 222-2193 x6, ahawkins@fmr.org

METRO WATERSHED PARTNERS UPDATE

GREENWAY CORRIDORS - Shelley Shreffler, McKnight Foundation

McKnight is starting a "Special Places" Campaign with a focus on "Open Spaces". The purpose of the campaign is to support the land use projects McKnight funds by helping the public frame the issue of open spaces to their minds. All projects working on open space issues will use and build upon the messages provided in the campaign. Elements of the campaign are: 1. Human needs, 2. Threatened assets, and , 3. Public choices. A website for the campaign will soon be developed. This idea is coming directly from the McKnight Foundation and it is broader than the Metro area. Contact Shelley for more information - 612-333-4220 x135.

RECOGNITION/AWARDS

Recognition and awards were given out to Shelley Shreffler, Jim Falvey, and Connie Fortin for their work on the WaterShed Steering Committee. Thanks to them for their participation and hours volunteering!

METRO THINK CLEAN WATER CAMPAIGN - Ron Struss

Ron met with Linda Henning and Joe Mulcahy of the Metropolitan Council on 2/12 to present the idea of the campaign to them. We are requesting \$160,000 over a year and a half in a grant from Metropolitan Council. The money will help to fund a revival of the 1999 "Thing Clean Water" Media campaign plus direct support services to cities to do water resource education. We are hoping after a year and a half cities will be willing to donate a few thousand dollars of their own money to keep the effort alive.

PROJECT NEMO - Ron Struss (for Jay Michels)

At least a dozen more cities are showing interest in NEMO. The south and southeastern part of Minnesota is starting to take notice of the program.

STATE-WIDE EXHIBIT – Ron Struss

The 319 Grant was turned down. The decision was to shelve the concept in hopes of a more promising future funding opportunity.

VOLUNTEER STREAM MONITORING – Kevin Proescholdt

The Matrix is in the final stages of production and the target release date is May 2002. The Matrix is an online and printed resource for citizens to figure out what activities they could choose to participate in, and on what level of involvement or commitment they are willing to put in. The process for planning the 2nd annual River Summit in November 2002 at the Minneapolis Convention Center is under way.

PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZER LEGISLATION UPDATE – Jerry Spetzman

The MDA has attempted to find neutral ground between groups with two very differing points of view on whether or not regulation of phosphorus in lawn fertilizer is necessary. Groups opposed to regulation include national manufacturers of phosphorus lawn fertilizer. Groups in favor of regulation include local units of government, lakes groups and environmental organizations. MDA's goal is to have both groups meet in the middle. The groups opposing regulation say if there is regulation on phosphorous fertilizer then they want MDA to have authority to preempt all local ordinances, limit phosphorus use to 3% statewide and only apply restrictions to use. For the strong regulation group they want cities to be able to go beyond state law in restricting phosphorus sales and use, and eliminate phosphorus use in lawn fertilizer statewide. MDA proposed legislation preempting lawns from local units of government, limit phosphorus use to 0% metro and 3% out of state (outside of metro area). Within the preemption, cities have the option to go to 0% as long as they notify MDA. There is 100% agreement in the government on more education and research needs, but everyone also agrees there is no money for it. On February 14 there is the first hearing in the Senate. Senator Higgins is the primary author in the senate. Representative Leppik is the primary author in the house. A bill representing the interests of the pro-regulation group was passed in the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. The next stop is the Senate Agriculture committee. If it passes the bill will then go to the house.

FUTURE FUNDING STRATEGY - Tracy Fredin

We have money for a few years still, but need to start planning for when the money runs out. Strategic planning regarding grant finding will be part of the Steering Committee responsibility. These meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.

UPDATE ON EPA WATERSHED MANAGEMENT MONEY – Pamela Jessup

President Bush will include \$21 million in his 2003 budget for a new EPA initiative to protect, preserve, and restore waterways across the country. This effort was announced by EPA Administrator Christie Whitman during a visit to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Whitman announced as part of this community-based initiative, EPA will target up to 20 of this country's most highly-valued watersheds for grants. EPA will be working cooperatively with state governors, tribes and other interested parties on this initiative. The Watershed Initiative Proposed Implementation Schedule is as follows: Spring 2002 Announce watershed initiative, Letter to Governors, Work with states and other partners to design program, Work with Congress to build understanding of goals of program. Summer 2002 Announce details of program, including development of technical assistance. Fall 2002 Begin process to select watersheds as soon as the budget is approved. Winter 2002-2003 Select watersheds. Spring 2003 Begin work with selected watersheds to deliver resources and assistance. Summer 2003 Funds are disbursed and implementation is underway. Michele Hanson will be researching the process of how to go about submitting a watershed for the selection process, and then reporting back to the large group.

TASK FORCE UPDATES:

AWARDS – Tracy Fredin

The awards task force group met in Jan. Many details were talked about and are still being decided upon. The consensus was that the awards should be centered on education and not on policies or restrictions, and awards will be limited to only cities. Three components discussed were: 1. Identify criteria for who deserves to receive the award 2. Have cities go into self-selection mode by mailing them a questionnaire to fill out of their watershed programs. This would be in the form of a survey designed for cities to fill out and return to the WaterShed Partners. Some examples of questions are: how are your staff and volunteers involved in clean water? What are schools and the general public in your city doing? The cities would rank themselves in how they think they are doing to help their watershed. The survey would serve as a self-selection for the award and an inventory for the Partners at the same time 3. Present the award in the fall to cities by tying the presentation into an already existing large event. A consensus on an award opportunity was not met, and the Awards Task Force agreed to develop the concert further.

K-12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING - Margie Vigoren (not present)

The Education Committee, hosted by Peggy Knapp, held its first meeting on Jan. 31st. They are meeting again after today's Metro WaterShed Partner meeting.

MEP PRESENTATION – Don Arnosti

The Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP) is a network of over 70 non-profit environmental and conservation groups working together to protect, restore and enjoy Minnesota's precious natural resources. The Partnership provides a way for environmental organizations to collaborate in their efforts to make sure that Minnesota's natural resources are well cared for. MEP strives to enhance the ability of participating organizations to fulfill their individual missions and better realize the expectations of a supportive public by providing a forum for:

- Information sharing and education among participating organizations;
- Coordination of efforts, strategies and legislative issues;
- Coordination and sharing of media strategies;
- Discussion of a forward looking, affirmative agenda for Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

The *Protect Our Water* campaign is a practical way to protect and restore Minnesota waters. It's a smart investment in our state, a fair deal for all Minnesotans, and an opportunity for everyone to get involved in keeping Minnesota's water clean. With the support of the more than 500,000 Minnesotans who are members of our groups, the goal is to see the 2002 Legislature make *Protect Our Water* the cornerstone of responsible stewardship of Minnesota's natural heritage.

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, February 25th, 2 p.m.**, at the Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE), Hamline University. The Steering Committee meets regularly on the 4th Monday of each month, 2-4 p.m., at CGEE. Meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, March 13th, 9 a.m.**, at the Dept. 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, 9-11 a.m.

2002 STEERING COMMITTEE:

Cliff Aichinger, 651-704-2089

Jay Michels, 651-351-0630

Michele Hanson, 651-766-4192

Ron Struss, 651-215-1950

Jerry Spetzman, 651-297-7269
Margie Vigoren 763-509-5506

Tracy Fredin, 651-523-3105
Tim Reese 763-420-2157

FFI: Contact a Steering Committee member or Pamela Jessup, 651-523-2591 /
pajessup@gw.hamline.edu