



MINUTES

March 13, 2002

ATTENDEES

Alaina Berger, MNDNR
Alison Fong, Mnpls Environmental Management
Alyssa Hawkins, Friends of the Miss. River
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works
Barb Luikkonen, UM Water Resource Ctr.
Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD
Connie Fortin, Fortin Consulting
Jane Dusek, Capitol Region WSD
Jerry Spetzman, Dept. of Agriculture
Jessie Meschievitz, guest
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of MN
Joan Ellis, Minnehaha Creek WSD
John Bilotta, Extension Service – Carver Co.
Kevin Proescholdt, VSMP

Lisa Gilliland, Anoka Co. Parks – Wargo
Linda Henning, Metropolitan Council
Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA
Margie Vigoren, City of Plymouth
Michele Hanson, MN DNR – Watershed Protection
Pamela Jessup, Hamline – CGEE
Pauline Langsdorf, Met Council
Peggy Knapp, Hamline – CGEE
Randy Thoreson, NPS – RTCA
Ron Struss, MN Extension Service/BWSR
Sage Passi, RWMWD
Sarah Riddle, Eco Education
Sil Pembleton, guest
Tim Reese, Hennepin Conservation District
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE

PARTNER UPDATES:

MICHELLE HANSON

Rice Creek Watershed District will be having a manager's position available in the next few weeks. If you know of someone with water quality knowledge, who is a resident of Ramsey Co. and the Rice Creek Watershed District, and would be interested in the position, have them contact Ramsey County or Michelle at (651) 772-6152 or Michelle.hanson@dnr.state.mn.us.

MARGIE VIGOREN

On Saturday, April 6, from 9-2 p.m. the Plymouth Yard and Garden Expo will be hosting *Landscaping for Water Quality* workshops. The event is being held at the Plymouth Creek Center & Soccer Dome, 14800 34th Ave. N., Plymouth. For more information, contact Margie at (763) 509-5506 or mvigoren@ci.plymouth.mn.us.

BARB LIUKKONEN

The Minnesota Water 2002 & Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Conference will be held April 17-20 at the St. Cloud Civic Center. This year's emphasis is on working together in a climate of change to manage Minnesota's water resources. A complete schedule and registration materials are available online at <http://wrc.coafes.umn.edu/water2002/>. Space is limited, so register early.

CLIFF AICHINGER

1) Fly fishing instructor Bob Nasby needs brochures regarding storm water pollution for his booth at the sports show being held March 22-30. He would also like someone to help man his exhibit and act as a storm

water educator. Anyone willing to do so would receive free access to the show, and should contact Cliff at (651) 704-2089 or cliff@rwmwd.org.

2) WaterFest 2002, a free family celebration, will be held on Saturday, May 18 at the Phalen Park Pavilion. Attractions include floating classroom pontoon boats, voyageurs canoe rides, kayak lessons, fishing lessons, stream monitoring lessons, a raptor show, face painting, skits, clowns, educational games, musical celebrations, and the watershed awareness expo.

LYNDON TORSTENSON

1) The NPS announces a celebration and symbolic ground breaking of the Mississippi River & National Center that will be held on Monday, March 25th at 11:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Science Museum of Minnesota. When built, the center will feature orientation to and information about the Mississippi, as well as information about National Parks.

2) Minnesota Public Radio will be sponsoring a week-long set of programs about rivers from May 6-11. A large event is being planned for May 11 at Schar's Bluff, Spring Lake Park, near Hastings. Performers will include singing Ranger Charlie Maguire and Ruth Mackenzie. Opportunities for informational tables, etc, are likely. Stay tuned.

3) The week of April 22nd is the projected start of Mighty Mississippi Passport 2002 season. Funding for this year's Passport is reduced from previous years. The following program changes will be implemented for this year: 1. For the 2002 program, Anne Sarnecki will assume the lead management role, and as such will coordinate with partners to complete all aspects of the program. 2. Stan Zobel, also of MNRRA, will assume the management role for the \$15K DNR grant for web development. He will be working with the contractor who originally developed the website to make changes and improvements. As discussed at THE February meeting, the Passport Partner's intent is to make the Passport a web-based program for 2002. The next Mighty Mississippi Passport Meeting is March 20th, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Wilderness Inquiry, 808 14th Avenue SE, Minneapolis. The meeting discussion will be about the program and review the action plans from the last meeting.

SIL PEMBLETON

A Mississippi River Cleanup will be held from June 22 - 29th. The cleanup will target the Minnesota/Wisconsin shore from Prescott to Minneapolis/St. Paul. A celebration will be held on June 29th at Harriet Island to celebrate the river.

PAMELA JESSUP

The Solstice River Dance Performance will be held at the Minneapolis Stone Arch Bridge on June 21-22nd at 8:30-9:15 p.m. Again volunteers are needed to help with the set up of decorations, handing out programs, etc. In addition, organizations that are interested may set up a small exhibit or booth about their program on the bridge. Set up would need to be completed by 8:00 p.m. FFI contact pajessup@gw.hamline.edu

MINNESOTA WATER 2002 & MINNESOTA LAKES AND RIVERS CONFERENCE

Working Together in a Climate of Change to Manage Minnesota's Water Resources, April 17-20th, 2002 at the St. Cloud Civic Center. This conference will provide practical tools on managing Minnesota's surface water resources for citizens, lakes and rivers groups, federal, state and local government professionals and decision-makers, consultant, natural resource professionals environmental organizations and educators. Pick and choose which days you would like to attend, or attend all 4 days. Registration deadline is April 3. FFI contact Bruce Johnson at Rivers Council of MN 320-529-6800 bjohnson@riversmn.org.

METRO WATERSHED PARTNERS UPDATE

METRO MEDIA *THINK CLEAN WATER* CAMPAIGN – Ron Struss

The current grant budget being proposed to the Metropolitan Council is \$160,000. This Monday is a meeting with Metropolitan Council at the Science Museum to talk about more of the details. Met Council should be making a decision by the end of April.

-The new brochure still in design phase is the *Green Your Lawn Not your Lakes and Rivers*. This is a tri-fold brochure teaching about keeping pollutants out of rivers. There is a blank panel on the back where cities or organizations can customize their own information to print there. The printing for these will take place in early April.

PROJECT NEMO

The Minnesota Erosion Control Association Conference was held on March 7-8th in Minneapolis.

PHOSPHOROUS UPDATE – Jerry Spetzman

Legislation restricting the use of phosphorus lawn fertilizer is moving through both houses. The full senate voted on the bill and it passed with only one vote against. The house bill is awaiting a floor vote. It is anticipated that this vote will take place during the week of April 1. The senate and house bills are 90% the same and differences will need to be resolved in conference committee. The MDA is sponsoring an LCMR proposal, which will address requirements in the proposed legislation for research and education.

WATERSHED EXHIBIT OPERATIONS – Pamela Jessup

The WaterShed Exhibit is in need of some repairs to the pump unit on Table 1. The Science Museum will be working on that in April. If you know of an event that is taking place that the WaterShed exhibit would be appropriate at, please let Pamela Jessup know by email pajessup@gw.hamline.edu. We are currently working with Carver County on getting the graphics on the van. It should be completed by the end of March.

TASK FORCE UPDATES

AWARDS – Michele Hanson

The task force made a recommendation to WSP that at this time it is no longer prudent to embark on a recognition program for a "No P Ordinance". The initial idea of WSP giving out some form of recognition for adopting a No "P" ordinance has been made a mute point with the legislation that is moving through the legislature. At this time, the Partners nor the task force, were able to identify a clear activity to recognize instead. The next step that could be taken in pursuing a recognition program would be to construct a survey and send it out to the metro cities/townships to find out what types of water education they are providing. This survey could serve several purposes. The survey could determine what types of education programs are out there, who is doing a lot or the most, and what subjects are not being addressed by cities/townships. The survey would provide WSP with good baseline information about municipal water education programs in the metro. (The information being gathered by the Education Committee would compliment this survey.) The second reason to pursue this award/recognition program is to get the word out about WSP and our projects. A survey could accomplish that for WSP, NEMO and VSMP if we included questions that asked if cities were aware of our programs and resources available to them. The last question the task force asked themselves was.... So...does that mean we now become the city survey committee? At this time not all of the members were willing or able to devote more time so at our next

WSP meeting we should discuss forming a Survey Committee if there is interest in moving forward by any of the partners.

K12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Peggy Knapp

So far the K12 Education committee has come up with a mission statement: “To foster environmental literacy, awareness, and action in the community”. Now they are working on the objectives. The Volunteer Resource Center in St. Paul is offering \$2,500 to buy someone’s time to do service learning in St. Paul Schools with kids. The K12 committee meets after the WaterShed Partners Meeting.

VSMP PRESENTATION – Kevin Proescholdt

Kevin did a power point presentation on Volunteer Stream Monitoring Partnership including history, current projects, and the future of VSMP. VSMP started in 1998, formed a steering committee in 2000 (composed of 10 organizations), and had it’s first full year funded in 2001. Twice a year a stream is monitored, once in the fall, and once in the spring. Volunteers of any ages are needed. The monitoring matrix is nearly completed and it is a list of activities based on skill and resource levels. The 2002 River Summit is November 14th at the Minneapolis Convention Center, and they are planning on 300 people in attendance. VSMP is funded through Metropolitan Council through 2003. They are seeking other funding sources for after 2003. A database is also being designed for all the volunteers to check out on line to see their data being put to use.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER CLEAN UP – Sil Pembleton and Jessie Mischievitz

The Mississippi River Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday June 22 –29th this year. The river clean up will start in Prescott, WI and come up to St. Paul where there will be a celebration ending it on Harriet Island June 29th. There will be a fleet of boats coming up the river from the National Audubon Society, along with a barge capable of lifting large and heavy debris out of the river. Sil is in charge of coordinating education efforts and recruiting volunteers for the week. Communities or organizations/businesses can “adopt” a site along a stretch of the river for the week to clean up. So far they have some funding from Cargill and McKnight, but are still in need of more monetary support as well as volunteers. They will supply bags, gloves, and first aid kits to each group of volunteers. The trash pulled from the river will be sorted according to recyclables. There will be flyers printed and distributed, as it gets closer. FFI call 651-312-1179 to speak with Sil, or Jessie at 651-290-1695.

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, March 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, April 10th, 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
Jerry Spetzman, 651-297-7269

Michele Hanson, 651-766-4192
Ron Struss, 651-215-1950
Tracy Fredin, 651-523-3105

Margie Vigoren 763-509-5506

Tim Reese 763-420-2157

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