



MINUTES

April 10, 2002

ATTENDEES

Alison Fong, City of Minneapolis
Alyssa Hawkins, Friends of the Miss. River
April Rust, MN DNR – Project WET
Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD
Jane Dusek, Capitol Region WSD
Janell Miersch, Rice Creek Wtrshed District
Jay Michels, MN Erosion Control Association
Jerry Spetzman, Dept. of Agriculture
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of MN
Kevin Proescholdt, VSMP

Lisa Gilliland, Anoka County Parks
Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA
Michele Hanson, MN DNR – Watershed Protection
Pamela Jessup, Hamline -- CGEE
Pauline Langsdorf, Met Council
Peggy Knapp, CGEE
Randy Thoreson, NPS – RTCA
Ron Struss, MN Extension Service/BWSR
Tim Reese, Hennepin Conservation District
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE

PARTNER UPDATES:

ALYSSA HAWKINS

Special Places Tours Brochures for 2002 are now available from FMR in print or at www.fmr.org

JANE DUSEK

The Como Lake Water Festival, a free, family event to celebrate and promote clean water in our community, will be held May 11, 2002, from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Como Lake Pavilion and Promenade. For more information, contact Jane at (651) 488-1476, ex. 14 or jane.dusek@co.ramsey.mn.us

CLIFF AICHINGER

WaterFest 2002 will be held May 18, 2002, at Lake Phalen. The event will be enjoyable for the whole family. Points of interest include floating classrooms, voyageur canoe rides, a raptor show, and music by Larry Long. For more information, contact Cliff at (651) 704-2089 or cliff@rwmwd.org

LYNDON TORSTENSON

Big River Journey field trips on the Mississippi River for school children, hosted by several WaterShed Partners organization, seeks volunteers to assist on the trips, which are running from May 6 - 23. Anyone interested should contact Tom Ibsen at (651) 290-3030, ext. 233 or thomas_ibsen@nps.gov

APRIL RUST

The third annual *Make a Splash with Project Wet* Water Festival location has been selected. The festival will be held on Friday, September 27 at Mississippi Regional Park in Stearns County. The festival is open to fifth grade students in Stearns County on a first come, first served basis. For more information, contact April at (651) 297-4951 or april.rust@dnr.state.mn.us

TIM REESE

The North Mississippi Regional Park Interpretive Center is open! The grand opening and Arbor Day events are scheduled for May 4. The center is located in North Mississippi Regional Park at I94 and 49th street in Minneapolis. Watershed educational events and classes managed by 3 Rivers Park District (formerly Hennepin Parks) and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, will be happening at this center. Call (612) 370-4865 for more information.

METRO WATERSHED PARTNERS UPDATE

METRO THINK CLEAN WATER CAMPAIGN – Ron Struss

The Metropolitan Council continues to show interest and support of the Think Clean Water Media Campaign. In Mid-April the Met Council will be voting on it. The brochure *Green Up Your Lawn Not Your Lakes and Rivers* is back from the printers and 21 organizations went together on the brochures. The back panel is customized for each organization that ordered the brochure to tell about those cities ordinances.

T.V. WEATHER NEWS/WATERSHED EDUCATION WEBSITE- Ron Struss

The EPA and American Meteorological society are holding a training session in June. The WaterShed Partners steering committee is sending out a letter to TV stations telling them about the training for meteorologists in June with hopes of developing a watershed education website with them. The initial cost estimate of putting together a website from the EPA was \$30,000. However, Hamline has given an estimate of \$7,500 for developing a website. Funding will be an issue if we want to seriously pursue this.

PROJECT NEMO – Jay Michels

Project NEMO has taken off! Many cities and counties have joined the list of interested parties in seeing the presentation from Jay. They include Hugo, Lino Lakes, Shakopee, Lake City, West Superior, Duluth, Grand Marais, Le Seuer County, River Falls, Hudson, St. Croix County, Prescott, Chisago County, Little Falls, Sherburne County, and more. The power point presentation covers pollution, run-off, natural areas, commercial areas, amount of impervious surfaces in the city, and an analysis of the specific community presently and in the future with regards to the amount of impervious surfaces. The presentation includes suggestions for reducing the impervious surfaces, phosphorous, list of follow up things (developing effective storm water ordinances, etc.) The funding from 319 grant was received at \$125,000. It includes cities 150 miles from the twin cities. There is a possible LCMR grant coming up.

VOLUNTEER STREAM MONITORING PARTNERSHIP Kevin Proescholdt

There will be 4 spring trainings taking place during the next month:

- 1) April 25 - Intro to Biological Monitoring - Nokomis Community Center, Minneapolis
- 2) April 30 - Advanced Macroinvertebrate Identification - Apple Valley
- 3) May 2 - Advanced Macroinvertebrate Identification - St. Paul
- 4) May 9 - Introduction to Water Quality Monitoring - Minnehaha Park - Minneapolis

For more information, contact Kevin at (612) 624-7460 or kevinp@umn.edu

The trainings are open to everyone, however teachers are especially encouraged to attend.

PHOSPHOROUS FERTILIZER LEGISLATION UPDATE/LCMR GRANT – Jerry Spetzman

The Minnesota House passed SF 1555, the Phosphorus Lawn Fertilizer Bill. A similar bill was passed by the Minnesota Senate 65-1 last month. The House and Senate bills are similar in that, starting January 1, 2004, use of phosphorus lawn fertilizer will be restricted to:

- * 0% P2O5 in the seven county Twin Cities metro area.

* 3% P2O5 in areas outside of the Twin Cities metro area.

Both bills allow for use of higher levels of phosphorus fertilizer when seeding or sodding a new lawn, or when a soil test or tissue test shows a need. Both bills also allow local units of government in non-metro areas to adopt the 0% P2O5 limit. Governments who do such need to communicate the change with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture so that a complete list of "who's doing what" can be maintained. Governments have until August 1, 2002 to make this change. The bills differ in that the House version allows local ordinances controlling the sale (not use, sale) of phosphorus lawn fertilizer passed by August 1, 2002 to stay in effect. The Senate version of the bill does not make this allowance and preempts (overrules) all local ordinances when it goes into affect. These differences need to be reconciled in Conference Committee, voted again in both the House and Senate, and forwarded on to the Governor for signing into law. The Department of Agriculture will do more research on phosphorus and will be responsible for more education.

TASK FORCE REPORTS:

K-12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Peggy Knapp

The education committee is moving rather slowly. The committee is getting a handle on what and where to focus on. The first priority is to bolster the teacher listserve, which currently has 185 names. If you know of a teacher who would like to be on the list, please email the name to Peggy at pknapp@gw.hamline.edu. The second priority is to develop long-term partnerships between teachers and Metro WSP. Team MWSP up with a school or a district. The third priority is to do a large community event as an introduction to the WaterShed Education Network. If you have an announcement you would like to get out to teachers, email it to Peggy and specifically tell her to distribute it to the K-12 Education Network listserve.

WHAT IS A WATERSHED PARTNERS PROJECT? – Ron Struss

Funding is important to every project. The Steering Committee will discuss getting projects started, and when to spin off projects from the WaterShed Partners.

PRESENTATIONS:

MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI PASSPORT PROGRAM – Ann Sarnecki, National Park Service

The Mighty Mississippi Passport Program started in 1999 by Wilderness Inquiry's Pam Kozlowski. The initial funding was primarily through the McKnight Foundation. McKnight is no longer funding the program this year, therefore, there is no full time program coordinator dedicated to this program. Consequently, the National Park Service has volunteered to take over the program for this year.

The program features over 100 activities within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area from Anoka to Hastings. There is no money to re-print the blue activities book/sticker pages. So, instead a web-based program has been designed. If possible, please put a link on your organizations web-site to the Mighty Mississippi Passport Program web-site to help it grow in participants. The website address is www.mississippipassport.org. Some of the differences between this years program and last years is there are no "categories" of activities (red, green, blue). However, there will be a map of the metro area showing where the activity is. Similar to last year, participants will get a reward for completing the activities; however, they will not be entered in a drawing for a prize this year.

There will be a page to print off of the web site that participants need in order to get a stamp for completing an activity. Each page has 3 activities. A new requirement of completion of the program is a new 4th activity, "personal reflections" which is a sort of interpretive assignment for the kids. This can take the form of an essay, drawing, or another form of artwork. Everyone who completes the 4 activities gets a certificate that

certifies they are a river steward. The completed activity sheets are mailed to Ann. MPR is having picnic day May 11th in Hastings and there will be a big promotional push there with the program. FFI: call Ann at 651-290-3030 x291

GRAND EXCURSION 2004 – Peggy Knapp (for Chris Oshikata)

Mark Vandershaft, an amateur historian, had an idea in 1994 to try to recreate the Grand Excursion from 1854. In 2004, ten large riverboats will be used to go from Quad Cities, Iowa, upstream to St. Paul on the Mississippi River from June-July 4th. There will be bike clubs, canoe clubs, and motorcycle riders following the flotilla up the river, with each town along the Mississippi hosting some sort of celebration. The expedition will culminate on July 4th in St. Paul with thousands of people joining in the celebration.

Upon the flotilla's arrival in Minneapolis, there will be a "Mingling of Waters" ceremony, taking place at Mill Ruins Park and the Stone Arch Bridge. In 1854, people brought vials of water from all over the east coast to pour into the Mississippi River. This time there will be vials of water from all over the world that will be combined in a large bowl. There will also be an international forum to talk about water issues. Green Cross (international organization) and Global Green (the U.S. chapter of Green Cross) will be there.

There are 3 committees formed to get ready for the Grand Excursion 2004. 1. Celebration committee - in charge of the tourist operations. 2. Commemorative committee - recreates the original legacy with, books, plaques, and souvenirs. 3. Education committee (Peggy is chair). They are designing a website that aggregates WaterShed Education, a 1 hour long documentary video of 1854 (geared towards adults) and 4 river exploration trunks for k-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 that will be distributed in mass quantities to teachers in every town along the river.

A 501c-3 formed called Grand Excursion Inc. There is 1 full time staff person, a fundraiser, a board, and executive director. Pat Seeb is the chairman of the board of directors. 170 organizations in St. Paul are already committed to the Grand Excursion.

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, April 22nd, 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, May 8th, 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
Margie Vigoren 763-509-5506

Michele Hanson, 651-766-4192
Ron Struss, 651-215-1950
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