



MINUTES

March 12, 2003

ATTENDEES

Alyssa Hawkins, Earth Force GREEN
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works
April Rust, MN DNR – Project WET
Beth Storey, Friends of the Mississippi River
Carolyn Dindorf, Fortin Consulting
Daniel Huff, Dakota Co. EE Program
Don Berger, MPCA
Jay Michels, MN Erosion Control Association
Jenny Schaub, Hennepin Conservation District
Joan Ellis, Minnehaha Creek WSD
Jon Steadland, Mpls. Watershed Mgmt
Organizat.
Kevin Proescholdt, VSMP

Linda Henning, Metropolitan Council ES
Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA
Margie Vigoren, City of Plymouth
Michele Hanson, MN DNR – Watershed
Protection
Pamela Jessup, Hamline – CGEE
Randy Thoreson, NPS – RTCA
Ron Struss, MN Extension Service/BWSR
Sage Passi, RWMWD
Sarah Riddle, Eco Education
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE

PARTNER UPDATES:

JON STEADLAND

The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Board of Commissioners has approved the 2003 Stewardship fund Community Grant Program. \$250,000 is available for small water-quality related grants up to \$40,000. Interested parties within the watershed should contact Jon Steadland for a Stewardship Fund Application 612-673-2687 or jon.steadland@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

BETH STOREY

Workshop for St. Paul Educators in K-12. Water Quality Service Learning Workshop. Join us for an interactive workshop focusing on water quality and service learning. Each participant will take home the Environmental Resource Guide, teacher-friendly, nonpoint source pollution curriculum. We will present information about Storm Drain Stenciling, the in-classroom support available from Friends of the Mississippi River, detailed instructions on in-class activities, and complementary service learning projects for all grade levels. Held on Wednesday April 2 3-5:00 at Hamline University. Cost is \$10, with sub stipends available. Please register by March 21, 2003 to Friends of the Mississippi River 651-222-6005. FFI contact Beth Storey at bstorey@fmr.org.

METRO WATERSHED PARTNERS UPDATE

MPCA Support - Don Berger, MPCA

The MPCA will be going through a review by the legislature to decide if it should be strictly a regulatory and compliance agency, or if it should be doing regulation in addition to education

and other programs. Will the WaterShed Partners back up and support the MPCA as being more than just a regulatory agency in the future? If this goes to the legislation the MPCA will need people to step forward and testify why MPCA should be more than just compliance oriented.

Project NEMO – Jay Michels

Jay is still busy traveling to cities to do presentations nearly 4 nights per week. The annual MECA conference was just held on March 5-7. There is an Open Space Planning workshop coming up Tuesday, March 18 from 1:30 to 4:30 or 6:30-8:30 at the Scott County Government Center in Shakopee. This workshop will highlight a new educational effort by the Northland NEMO Program to assist communities as they plan for open space. The workshop is intended for municipal and county land use decision-makers, local land trusts and other organizations interested in open space planning. This is a special opportunity to learn the secrets of open space protection from the national NEMO experts. Please RSVP to Jay at 651-351-0630. Jay is also currently working on the McKnight Grant application.

VSMP – Kevin Proescholdt

Workshops coming up: Introduction to Biological Monitoring is Wed. April 16, 9:30-3:30 at Afton State Park, Afton. Who: Teachers, citizens, and professional interested in learning how to sample for and identify macro invertebrates. Even if you have received training in the past, this is a good refresher, and an opportunity to update your skills and learn the new multi-habitat protocol. Space is limited so phone or email your registration to VSMP by Monday April 14, register by phone at 612-625-6781 or email to gulli021@umn.edu

Introduction to Macroinvertebrate Identification: Tuesday, April 29, 4-7:00 at the University of Minnesota McNeal Hall. This workshop provides hands-on training in macroinvertebrate identification. Samples will be provided for practice on using the taxonomic keys or bring in problematic organisms to get assistance with their identification. No charge. Space is limited so please register 612-625-6781.

NPDES Phase II Education – Ron Struss

Still working on the guide plan for Phase II Education. Slogans and outreach tools are being developed.

Presentation I: “2003 Protect Our Waters” in the legislature – Don Arnosti, MEP

Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP) is the statewide coalition of 80 conservation and environmental organization, representing 500,000 Minnesotans. MEP's mission is to protect and restore Minnesota's environment. Member organizations of the MEP are united in the support of the “Protect Our Water” legislative agenda:

1. Make dishwasher detergents phosphorus-free
2. Fix septic systems that contaminate our water
3. Make clean water a budget priority.

FFI contact Don Arnosti MEP Policy Coordinator at 651-290-0154 or visit their website at www.Protectourwater.info

Presentation II: “Connecting Watershed Education with teachers, kids, and classrooms.” Sage Passi, RWMWD

Sage did a presentation that highlighted her work with teachers, classrooms, and kids in the Ramsey/Washington county school districts area and educating them about nonpoint source pollution, wetlands, watersheds, and water quality monitoring. This year she will work with 22 classrooms.

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, March 24th, 2-4** 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 9th, 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	Michele Hanson, 651-766-4192
Jay Michels, 651-351-0630	Ron Struss, 651-215-1950
Jerry Spetzman, 651-297-7269	Tracy Fredin, 651-523-3105
Margie Vigoren 763-509-5506	

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