



# MINUTES

## November 12, 2003

### ATTENDEES

Alyssa Hawkins, Earth Force GREEN  
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works  
Barb Luikkonen, UM Water Resource Ctr.  
Beth Storey, Friends of the Mississippi River  
Doug Thomas, Board of Water & Soil Resources  
Jerry Spetzman, Dept. of Agriculture  
Katie Marshall, Alliance for Sustainability  
Louise Watson, RWMWD  
Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA  
Margie Vigoren, City of Plymouth  
Michele Hanson, MN DNR – Watershed Protection

Pamela Jessup, Hamline – CGEE  
Roger Ranthum, MPCA  
Ron Struss, MN Extension Service/BWSR  
Sage Passi, RWMWD  
Sarah Riddle, Eco Education  
Scott Vreeland, Seward Neighborhood Group  
Sean Gosiewski, Alliance for Sustainability  
Shannon Lotthammer, Prior – Spring Lake WD  
Sharon Doucette, City of Woodbury  
Tracy Fredin, Hamline – CGEE

### **PARTNER UPDATES:**

#### **BARB LUIKKONEN – Lake water clarity poster available**

A new educational tool about lake water clarity is available as a poster, 8 ½ x 11” fact sheet, and online at [www.water.umn.edu](http://www.water.umn.edu). At the website you can find out about the clarity of individual lakes and learn more about water clarity, in general. Rolled or folded posters and fact sheets are available through DNR, PCA, and the U of MN, Water Resources Center. FFI: contact Barb at 612-625-9256 or email [liukk001@umn.edu](mailto:liukk001@umn.edu)

#### **RON STRUSS – Stormwater exhibit available**

Ron has distributed a new exhibit “Your Street Connects to Lakes and Rivers” for the public’s use. This is a stormwater educational display produced by the U of MN Water Resources Center and the U of MN Extension Service. Funding from the Metropolitan Council. The displays were given to 21 different organizations around the Twin Cities. The partners are also able to check out the exhibit from any of these entities. FFI contact Ron Struss at 651-215-1950.

#### **SCOTT VREELAND – Seward Neighborhood people-to-people education project**

Scott is putting together a new neighborhood block party for the Seward Neighborhood group in Minneapolis. He is focusing on leaves and grass, pet waste, and landscaping for water quality. Scott showed us publications and printed materials he is planning on using with our permission. Scott is the President of the Citizen Seward Neighborhood Group.

#### **SEAN GOSIEWSKI - Twin Cities Neighborhood Sustainability Conference**

The Twin Cities Neighborhood Sustainability Conference is on Saturday Jan. 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Augsburg College. The event is free. The Partners are invited to have a (free) booth for exhibit displays, participate in break out sessions, panel discussions, or offer a workshop.

Attendance is expected to be at 400 neighborhood volunteers, block club leaders, students, teachers, resource groups, city staff and elected officials from the twin cities communities. Please contact Sean at the Alliance for Sustainability at 612-331-1099 x1 or [iasa@mtn.org](mailto:iasa@mtn.org).

## **METRO WATERSHED PARTNERS UPDATES:**

### **VOLUNTEER STREAM MONITORING PARTNERSHIP – Barb Luikkonen**

VSMP is hosting the annual River Summit at the Science Museum of Minnesota on November 13. They have received a new grant to look at e.coli in water sample testing.

### **NEMO**

You are invited to attend a brown bag lunch presentation of the latest NEMO PowerPoint called "Linking Ordinances to Water Quality".

When: Monday November 24th, 12:00 to 1:30pm

Where: MDNR Central region Headquarters (AKA Metro Office) 1200 Warner Road, in St Paul

FFI: If you have questions give Julie Westerlund 651-772-7938 or Michele Hanson 651-772-6152 a call.

### **METRO MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN**

\$110k awarded in grants for fall 2003 through fall 2004. Hired Periscope consulting firm for media strategy and ad design and placement. Majority of the media placed Spring 2004. Fall 2003 ad featured "Patricia Lake" mock obituary ad that ran in Pioneer Press and Star Tribune. Ad directed people to [www.cleanwater.org](http://www.cleanwater.org) where more information was provided including a "fall tip sheet". Ad generated coverage from Channel 5 TV and MN Public Radio. There have been 4,284 visitors to the website since Oct. 7. Future Tasks: add to website, develop spring campaign, hold three rollout workshops for MS4s in February, establish watershed relationship with station, create continuation funding strategy. Contact Ron Struss, 651-215-1950 or [rstruss@umn.edu](mailto:rstruss@umn.edu) for more information.

### **NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2004**

If anyone is interested in serving on the WSP steering committee for 2004-2005 please let Ron Struss know 651-215-1950. The steering committee meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month from 2-4:00 p.m. at Hamline University – the office of the Center for Global Environmental Education. Many of the issues involving the WSP, or issues that may be of interest to the WSP are discussed at these meetings, and then brought to the larger WSP group.

### **PRESENTATION: THE GOVERNOR'S CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE**

#### **DOUG THOMAS, Steering Committee Member of the Initiative and Assistant Director at the Board of Water and Soil Resources (standing in for Tim Scherkenbach, PCA)**

The governor's Clean Water Initiative was started at a forum in St. Cloud on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Two elements are involved: Initiating current projects and establishing a new funding mechanism for protecting Minnesota's water resources, including ensuring safe drinking water, restoring impaired waters, and providing an accurate picture of the state of our waters. The initiative brings focus to existing water resource efforts, maximizing results. The Water Cabinet is made up of AG, BWSR, Health, DNR, PCA, Met Council Chair, and Environmental Quality Board Chair.

Current level of water program funding is significant to initiate for pilot projects: Red River Valley - floods, SE Minnesota – impaired waters, Metro – clean drinking water, Central Lakes – growth impacts. The governor is committed to examining expanded long-term funding, and Water Cabinet is charged with

developing funding options.

Specifically, the metro project involves Regional Water Supply Planning by supporting the proposed interconnection between the two existing sub-regional water supply systems for Minneapolis and St. Paul. The interconnection of the Minneapolis and St. Paul systems serves the needs of more than a million consumers in the metro area by increasing both system reliabilities and making additional renewable resources available to the region. Together the two systems will be better protected from external threats and able to provide higher levels of public health and safety to their neighboring communities. This project will also include the development of a methodology for evaluating water supply alternatives to address constraints of the natural hydrologic system on a sub-regional bases. This type of methodology can serve as a state and national model.

For more information, contact Tim Scherkenbach, PCA, at 651/282-6243.

**NOTES:**

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, November 24, 2 p.m.**, at the Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE), Hamline University. The Steering Committee meets regularly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, 2-4 p.m., at CGEE. Meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 9-11 a.m.

**2003 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](mailto:pajessup@hamline.edu)