



MINUTES

April 13, 2005

ATTENDEES

Ami Thompson, National Park Service
Anne Weber, City of St. Paul
Barb Liukkonen, U of M Water Resource Center
Brenda Erickson, CGEE at Hamline
Dawn Dubats, Rice Creek WD
Jen Collova, City of Farmington
Jerry Spetzman, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
John Bilotta, UM Extension

Louise Watson, Ramsey-Washington MWD
Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA – NPS
Michele Hanson, MDNR
Rob Pruden, CGEE
Ron Struss, U of M Extension
Sarah Riddle, Eco Education
Scott Vreeland, Seward, MWMO
Tracy Fredin, CGEE

PARTNER UPDATES

Rice Creek Watershed District's **One-Stop Shopping to Restore Your Yard & Shore** program is up and running. Visit www.ricecreekwd.com for information on rain gardens and shore restorations, demo videos and shopping help. Also on the site is a section of **best management practices** for homeowners and contractors. Learn about vegetated swales, green roofs, infiltration trenches and more. Contact Dawn Dubats ddubats@ricecreekwd.com. Dawn is also in search of used computers to put this resource in garden centers and other locales.

Sierra Club organizer Scott Vreeland is working with Seward neighborhood to become a Sierra Neighborhood. Activities include house parties, best management practices and advocacy. In this and other activities, Scott would like to partner with Metro WaterShed Partners to improve public education.

Jenny Winkelman, formerly with Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, is new communications coordinator for the Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization.

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District's *WaterFest!* is May 21st. Activities and exhibits: animals, displays, water quality and resources, watershed stewardship projects, Lake Phalen history and shoreline restoration, boat tours, canoe rides and fishing instruction. The Partners WaterShed exhibit, National Park Service and Master Gardeners will play parts.

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District is compiling data from a recent web survey on the cost-effectiveness of **street sweeping**, versus treatment ponds, dredging and other methods. Plans are to publish a CD and otherwise communicate the findings and present to city public works official. With the data, they will have the power to affect decisions. Contact Louise Watson louise@rwmwd.org or Sage Passi sage@rwmwd.org. The full report is due soon.

The **Minnesota Master Gardener Program** is made up of paraprofessionals who represent the University of Minnesota Extension Service and teach horticulture. Depending on their interest and schedule, Master Gardeners are available to volunteer to help teach and organize projects. Master Gardeners can be recruited through the State Office (952-443-1442) or contacting a known Master Gardener directly.

The typically biennial **Minnesota Water 2005** and the annual **Water Resources** conferences will merge this year for a **joint conference**, October 25-26 at the Earle Brown Cultural Center in Brooklyn Park. Day 1 is largely research and theory, day 2 practice. Visit <http://wrc.coafes.umn.edu/> or contact Barb Liukkonen liukk001@umn.edu.

Sea Grant has produced **tip cards and plant sticks for water gardeners** to increase awareness and provide information about invasive plants. Contact Barb Liukkonen liukk001@umn.edu

In celebration of United Nations' Decade for Action: "Water For Life," AquaEssence ReSource presented "**Bridging the Water Gap**," an April 15-17 meeting of ecologists, writers, musicians, artists, researchers, philosophers and physicists who discussed issues surrounding the state of water on our planet.

HECUA (Higher Education Center for Urban Affairs) completed an **in-depth research study of watershed behaviors in the Phillips and Seward neighborhoods**. Led by Julia Frost Nerbonne and paid for by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), the study was highly labor intensive but yielded vast information. Contact Julia Frost Nerbonne, Program Director, Environmental Sustainability, jnerbonne@hecua.org.

UPDATES ON METRO WATERSHED PARTNER PROJECTS

MWSP exhibited the Table 3 and Street to Stream exhibits at **Target Corporation's** April 15th environmental fair. John Bilotta, Dawn Dubats and Dana Wilson volunteered during this very busy four-hour event.

The **Minnesota Water – Let's Keep it Clean** media work team is active and productive. As of this writing, a full report on activities has been sent via listserv. MPR radio spots during the last week of April/first week of May and Star Tribune and Pioneer Press print ads are the core of the current public information campaign. For more, contact Ron Struss rstruss@umn.edu.

The Steering Committee is preparing a **survey of WaterShed Partners** to be delivered via Survey Monkey, a website based survey tool, to "take the pulse of the organization" so we can continue to best meet Partner's needs. Hamline U is providing us access to their Survey Monkey subscription.

PRESENTATIONS

Mighty Mississippi Passport Program – 2005

Ami Thompson, Park Ranger, Mississippi National River & Recreation Area

After a hiatus during 2004, the passport program is being transformed. Using monies from a court settlement, Ami and colleagues are creating a three-year management plan which includes taking Freddie the Fish and his Ranger companion to more events, publicizing events on a revamped website and eliminating the expensive and quickly outdated paper passport brochure.

Making your Spring Outdoor Education Program a Success!

John Bilotta and Barb Liukkonen – UM Extension's Environmental Science Education Program

Reviewing environmental education literature nationwide, a team of UM Extension Educators compiled what they found to be key elements that make for effective natural resources education field days. The findings are available in a publication and via workshops, one being held June 9th at the Bell Museum on the UM campus. Contact John Bilotta, 952-361-1814, or visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/EnvironEd/> for more details.

NOTES

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, May 23, 2-4 p.m.** at the Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE), Hamline University. The Steering Committee meets typically on the 3th Monday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. Meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 9 a.m.** at the Department of Agriculture, St. Paul. Contact any Steering Committee member with an agenda item to include. The WaterShed Partners meet regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 9 to 11 a.m.
- **E-mail the WaterShed Partners at watershedpartners@listproc.hamline.edu.**
- **Contacts referred to in the text may be found in the partner directory at <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed>.**

2005 STEERING COMMITTEE

Sharon Doucette, 651-714-3538
Jerry Spetzman, 651-297-7269
John Bilotta, 952-361-1814
Tracy Fredin, 651-523-3105

Louise Watson, 651-704-2089
Margie Vigoren 763-509-5506
Michele Hanson, 651-766-4192
Ron Struss, 651-480-7708

FFI: Contact a Steering Committee member or John Bilotta, 952-361-1814.