



# MINUTES

## February 9, 2005

### ATTENDEES

Andy Albjerg, Eden Prairie  
Anne Weber, St. Paul Public Works  
Brenda Erickson, CGEE at Hamline  
Dawn Dubats, Rice Creek WD  
Jen Collova, City of Farmington  
Jerry Spetzman, MN Dept of Agriculture  
Jim Heintzman, SMM  
John Hensel, MPCA

Julie Westerlund, Minnehaha WD  
Michele Hanson, MDNR  
Kelsey McDonald, Sierra Club member  
Randy Thoreson, MPS/RTCA  
Roger Ramthum, MPCA  
Ron Struss, UM Extension, Meeting Convener  
Sage Passi, RWMWD  
Sharon Doucette, City of Woodbury

### PARTNER UPDATES

The **Mid-America Trails and Greenways Association** will meet in the Twin Cities July 26 and 27. Meetings, field trips, a reception and work with neighborhood organizations on water quality and storm water issues complete the agenda. The International Trails Association will also meet here July 28-31. Contact Randy Thoreson for information.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service's **Shoreland Education Series** is holding workshops on April 9 on shoreline revegetation in Prior Lake/Spring Lake. Other workshops will be held outside the metro area. See <http://www.extension.umn.edu/water/shore/workshops.htm>.

Metropolitan Council is developing its **2030 Water Resources Policy Plan**. February 18 was the deadline for comment. Two comments expressed by Partners is the draft plans eliminates incentive grants and does not provide for adequate land use planning as sewer lines are extended. The full plan is online on the Metropolitan Council website.

**Minnesota Bound's** piece on the Minnesota River is expected to air one of the last two weekends in February.

The **Freshwater Society, Rivers Council and Minnesota Lakes Association** are combining forces under a new name to be decided. Missions will not change but the single organization's larger size will make it eligible for new funding options and have more influence at the Legislature. Bruce Johnson is Interim executive director.

The Science Museum of Minnesota is contracted with Freshwater Society to produce its **2006 WeatherGuide** calendar.

**AquaEssence ReSource** and A SINGLE DROP will present "Bridging the Water Gap" April 15-17 in Hopkins. The event will join ecologists, writers, musicians, artists, physicists, researchers, philosophers and educators to discuss issues about the state of water on our planet. For info: [www.aquaessenceresource.org](http://www.aquaessenceresource.org) or [www.asingledrop.org](http://www.asingledrop.org).

**Rice Creek WaterShed District** has developed its new web site to include best management processes, construction details, resources. The challenge is how to get information out about the myriad projects and resources.

## **UPDATES ON METRO WATERSHED PARTNER PROJECTS**

The **Minnesota Water – Let's Keep it Clean** website, [www.cleanwatermn.org](http://www.cleanwatermn.org) is looking good. The money from the 2003-2004 grant has been exhausted except for \$6,500 for evaluation. But \$32,000 has been contributed to extend the program into 2005 by the cities of Andover, Bloomington, Columbia Heights, Farmington, Orono and Woodbury and Bassett Creek, Ramsey-Washington Metro and Vermillion River Watershed Organization. Contribution from other cities is pending. Representatives from these donor organizations, state agencies and members of the original group will comprise a work team to identify and/or develop materials – press releases, publications, print ads, PSAs – and make them available to local units of government, the media, etc.

**Water is Life on the KARE-11** did a nice job discussing water quality impacts of road salt. See it at: <http://kare.iewatershed.com/index.php>.

**Steering Committee:** Current committee members are John Bilotta, Tracy Fredin, Michelle Hanson, Ron Struss, and Louis Watson. Additional Partners are invited to serve or sit in to discuss particular issues of interest. Meeting dates for 2005 are being discussed, so contact John Bilotta for the next date, 952-361-1814.

**Monthly meeting convener:** John Bilotta will convene monthly Metro WaterShed Partners meetings starting in April taking over from Ron Struss.

55,900 "**Green Up Your Lawn**" brochures and 24 boxes of 65 **Green Crayon posters** were ordered from WaterShed Partners this year. Nearly \$3000 was raised for WSP.

The **WaterShed exhibits and the van** are still being evaluated. Discount services are sought to work on the van, sidelined until fixed.

### **Suggestions for future meeting speakers:**

- Deb Swackhamer, UM, endocrine interrupters, deformed fish and frogs
- AquaEssence ReSource speaker
- Topic: gasoline dropped from airplanes, where, how much hits the ground, affects
- Topic: compost-based erosion control
- Topic: rain gardens, Greg Thompson
- Mississippi River Trail, Pat Nunnally

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**RTCA: River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance** ([www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca))  
Randy Thoreson, US National Park Service, 651 290-3004

Randy, Metro WaterShed Partners member and US National Park Service Specialist, talked about the River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program and how local water resource efforts can be teamed with the Park Service.

**Rubber Ducky, You're so . . . Educational! Video**

Sharon Doucette, City of Woodbury, 651 714-3538

Sharon, WaterShed Partner and environmental coordinator for the City of Woodbury, showed the Rubber Ducky storm water video produced by the city and discussed its production and other aspects of her education work in Woodbury.

**NOTES:**

- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 9 to 11 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 listserv at [watershedpartners@listproc.hamline.edu](mailto:watershedpartners@listproc.hamline.edu).** One e-mail to this list goes to the entire Partners membership.
- **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

Louise Watson, 651-704-2089

Michele Hanson, 651-766-4192

Ron Struss, 651-480-7708

Tracy Fredin, 651-523-3105

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

END