



MINUTES June 8, 2005

ATTENDEES

Angela Hammers, Minnehaha Creek, WD
Anne Weber, City of St. Paul
Brenda Erickson, CGEE at Hamline
Don Asleson, City of Chanhassen
Jeff Ledermann, MOEA
Jen Collova, City of Farmington
Jenny Winkelman, MWMO
Jerry Spetzman, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
Jim Heintzman, Science Museum of Minnesota
John Bilotta, UM Extension

Julie Westerlund, Minnehaha Creek WD
Kelsey McDonald, Sierra Club/Sierra
Neighborhoods
Louise Watson, Ramsey-Washington MWD
Lyndon Torstenson, NPS/MNRRRA
Randy Neprash, Bonestroo and Associates
Roger Ramthun, MPCA
Ron Struss, U of M Extension
Sharon Doucette, Woodbury
Teri Heyer, USDA Forest Service
Tracy Fredin, CGEE

PARTNER UPDATES

To allow all partners to give full reports, the time for partner updates has been expanded to 40 minutes. Partners are asked to keep updates to approximately two minutes per item.

Jeff Ledermann of the **Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance** talked about the **Buy Green Power** campaign and distributed flyers, buttons and window clings. The drive includes generalized social marketing, special focus with exhibits and events during the Minnesota State Fair, a challenge to OEA staff. Materials, buttons, clings and support are available from the office at <http://www.moea.state.mn.us/energy/greenpower.cfm> and by contact with Jeff jeff.ledermann@moea.state.mn.us. Partners are encouraged to use the campaign as part of festivals and educational events. Buying Green Power allows people to "vote with our dollars." Questions were raised about power companies' responsibility for promoting Green Power.

MOEA's **Living Green Expo** was named 2004-05 **Meeting of the Year** by the Minnesota Chapter of Meeting Professionals International, besting several elaborate corporate meetings and special events. This year's Expo was attended by 13,000 people, approximately 30% more than in 2004.

Roger Ramthun, MPCA, showed "**porous-pave**" material for driveways. The geo-textile material allows water pass-through, prevents weed growth and has other features that have been well accepted by contractors and residents.

Hamline's **Center for Global Environmental Education** will present the ninth annual **Solstice River**, a grand site-specific performance which celebrates the Mississippi River. Held on Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19 at 8:00 p.m. sharp, this year's two-night event honors the Dakota Nation.

CGEE is also presenting **Rivers Institute**, a two-credit course for educators, Monday-Wednesday, July 25-27. Grants from Medtronic, 3M and others will pay full scholarships and a \$250 stipend for field trips and resources for qualified enrollees. For complete information and forms, visit <http://cgee.hamline.edu>, find WHAT'S NEW, then Rivers Institute 2005 or email riverinstitute@hamline.edu.

Jim Heitzman, The Science Museum of Minnesota, has completed 2006 Weatherguide Environment desk and wall calendars. He is at work on a digital version for 2007. The price is \$7 each to those who re-sell them at \$15.95 as a fund raiser. Reach Jim at jheitzman@smmn.org.

Jim also reported the **SMM** has received a grant of \$2 million for a **traveling water exhibit** to be ready in 2007. (Another \$1 million is needed to realize the project.) The exhibit will open at SMM before hitting the road.

Louise Watson reported that **Ramsey-Washington Metro WD** is working on a PowerPoint presentation of findings of its street sweeping study. Pending review and comment by public works forums and managers, the target date for broader release is early July.

Ramsey-Washington Metro WD is seeking help organizing a **walkathon** for its sixth annual May **Water Fest**. The team has many ideas but no direct experience. To suggest resources, contact Louise at louise@rwmwd.org.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service has received a PCA grant to **assess performance of stormwater practices**. Partners are sought. Contact **Ron Struss** rstruss@umn.edu for information.

Fourth annual national Nonpoint and Stormwater Education Conference is being hosted by the Chicago Botanical Gardens and EPA on October 17 and 20 in **Chicago**. For more information, contact Ron Struss. Proposals for papers are due June 17. Information went out on the MWSP listserv.

UPDATES ON METRO WATERSHED PARTNER PROJECTS

In lieu of presentations at the July monthly meeting, MWSP will host a **Partner Product Showcase**. Partners should bring samples of materials, buttons, products and brochures and examples of collaborations to familiarize others with activities and initiatives. Please watch for an email announcement that will have all the details you need to know.

The **Minnesota Water – Let's Keep it Clean** team will meet again soon to plan fall succinct outreach messages and methods of delivery and to consider ways to evaluate the public education campaign. The University of Minnesota office that evaluates the effectiveness of education resources may be engaged in the effort. Approximately \$31,000 has been committed to the effort by organizations and municipalities; \$10,000 has been spent.

PLEASE update your listings for the WaterShed Partners by emailing cgee@hamline.edu.

PRESENTATIONS

WaterShed Partners at the Minnesota State Fair!

John Bilotta

Partners are again asked to staff the exhibit. Changes that should make the job easier this year include:

- Permanent installation of the exhibit at the fair.
- Refurbishing Table 1, the “water table,” that was a big problem in 2004. We will either be ensuring Table 1 will no longer leak or have a appropriate mechanism to ensure we do not get water on the floor of the DNR Building.
- Update and reconditioned landscapes. We are looking for a WSP member to do some simple repairs to the landscapes for Table 1. Repairs needed include securing the trees, the wetland sponger etc. We need a Partner who has an imagination, some creativity and perhaps a hot glue gun. If someone would like to volunteer – please let us know ASAP. Otherwise we will spend WSP dollars and hire the repairs out.
- New stools for kiosks. (We need 3 new bar stools for the KIOSKS at the Fair. If a Partner has some they would like to donate, let us know ASAP. Otherwise we will spend WSP funds and purchase 3 new ones.
- Three computer kiosks will run all six educational modules.
- Staffing shifts will run four hours on weekdays and two hours on weekends.
- Staffing will be one per slot, rather than two-per-slot scheduled in the past.
- Fair tickets to Partner staff provided by CGEE.
- There will be no brochures, except for the display hosted at the exhibit by NPS/MNRRRA. (WaterShed Partners brochures are out of stock or out of date.)
- CGEE student workers will provide daily maintenance of the exhibit and be on call to support Partners.

Reminder: State Fair staffing continues to be an expectation of all Partners. The fair sign-up sheet was routed; eight Partners filled ten shifts. The schedule and sign-up instructions are on the exhibit page of the MWSP website. Please visit <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/Exhibit/05fairsignup.htm> to review the dates and shift times available and respond via the instructions found on that webpage.

Non-degradation: Thirty Minnesota Cities’ Stormwater Challenge

Randy Neprash, Bonestroo and Associates

In response to a lawsuit challenge, thirty of Minnesota’s most rapidly growing cities are being required to respond to Minnesota’s non-degradation water quality rule; that current pollution loading cannot be greater than 1988 levels. For second ring suburban cities that were still open fields in 1988, this will be a substantial challenge. Randy discussed the non-degradation rule, why Minnesota has it and other states do not, and what it will take to meet it. The role of public education and outreach were discussed, and how non-degradation cities can gain credit for their education programs.

Closing discussion on the role of the Education Subcommittee of the State Stormwater Steering Committee, which is now inactive. Randy encouraged Metro WaterShed Partners to consider revitalization of the subcommittee.

NOTES

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, June 20, 2-4 p.m.** at the Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE), Hamline University, 1467 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul. 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, July 13, 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.