



MINUTES May 11, 2005

ATTENDEES

April Rust, MN Project WET/DNR
Brenda Erickson, CGEE at Hamline
Dawn Dubats, Rice Creek WD
Debbie Anderson, Capitol Region WD
Jen Collova, City of Farmington
Jerry Spetzman, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
John Bilotta, UM Extension
Julie Westerlund, Minnehaha Creek WD
Leslie Stovring, Eden Prairie

Louise Watson, Ramsey-Washington MWD
Michele Hanson, MDNR
Randy Thoreson, NPS/RTCA
Rob Pruden, CGEE
Roger Ramthun, MPCA
Ron Struss, U of M Extension
Shannon Lotthammer, Prior Lake/Spring Lake WD
Teri Heyer, USDA Forest Service
Tracy Fredin, CGEE

PARTNER UPDATES

To allow for all partners to give full reports, the time for Partner updates has been expanded to 40 minutes. It's also asked that Partners restrict updates to approximately two minutes per item. If you require additional time, please make a request to John Bilotta or another Steering Committee Member prior to the meeting.

UM Extension Service, MN Office of Environmental Assistance and Hartley Nature Center present **Best Practices for Field Days** on June 9th at the Bell Museum in Minneapolis and on other dates around the state. For information and brochures, contact John Bilotta at 952-361-1814 or jbilotta@co.carver.mn.us.

Jerry Spetzman delivered much good stormwater education material for the taking.

Despite cold weather, the **City of Farmington** had 400 some volunteers clean up 3.69 tons of trash in their Arbor Day community event. For more, contact Jen Collova.

Teri Heyer noted two **USDA publications** of interest:

1. **Backyard Woods**: a guide for small forest (one to ten acres) landowners. The guide introduces twelve practices and family activities associated with each. Twelve tip sheets describe each practice in more detail. For more information go to:

<http://www.arborday.org/backyardwoods>.

2. **Dialogue on Diversity--Broadening the Voices in Urban and Community Forestry** describes how to make sure the folks you want to be at your public meeting actually come! It includes a "Recipe for Reaching Out." Contact Teri at for copies or more information.

KARE-11's Water for Life has been in operation for about a year. **KARE and StormCenter** are looking for sponsorship to continue the program. The Water for Life Web site <http://kare.iewatershed.com/> receives the second most hits among affiliates in the country. Recently on-air was an *Extra* on the Vermillion River. Watch for upcoming stories about Lake Phalen and Grand Rapids. Please continue to pass story ideas on to

Jane Helmke, KARE 11 news: jhelmke@kare11.com with a copy to Ed Gross, StormCenter, ed.gross@stormcenter.com.

April Rust, MN Project WET/DNR, announced June 22-23 **facilitator training** at Carlos Avery Nature Center. Contact her for brochure and application at April.Rust@dnr.state.mn.us, 651-297-4951.

Roger Ramthun, MPCA, reported that Dassel in Meeker County has installed storm-water separators and set basins. Contact Roger for further details.

Also on May 21, **Prior Lake/Spring Lake Park WD** presented an Extension Service workshop on shoreline planting.

Spread the word: 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, videos, shopping help and **best management practices** for homeowners and contractors. Contact Dawn Dubats ddubats@ricecreekwd.com. Dawn is also looking for used computers for garden centers and elsewhere.

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District's *WaterFest!* is May 21st at Lake Phalen in St. Paul. The Partners WaterShed exhibit, National Park Service and Master Gardeners will play parts. Contact Louise Watson for information on this on-going community outreach event.

Solstice River IX, the CGEE's site-specific performance at the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis is set for Saturday and Sunday, June 18 & 19 at 8:15 p.m. Created by Marilee Hardenbergh and simulcast on KBEM 88.5 FM, Solstice River IX will mark the Treaty of 1805 and honor the Dakota Oyate People. Volunteers are needed to set up and staff the WaterShed exhibit.

CGEE is also hosting **Rivers Institute 2005**, a three-day field-based, two-credit course that addresses the connection between social systems and the natural world by examining how humans have changed the Mississippi River and how it continues to change us. All seven-county metro area 3-8 grade elementary and middle-school classroom, social studies and science teachers are invited. Qualified participants receive a **scholarship and \$250 mini-grant** to fund a field experience for students. For more information, call 651-523-2591 or email riverinstitute@hamline.edu.

Capitol Region Watershed District hosts its spring tour from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 25. For information, go to <http://www.capitolregionwd.org/>. It will also present Como WaterFest on June 18. Most events, including displays, entertainment and canoe rides, will be held south of the pavilion.

TrailLink 2005, sponsored by the **Rails-to-Trails Conservancy** and **Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota**, will be held in Minneapolis, July 26-30. The conference will examine trends in trail design and management; explore the public health impact of

trails; provide policy and legal updates; and examine other issues affecting trails around the globe. Learn all about it at <http://www.railtrails.org/traillink2005/> or contact Randy Thoreson.

Barb Skoglund, MPCA Public Information Officer in covering stormwater, has a new job as a trainer with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Chicago Botanical Gardens and the EPA are hosting a conference on **non-point source pollution education** on October 17 and 20 in Chicago. The focus will be on urban stormwater education. For more information, contact Ron Struss. A call for papers is out and Partners are encourage to submit abstracts on the good work being done in Minnesota. Abstract deadline is June 17th, more info at: http://cfpub2.epa.gov/npdes/courses.cfm?program_id=0&outreach_id=238&o_type=1

UPDATES ON METRO WATERSHED PARTNER PROJECTS

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

The **Minnesota Water – Let’s Keep it Clean** spring media campaign is nearly complete. MPR radio spots aired the last week of April and first week of May. Star Tribune and Pioneer Press “green crayon” print ads appeared. Web site hits increased marginally around the time of the media placements. If people are seeing the ads, they are not running to the Web site as a result. The cost of the effort totaled approximately \$14,800. Contributing cities are noted on the Web site. The committee will reconvene in about a month. For more, contact Ron Struss rstruss@umn.edu.

PRESENTATIONS

The Watershed Display: The NEW Version “Interactive KIOSK & Stream Table,” Tracy Fredin and Rob Pruden

What is the new Watershed Display? How does it work? What are the messages? What we have learned from KIOSK implementation so far. Outcomes requested: letters and financial support from Partners and an implementation plan.

Four traveling kiosks are currently available. John Bilotta and Louise Watson report good usage and near trouble-free operation in Chaska, at Maplewood Nature Center and other locations in Ramsey and Washington County. CGEE will move forward to purchase professional platforms, sound domes and other features. Kiosks can be leased or purchased. *8 Steps to Kiosk Success* and a summary of the Water Down the Drain Kiosk Program by Ramsey Washington Metro WD’s Education Program were distributed. Contact CGEE for the former, Louise Watson for the latter.

What Watershed Educators Should Know About Street Sweeping,

Louise Watson and Joel Schilling

Do you know much about what public works staff are doing for water quality? Street sweeping is one of the many BMPs for water quality being studied and implemented in cities across the nation. Joel and Louise presented the findings of their nationwide survey and research on the technology, practice and issues, in Minnesota and nationwide.

Plans are to publish a CD and otherwise communicate the findings and present to city public works officials. 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.

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, June 8, 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.