



MINUTES September 14, 2005

ATTENDEES

Andy Albjerg, City of Eden Prairie	Julia Nerbonne, HECUA
Anne Weber, City of St. Paul	Kara DeVriendt, City of Minneapolis
April Rust, MN Project Wet-DNR	Kimberly Byrd, NRCC, consultant w/HECUA
Brenda Erickson, CGEE at Hamline	Michele Hanson, MDNR
Dawn Dubats, Rice Creek WD	Rich Cairn, Cairn & Associates
Deb Anderson, Capitol Region WD	Robby Schreiber, HECUA
Jenny Winkleman, MWMO	Roger Ramthun, MPCA
Jerry Spetzman, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture	Ron Struss, U of M Extension
Joe Carlson, City of Minneapolis	Sarah Riddle, Eco Education

NEW MEETING LOCATION REMINDER!!

MWSP now meet at the offices of:

Capitol Region Watershed District
1410 Energy Park Drive, Suite 4
St. Paul, MN 55108

Thanks CRWD. A map can be found at <http://www.capitolregionwd.org>. You may also phone 651-644-8888 for directions.

PARTNER UPDATES

Eco Education in partnership with **MWMO**, **UM Extension** and **Friends of the Mississippi River**, announces its **City Trek!**, a field study of Twin Cities Water Quality issues for intermediate and secondary teachers on October 5, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Capitol Region Watershed District offices. Fun and an inundation of resources are promised. For info on this and future programs, visit www.ecoeducation.org.

Rice Creek Watershed District held three parities around lakeshore restorations. Groups of approximately 90, 70 and 40 saw projects and many signed up for cost sharing alternatives to rip rap. Homeowners presented briefly and an informative time was had by all.

The Chicago Botanical Gardens and EPA hosts the fourth national **Nonpoint and Stormwater Pollution Education Conference** October 17 – 20 in **Chicago**. Minnesota is well represented with six presenters and a poster. Ron Struss will speak on Minnesota Water. For more information, contact Ron or visit <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/aquatics/nonpoint/>.

Ron Struss reports that the Twins Cities Fine Arts Organization will host its fourth annual **Art on the Town Celebration October 6-16**. The event celebrates visual arts organizations with exhibitions, educational events, family and kids' programs, demonstrations, and receptions in over 60 visual arts venues throughout Minneapolis, St.

Paul and suburbs. This year's focus is on water and MWSP is participating. **MWSP volunteers are needed on Saturday, October 15 to staff our displays in the busy Northrup King Building.** It'll be fun! After the event, volunteers are invited to celebrate with music and food.

Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District held its annual **Children's Water Festival** on September 30, 2005. Its purpose is to provide a hands-on out-of-the-classroom educational experience about water resources for 5th grade students in Chisago County. Students and teachers work and play in outdoor/indoor interactive-learning stations.

HECUA, Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs, is **looking for projects of up to 10 hours** for college students this fall. Projects might be seed collection, restoration or like work. The aim is to help students learn about environmental organizations and the work they do. Contact Julia Nerbonne at jnerbonne@hecua.org or Robby Schreiber rschreiber@hecua.org or phone 651-646-8831.

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) has a new logo. See it at www.dnr.state.mn.us/projectwet. April Rust reports WET is presenting two assessment and testing courses through Hamline in fall. The first focuses on standards and contents, the second on constructing tests.

October is Invasive Species Month in Minnesota. There are many, many **Buckthorn eradication projects** for volunteers.

Science Museum of Minnesota: SMM's water quality 20-minute video segment draws about ten viewers each run. MPCA gave money to SMM for the Big Back Yard exhibit.

Roger Ramthun, MPCA, asked how best to educate local officials about stormwater issues. When we see something wrong, we should report it and follow up.

To help address the shortage of training opportunities for public works employees, **Capitol Region Watershed District** is doing an education **program for snowplowing staff**. Salt and chemical release among other topics will be covered. Participants will earn a certificate of completion. An early spring pilot for other kinds of workers may be offered.

RON???? Amica tour – Maplewood Community

UPDATES ON METRO WATERSHED PARTNER PROJECTS

The watershed exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair continues to draw good crowds, with or without the pump that was "gracefully extracted." Full visitor estimates, evaluation comments and further discussion at the October meeting. Comments offered at this meeting: One volunteer attracted people by activating the bird sounds on the MNRRA exhibit. Over the six years we have been at the fair, more and more people seem to understand the message. Many little kids who don't read are among visitors to the exhibit. Is there something else we

can do for them? And is our location the best for us? Would we get different results if we were positioned elsewhere? Our instructions for volunteers need to be streamlined, even after major edits for 2005.

Minnesota Water – Let's Keep it Clean has generated approximately \$35,000 from cities, towns and watershed organizations and will support participating organizations with public education they could not do as effectively on their own.

Let's Keep it clean was at the fair with 90,000 flyers stuffed into WCCO-830 bags. Total cost was \$_____. The campaign will also air 112 ads the last week of September/first week of October for a cost of \$14,800. The reach is estimated at _____ to _____. And National Night Out block party-planning kits, organized by radio 89.3 The Current and distributed at Whole Foods markets, contained information and invitations to have water resource people attend neighborhood events.

Print ads valued at \$4,000 will be placed. Conversations about evaluating our efforts are ongoing. The group will also pursue advertisements in community newspapers and publications, including MNLA News lawn care professionals. The latter will require fresh copy. Discussions about hiring someone for these ongoing efforts continue. In the meantime, work will be detailed and divided among team members. New contributors to the Let's Keep It Clean include the cities of Eden Prairie and Minnetonka and Scott County.

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

PRESENTATION

HECUA, Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs, is an organization of 17 liberal arts colleges, universities and associations dedicated to education for social justice. It presents academically rigorous, off-campus study programs that address the most pressing issues in our neighborhoods, nations and world. The collaboration engages students, faculty and practitioners in learning and working with tools for social transformation and community building.

HECUA's Fall 2004 Environmental Sustainability Program – Citizen Survey

Results Julia Nerbonne, Environmental Sustainability Program Director; Robby Schreiber, Program Assistant and Research Coordinator; and Kimberly Byrd, NRCC, a consultant for HECUA.

The Longfellow and Seward neighborhoods in south Minneapolis have been the site of many progressive programs that stress personal responsibility for the ecology of the neighborhood and the connection between human activity and water quality. Do neighborhood residents understand the connection between their actions and environmental quality? If they do, do they care? Have they changed their actions? What conditions spur a change in their actions? This presentation provides an overview of the development and results of the Environmental

Survey carried out in the neighborhoods by students from HECUA's fall 2004 Environmental Sustainability Program.

MWSP may request research help from HECUA. Our group should consider what questions and answers would advance our work.

HECUA's Environmental Sustainability program is an intensive full semester of two classroom days and three days of internships per week. HECUA looks for **internship projects**; contact Julia at jnerbonne@hecua.org.

NOTES

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: ????????????, 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 3rd Monday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. Meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 9 a.m.** the offices of the Capitol Region Watershed District. 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
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FFI: Contact a Steering Committee member or John Bilotta, 952-361-1814.