



## NOTES December 14, 2005

### ATTENDEES

Anne Weber, City of St. Paul  
April Rust, MN Project Wet-DNR  
Brenda Erickson, CGEE at Hamline  
Dan McLean, MPCA-Stormwater  
Dawn Dubats, Rice Creek Watershed District  
Deb Anderson, Capitol Region WD  
Jack Ray, Urban Boatbuilders  
Jane Helmke, KARE-11  
Jenny Winkleman, MWMO  
Jim Hafner, City of Blaine

John Bilotta, U of M Extension  
Kate Knuth, CGEE  
Lori Haak, City of Chanhassen  
Lyndon Torstenson, NPS/MNRRRA  
Michele Hanson, Friends of the Minnesota Valley  
Randy Thoreson, NPS/RTCA  
Ron Struss, UM Extension  
Teri Heyer, USDA Forest Service  
Tracy Fredin, CGEE  
Wendy Griffin, Washington Conservation District

### MEETING LOCATION

MWSPs meet at the offices of:

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

Find a map at <http://www.capitolregionwd.org> or phone 651-644-8888 for directions.

An entertaining best-gift-of-the-season reporting accompanied introductions.

### PARTNER UPDATES

**April Rust** announced **Project WET's 2006 Water Festival Make-a-Splash grant** program targeting populations that don't often get such opportunities. Applications are due January 30. Go to <http://www.seek.state.mn.us> for full information.

**Rice Creek Watershed District's *Every Drop Counts* 2006 water quality wall calendar** is available. RCWD has **cost-share monies and rebates** available for native landscaping, rain gardens and lakeshore restoration projects. Contact Dawn Dubats [ddubats@ricecreek.org](mailto:ddubats@ricecreek.org) for more about both.

Go to the **National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation (NPS/RTCA) Web site** [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca) for vast information and research on water, open space, stewardship, green infrastructure and much more.

The **National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium** in Dubuque, IA will again be hosting a **Student Oceans Conference**. The first event was held in May 2005 and included high school students from Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Initial funding for this event comes from EPA and NOAA.

The new 750-page **Minnesota Stormwater Manual**, created by the Stormwater Steering Committee, has been released. The manual has many appendices, links, BMPs, site designs and fact

sheets and is written to be widely used and not overly technical or legal. Training events will take place across the state in January and February 2006, including a review at MWSP January meeting. Get more information and download the manual at the **Minnesota Pollution Control** Web site <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/>.

#### **Ron Struss' Clean Water Minnesota update:**

- Showed a photo of the **People's Choice Award for Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Pollution Outreach** won for the Water Down the Drain (with Alex the Frog) video.
- Announced placement of **advertising** starting in January for six months in **The Scoop, magazine of the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association**.
- Described MPCA-funded **evaluation** of the program by face-to-face interviews with 26 cities drawn from League of Minnesota Cities clusters. Debbie Meister of MMC Association, LLP will conduct interviews.
- Reorganization of the **MPCA** into four divisions allows for statewide coordination and technical assistance. The Technical Education Advisory group, including the former Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) will address education. Pollution prevention, P<sup>2</sup>, will be addressed by the Gang of 5: Jeff Lederman, Mark Rust, Gretchen Sabel, Susan Switzer and Cindy Hilmoe. Discussed possible organization by WSP of a sub-committee on education for media campaigns and gaps in stormwater education or with NEMO on land-use decision making. There is a potential tie-in with state funding; pollution prevention grants of up to \$40,000 from a pool or \$40,000 are available. Some administrative support may also be possible.

Jenny Winkelman shared printed material about **Achieve!Minneapolis' summer 2006 STEP-UP** summer jobs program. For more go to [www.achieveminnneapolis.org](http://www.achieveminnneapolis.org).

The **Capital Region Watershed District** Rules Development comment period ends December 15, 2005.

Julie Westerlund is working with the city of Minneapolis and CGEE at Hamline on ways to do stormwater education. Joe Carlson, in charge of stormwater ed for the city, is developing a draft plan of general education to meet NPDES requirements and is feeling out the territory and resources available.

Jack Ray, Urban Boatbuilders, described his organization as an experiential education group. It will move to a site on the Mississippi River and will become more involved in environmental education

#### **UPDATES ON METRO WATERSHED PARTNER ACTIVITIES**

##### **Metro WaterShed Partners Year-End Round-up**

##### **Top Ten Activities of 2005**

...in no particular order, save number one which really is number one.

10. New location for meetings at Capitol Region Watershed District offices.
9. Media campaign including PSAs and the transition from state to municipal funding
8. Water for Life
7. People's Choice award for Water Down the Drain with Alex the Frog video.
6. Outstanding participation in Nonpoint and Stormwater Pollution Education Conference
5. Exhibiting at the Minnesota State Fair and including information in thousands of WCCO bags

4. Exhibiting at the Target Environmental Fair and the October Art on the Town event
3. Selling and supervising printing of Green Up Your Lawn brochures and Green Crayon posters to organizations throughout Minnesota and the U.S.
2. Introduction of the new educational kiosk
1. **Networking, sharing and collaborating!**

It was a year of many successes and great impact. It might be interesting to visit the WaterShed Partners history written by Lyndon Torstenson on the Web site at <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/Partners/WSP%20milestones.pdf>.

### **Recognition of Key Contributors to Metro WaterShed Partners activities in 2005**

Teri Heyer, USDA Forest Service  
 Jane Helmke, KARE-11  
 Laura Mylan, Periscope  
 Tracy Fredin, Center for Global Environmental Education, Hamline University  
 Brenda Erickson, CGEE, Hamline  
 John Bilotta, U of M Extension and WaterShed Partners convener

"In acknowledgement of, and appreciation for, your support of the Metro WaterShed Partners and its efforts in water resource education. Your contributions have made possible innovative and successful approaches to water education in 2005."

### **2006 Steering Committee Named**

Deb Anderson, Capitol Region Watershed District  
 John Bilotta, U of M Extension, Carver County  
 Sharon Doucette, City of Woodbury  
 Dawn Dubats, Rice Creek Watershed District  
 Tracy Fredin, Center for Global Environmental Education, Hamline University  
 Michele Hanson, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, MWSP convener  
 April Rust, MN DNR Project WET  
 Ron Struss, U of M Extension  
 Louise Watson, Ramsey-Washington Watershed District  
 Anne Weber, City of St. Paul

In January, the Steering Committee will convene a **strategic planning** process for MWSP.

The December meeting concluded with snacks and networking, what we do best.

### **NOTES**

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, January 23, 2-4 p.m.** in Law and Grad Schools building at Hamline University, St. Paul. Steering Committee meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 9 to 11 a.m.** at Capitol Region Watershed District, 1410 Energy Park Drive, Suite 4, St. Paul, MN 55108.
- Contact any Steering Committee member with an agenda item to include. WaterShed Partners meet regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 9 to 11 a.m.
- **E-mail Metro WaterShed Partners at [watershedpartners@listproc.hamline.edu](mailto:watershedpartners@listproc.hamline.edu).** Must be subscribed to the listserv.

- **Find contacts** referred to in the text in the partner directory at <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed>.
- PLEASE **update your listings** for Metro WaterShed Partners by emailing [cgee@hamline.edu](mailto:cgee@hamline.edu).

#### **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 at 952-361-1814.