



NOTES May 10, 2006

ATTENDEES

Anne Weber, City of St. Paul
April Rust, MN Project Wet (DNR)
Dawn Dubats, Rice Creek Watershed District
Debbie Anderson, Capitol Region WD
Jen Collova, Farmington
Jenny Winkelman, MWMO
Johanna Schussler, City of Burnsville
John Bilotta, U of M Ext.
John Bower CMWD
Kate Knuth, CGEE

Margie Vigoren, City of Plymouth
Paula Liepold, Dakota County
Randy Thoreson, NPS/RTCA
Ron Struss, UM Ext.
Shane Lund, City of St. Cloud
Susan McGuire, Stearns Cty. Environmental Service
Tammy Joho, MCWD
Teri Heyer, USDA Forest Service
Tracy Fredin, CGEE
Trevor Russell, Friends of the Mississippi
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.

PARTNER UPDATES

The MPCA and U of M are doing **trainings on illicit discharge and detection and elimination**. Part of the program is designing and implementing education programs to support illicit discharge programs. Anyone with examples of such programs, please share with Ron Struss.

The **Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE)** is being spearheaded by Trout Unlimited. The effort focuses on the unique "driftless" (un-glaciated) area of the upper Midwest and brings together many local, regions, and federal agencies in MN, WI, IL, and IA to work on sensitive watershed protection and public awareness. www.tu.org/driftless

The **St. Croix Riverway open house** will be happening on July 15, 2006 in St. Croix Falls, WI.

Raingarden planting in Fridley on Saturday, May 13 from 9-12. Lunch served afterwards for people who RSVP. Planting will happen rain or shine. Contact Dawn at ddubats@ricecreekorg for details and a map to the site.

The **Metro Envirothon**, a junior and high school environmental knowledge competition, happened May 4th and 11th at the Arboretum.

The **Metro Children's Water Festival** is happening September 27th. Volunteer and presenter announcements starting soon. Watch for emails.

The **Green Institute's Eco-Yard** is debuting May 20th.

CGEE has several exciting events and courses in coming months. The **Rivers Institute** will be happening July 24, 25, and 26. A **Global Warming Colloquium** and accompanying course is June 21. The **One River Mississippi** performance is June 24. More information: www.cgEE.hamline.edu

The Dakota County Water Resources Office is coordinating **WHEP – Wetland Health Evaluation Program**. Eight cities in Dakota County have identified wetlands to be monitored by citizen volunteers. www.mnwhep.org

Get ready for the **Como Lake Water Festival** on June 17th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. It will be happening rain or shine, South of the Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 North Lexington Parkway, St. Paul. More information at www.capitolregionwd.org.

Minnesota **Project Wet Workshops** are happening throughout the summer across the state. Upcoming workshops include: Wargo Nature Center in Hugo, MN, 6/27-6/28; Vermillion Community College in Ely, MN, 7/18-7/21; Winona, MN, 8/7; and Willmar High School in Willmar, MN, 8/8-8/10. More information about the workshops at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/projectwet/index.html>.

The Friends of the Mississippi and Rice Creek Watershed district will be running a stream health program. More details will come as the summer progresses.

UPDATES ON METRO WATERSHED PARTNER ACTIVITIES

The State Stormwater education subcommittee to the state stormwater working group met in Sartell on April 28. The group brings together a number of regional groups to identify, prioritize and address statewide stormwater education need. The goal of the next meeting (in June) is to create a priority list of statewide stormwater education needs.

The **Metro Media Campaign** is kicking off its spring ads on WCCO radio. The ad, on keeping leaves and grass clippings off streets, will run 72 times, with a third during Twins baseball games. The ad is also featured on the www.cleanwatermn.org website. Ramsey Washington watershed district has put together a brochure, and it is available for customization and distribution by other groups. Looking ahead to fall, a TV campaign and issues marketing through KSTP are possibilities.

The State Fair is coming up in August, and CGEE will be spearheading the interactive kids area in the new Eco-Experience building. The steering committee will be discussing the WaterShed Partners exhibit in the DNR building. Get ready to volunteer!

The **Kiosk Program** will grow this summer. The city of Minneapolis is purchasing five or so kiosks to be used in the Metro Area. This summer, kiosk use pattern information will be gathered.

A grant for \$60,000 has been submitted to the McKnight Foundation. The program officer had a positive site visit, and is contacting steering committee members about the Partners.

A **NEMO** group has been meeting regularly since November, and are moving forward with creating a position for a coordinator in the Metro Area with some statewide responsibilities. The position will likely be through extension and located at the League of Minnesota Cities. The group is aiming for July 1 as a date to get this going.

The group broke into strategic planning small groups in order to set a date and time for a meeting for each group. These groups will keep the momentum of the strategic planning process going. The groups are: funding and membership, internal organization, public outreach and media, and local government staff and officials.

PRESENTATION

Rainwater Infiltration Methods and Successes in Holland – Alco van der Marel

Alco van der Marel gave an overview of the planning and policy strategies utilized in Oosterbeck, Holland to maintain and increase public green space, promote sustainable development, and address storm water issues. He discussed the general thinking involved in several policy frameworks including: forest policy plan (2003), green space master plan (2004), tree conservation plan (2004), landscape development plan (2005), and water plan (2006). Pictures of the area accompanied the presentation, highlighting the development strategy of dense housing surrounded by open green space.

NOTES

- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, June 14, from 9-11 am at Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District building**, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, MN, 55117. **Note the special meeting location!** Contact any Steering Committee member with an agenda item to include. WaterShed Partners meet regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 9 to 11 a.m.
- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, June, 19, 2-4 p.m.** at Hamline University, St. Paul. Steering Committee meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.
- **E-mail Metro WaterShed Partners at watershedpartners@listproc.hamline.edu.** Senders 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 kknuth01@hamline.edu.

2006 STEERING COMMITTEE

Anne Weber, 651-266-6245

April Rust, 651-259-5706

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FFI: Contact a Steering Committee member or Kate Knuth at 651-523-2812.