MINUTES
May 14, 2003

ATTENDEES
Anne Weber, City of St. Paul
Carrie Andresen, MNRRA
Dana Raines, Volunteer
Daniel Huff, Dakota Co. EE Program
Jenny Schaust, Hennepin Conservation District
Jerry Spetzman, Dept. of Agriculture
Joan Ellis, Minnehaha Creek WSD
Kevin Proescholdt, VSMP
Linda Henning, Metropolitan Council ES

Lisa Gilliland, Anoka Co. Parks – Wargo
Margie Vigoren, City of Plymouth
Michele Hanson, MN DNR – Watershed Protection
Pamela Jessup, Hamline – CGEE
Randy Thoreson, NPS – RTCA
Rich Cairn, Cairn and Associates
Ron Struss, MN Extension Service/BWSR
Sharon Doucette, City of Woodbury

PARTNER UPDATES:
Randy Thoreson
Phone: 651-290-3004  Email: randy_thoreson@nps.gov
I wrote up a national paper on the importance of connecting “Watersheds and RTCA (Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program).” Happy to report that national NPS/RTCA leadership is embracing the idea and moving forward on incorporating watershed “action items” in current as well as upcoming projects assistance strategies. I cited our “Watershed Partners” group as a success story on people and agencies working together!

Rich Cairn
Phone: 651-722-5806  Email: rcairn@ties.k12.mn.us
Thanks to the Watershed Partners from the participants at the National Service Learning Conference for an April 25th site visit by 22 educators - all but two from outside MN, one from Japan. They were very excited to hear about our work and to touch the Mississippi River. Thanks to our host Jim Bradley of North Mississippi Regional Park, and to our presenters: Rich Cairn, John Bilotta, Linda Henning, Alyssa Hawkins, April Rust, and Jim Bradley. Our conference participants, including students and teachers, decorated a chair, which is presented today to the Watershed Partners.

METRO WATERSHED PARTNERS UPDATE
NEMO
No update

VOLUNTEER STREAM MONITORING PARTNERSHIP (VSMP) – Kevin Proescholdt
Spring trainings are now finished. In development is a new taxodomic identification key with illustrations. It will be ready to go by next fall monitoring season. VSMP has been asked to present at the “Connecting Ohio Watersheds” conference in June in Columbus, Ohio.

COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN – Ron Struss
WSP has received three grants for the communications campaign: $50k from Met Council, $40k from OEA, $20k from PCA. Ron sent out the request for proposals to marketing and advertising firms. Eleven out of the 14 responded with proposals. Monday May 19 the taskforce group will be meeting to sort through them and narrow the agencies down in order to chose one.

**MCKNIGHT GRANT UPDATE – Ron Struss**
The Metro WaterShed Partners applied for McKnight grant and asked for $180K. initially. We have received a proposal from them for $60K for the WaterShed Partners and the WaterShed Exhibit, but not VSMP or NEMO.

**PRESENTATION 1: Mighty Mississippi Passport Program**, Carrie Andresen - MNRRA
The activity book is again being printed, and the program is also online. When kids complete a certain number of programs, they receive a pin and become a Mighty Mississippi Junior Ranger. There are new Freddie Stamps that go in the Passport booklet, and there is a new Freddie Costume that anyone can rent. FFI: [www.mississippipassport.org](http://www.mississippipassport.org)

**PRESENTATION 2: Minneapolis Public Schools Watershed Initiative**, Rich Cairn
The Cairns work with Minnehaha Creek WD and public schools. Four watershed districts make up Minneapolis – they are Minnehaha/Bassett Creek/Shingle Creek/Mississippi Watershed Districts. The Cairns put together a proposal for a comprehensive plan for the entire city of Minneapolis to coordinate with school districts to do a district wide plan for water quality education. Minneapolis has a National Science Foundation Grant for four years and they are trying to beef up their programs. K-5 doesn’t have a whole lot of curriculum right now especially with environmental education with local content. The entire district seems very excited to be working with the Cairns in incorporating more science into their lesson plans. FFI contact Rich Cairns at rcairn@ties.k12.mn.us

**PRESENTATION 3: Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP)**, Dan Huff and Jenny Schaust
“Wetlands – Vital, but Neglected” (power point presentation) WHEP is a partnership between citizens, local governments, educators and scientists. How does WHEP work. First, a community sponsor decides to implement WHEP. Then training is provided by PCA in field methods, macroinvertebrate ID and vegetation ID. Teams perform assessments and laboratory ID and complete scoring matrix. Quality control teams verify accuracy of tests. The results are verified and reported by professional consulting firms. Funding for WHEP comes from grants and community sponsors. It costs $3,850 per team. Monitoring affects local decision-making which improves the health of wetlands and educates the public. Recruitment for volunteers is done through newspapers, city newsletters, and conferences. FFI: [www.mnnwhep.org](http://www.mnnwhep.org)

**NOTES:**
- **Next Steering Committee meeting:** Monday, May 19, 1 p.m., at the Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE), Hamline University. The Steering Committee meets regularly on the 4th Monday of each month, 2-4 p.m., at CGEE. Meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting:** Wednesday, June 11, 9 a.m., at the Dept. of Agriculture, St. Paul. Let a Steering Committee member know if you have an agenda item for the meeting. The WaterShed Partners meet regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 9-11 a.m.

**2002 STEERING COMMITTEE:**
- Cliff Aichinger, 651-704-2089
- Jay Michels, 651-351-0630
- Jerry Spetzman, 651-297-7269
- Margie Vigoren 763-509-5506
- Michele Hanson, 651-766-4192
- Ron Struss, 651-215-1950
- Tracy Fredin, 651-523-3105

FFI: Contact a Steering Committee member or Pamela Jessup, 651-523-2591 / pajessup@hamline.edu