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 for more about both.

Go to the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation (NPS/RTCA) Web site 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, P², will be addressed by the Gang of 5: Jeff Lederman, Mark Rust, Gretchen Sabel, Susan Switzer and Cindy Hilmo. 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.achieveminneapolis.org.


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 2nd Wednesday of each month, 9 to 11 a.m.
• E-mail Metro WaterShed Partners at 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](http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed).
• **PLEASE update your listings** for Metro WaterShed Partners by emailing 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.