



WATERSHED
PARTNERS

WaterShedPartners Meeting Minutes 10-13-10

Attendees:

Dawn Doering, Coon Creek WD
Margie Vigoren, Plymouth
Nila Hines, Minnesota Dept. of Ag
Corrie Zoll, Metro Blooms
Allison Plute, Rochester
Lyndon Torstenson, National Park
Service
Angie Hong, Washington Cons. Dist.
Chandi McCracken, MCWD
Jen Dullum, Farmington

Jana Larson, Hamline University
Bill Allen
Alex Gehrig, MN Waters
Madeline Banschbach, Carver County
Carrie Mack, RWMWD
Marcia Holmberg
Leslie Stovring, Eden Prairie
Trevor Russell, FMR
Joan Nephew, Freshwater Society
Elizabeth Storey, Cap Region WD

Member Updates:

- Lake and River Group Summit put on by Minnesota Water November 3, 4 - 8 pm at Eisenhower Community Center in Hopkins. Come to: Get advice from experts on Aquatic Invasive Management, Discuss Water Quality issues, Learn what works and what doesn't from other groups. contact Alex Gehrig for more info: alexg@minnesotawaters.org
- Nila Hines, Pesticide Management Dept. of Ag. has completed a pamphlet of information on Pesticides to control Emerald Ashborer outlining best practices and how to apply pesticides. Also copies of pamphlet on Phosphorous-free fertilizer.
- Louise Watson and Corrie Zoll are conducting a Metro-wide movie inventory to catalog all of the film resources we collectively have available to us and put on the WaterShed Partners website. A form is available for people to fill out giving them information about whatever film you have and would like to share. Would also like to promote a film festival showcasing water films.
- National Park service has made a video about the MNRRA - a 30-minute film that showed on TPT and is free for educators that can use them.
- Sustainable Waters Resources roundtable next week hosted by Freshwater Society.
- November 17 MEI clean water policy forum at Silverwater Park Great Hall, 8 am - 12. Deb Swackhammer will be giving recommendations for framework.

- Rochester soft opening Cascade Meadows Wetland and Environmental Science Center. Many exhibits including Stormwater, Waste Water and Ground Water Exhibits. Also includes art exhibit with pieces from Women and Water Rights show. cascademeadows.org
- Washington County project at Powers Lake Trees Project. One neighborhood where they are installing measurement equipment on a storm drain and plant trees and will measure the amount of storm water pollution reduction over the coming years.
- Stillwater got the Blue Star Award
- Wash. Co. developing rural outreach project. Three outreach sessions with people who own 5 - 10 acres. And follow-up interviews with participants of rural projects in the past.
- Downspout redirection with Stop the Rain Drain. Conservation Corps pulled out of the project. Now working with local Gutter Contractors. 4 drains have been re-directed so far. Minnesota Conservation Corps will be measuring how cued up they are to do other behaviors.
- Cap. Reigion Nov. 3. -- Hosting a parking lot and sidewalk maintenance for private citizens.
- Cap. Region Nov. 4 -- Road maintenance workshop Free with Breakfast and lunch.
- Free Salt maintenance workshop for residents in Eden Prairie
- Shoreland landscaping workshop in October in Eden Prairie
- Leslie Stovring will be presenting on Riverview road that fell into the river at the Water Resources Conference.
- Blue Star Program is an award for cities that excel in Stormwater Management. FMR has an assessment available for cities to take and see if they qualify for the award.
- Minnesota Trees and Stormwater Symposium
Approximately 50 people were invited and attended the Trees and Stormwater Symposium held in St. Paul, Minnesota last week. The symposium's intent was to help stormwater engineers and water quality regulators learn how trees can be used in conjunction with other stormwater management systems to reduce runoff volume and improve water quality. Presentations covered the latest research, existing and upcoming tools, and policy directions being explored at the state and national level. Group discussions at the end of the day identified research gaps and opportunities to increase the use of existing systems.

Results:

1. Common understanding about the existing options for integrating trees and stormwater (techniques, limitations, and information gaps). This was critical as there was a lot of confusion about the various systems currently available.
2. Acknowledgement by the regulators and watershed specialists that the information presented would help them include trees as a BMP in the Minimal Impact Design Standards currently being drafted for Minnesota (a document that will provide credit for stormwater projects in the future).

3. Interest by the EPA to include a session on trees and stormwater at the next non-point source pollution conference.
4. Consensus that a clearinghouse of research, examples, and policy is needed. I have volunteered to spearhead this effort, intending to tie it into existing Forest Service website initiatives.
5. The City of St. Paul has already met to revisit plans for rain gardens along residential streets as part of an upcoming construction project and, instead, utilize trees and rocks as demonstrated in the symposium.
6. Commitment to make this the topic of next year's Clean Water Summit, reaching 300 stormwater engineers and watershed specialists.
7. Discussions about hosting a national symposium on this topic in 2012.

WaterShed Partners updates:

- We have calculated the results from our State Fair survey and will post the results on our website.
- Media Campaign - We have wrapped up our media campaign activities for the year unless we are able to raise additional funds to do a road salt PSA over the winter.
- WaterShed Partners and Clean Water MN will be sending out an end of the year fund-raising appeal to member organizations and MS4's in order to raise additional funds for this year and for our Spring campaign. We are looking to raise 80,000 toward campaign activities.
- November meeting will be held on November 3rd- a roundtable discussion at the Kay Frederick's ballroom on the importance of education in meeting water quality goals. Presenters will be: Tracy Fredin, Cliff Aichinger, Ron Kroese, Peggy Knapp, Faye Sleeper, Dick Brooks, and Jean Wagenius. **The agenda has gone out to the listserve. Please send out the agenda to all your relevant lists and contacts and encourage them to attend. We want to have as many attendees and as wide a discussion as possible.** It will kick off a year of presentations on best practices in public education and outreach that have successfully created behaviour change.
- Steering Committee is now open for people who would like to be part of next year's committee. Think about whether this is something you'd like to take on for next year. We like to have representatives from all types of organizations that form the WaterShed Partners: Cities, Watershed Districts, Non-profits, Universities... etc. Commitment is for at least one year - we meet once a month. A full job description can be found on the WaterShed Partners website: hamline.edu/cgee/watershed At December's meeting we will talk about who will be on next year's committee.
- The letter we submitted to the Clean Water Council and was received in time and we received feedback that was very helpful.
- Brainstorming for 2011 meeting topics/presenters:
 1. Agriculture
 2. Blue Star Program
 3. Education for Climate Change
 4. Rain Garden Project in Powderhorn -

5. Tony Rondotzo Industrial Anthropologist did a history of Bridal Creek Watershed. Perspective on how it developed over time. How behaviours and land use changed over time.
6. Dick Brooks from Action Media - his research on ag runoff and people's perception of water
7. Erik Eckels - Water Words That Work... or someone that talks about effective marketing and language
8. What does all the anger mean for us. How do we negotiate that terrain as educators and marketers?

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee Meeting: Monday, October 18, 3 - 5 pm**, at the Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE), Hamline University. The Steering Committee meets each month to determine agendas and help steer programs. Meetings are open to all WaterShed Partners.
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, November 3, 8:30 am - 11:30 a.m.**, at Hamline University in the Kay Fredericks Ballroom. Meetings of the WaterShed Partners are regularly the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 9-11 a.m.

For more information about the WaterShed Partners, contact Jana Larson at 651-523-2812 or jlarson25 at hamline.edu