



WATERSHED
PARTNERS

WaterShedPartners Meeting Minutes 9-8-10

Attendees:

Corrie Zoll, Metro Blooms
April Rust, DNR
Lyndon Torstenson, National Park Service
Lark Weller, National Park Service
Angie Hong, Washington Cons. Dist.
Chandi McCracken, MCWD
Jen Dullum, Farmington
Tracy Fredin, Hamline University

Jana Larson, Hamline University
Anne Weber, City of St. Paul
Randy Thoreson, National Park Service
Bill Allen
Alex Gehrig, MN Waters
Janna Caywood, Como Lakes
Neighborhood Network
Madeline Banschbach, Carver County
Joan Nephew, Freshwater Society
Carrie Mack, RWMWD

Member Updates:

September 14, at 7 pm Freshwater Society is hosting a presentation by Lewis Gillette on Endocrine disruptors at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Student Center Auditorium.

Community clean-ups for water quality tool-kit is available from Freshwater Society. If you are interested in partnering or sponsoring a clean-up, contact Freshwater Society. Will be running spots on Care-11 - water minute on-line with links.

Cleanwater and Climate change summit at the Landscape Arboretum September 16 and 17.

Last Thursday Metro Blooms finished installation of 100 rain gardens that all drain into one stormwater pipe. Will monitor the amount of nutrients and suspended solids in that drain pipe over three years.

Metro Blooms is developing a survey for organizations and businesses that offer landscaping workshops to collect and share information with other similar organizations about best practices.

Metro Blooms and Blue Thumb will be featured on Alexandra Cousteau's show Expedition Blue Planet on National Geographic Channel – a show focused on telling stories about communities and their relationship to water. Blog information and video information is on-line.

Mississippi River Forum October 15, featured speaker is a PCA research scientist who has been involved in creating the river nutrients standards.

Big River Journey is open for registration for next spring until October 15. Then lottery will be held. Contact MNRRA for more information.

November 3, 4 – 8 pm metro summit for Lakes and Rivers organizations sponsored by Minnesota Waters.

Washington County developing workshops for rural people that own less than 40 acres of land. They did a survey at the Washington County fair to see what people's interests are and the top three were: lowering property taxes, managing weeds and invasive species, creating wild life habitat.

WaterShed Partners updates:

- Many thanks to the volunteers that staffed our State Fair exhibit at the DNR building. It was a success. We created a survey and got some responses. More information soon.
- Feedback from Partners on the State Fair: could modify the exhibit so there is a built-in way for staff member to interact with visitors to the exhibit; we need a new banner or something to go up behind exhibits – maybe a new question?; it would be nice to have T-shirts or vests that identify us as Watershed Partners, might we have Give-aways at our table?; there was a cool Water Skee-ball at the eco-experience building this year; we may be able to develop new signage or exhibit components for next year in collaboration with the DNR
- Media Campaign updates – We had our bathroom stall ads up at the State Fair. We will do our fall TV PSA's on Channel 45 and Comcast cable. We are still needing to raise \$2,500 to do our full fall campaign.
- 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. Possible presenters: Cliff Aichinger, Ron Kruse, Peggy Knapp, Faye Sleeper. It will kick off a year of presentations on best practices in public education and outreach that have successfully created behaviour change.
- Sketch agenda for November 3: Start with hearing from people who have done successful education in K – 12, Watershed, McKnight, possibly someone who has done a successful media outreach campaign that has successfully changed public behaviour. Short term goal may be to create a white paper with talking points on the importance of education. Long term goal to gain support for a broad-based media campaign aimed at moving people to act to protect water resources. This would involve creating or inspiring a sense of ownership in the citizens of our

collective water resources. (Idea to find support to talk to citizens who used to be un-engaged and now are engaged or active and ask them what caused them to make the shift.)

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 15, 9 - 11 am**, 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.
- **Media Campaign workgroup meeting: Wednesday, September 15, 11:30 - 1:30** at the Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE), Hamline University.
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, October 13, 9:00 am - 11:00 a.m.**, at Capitol Region Watershed District. 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 jl Larson25@hamline.edu