



Notes February 8, 2006

ATTENDEES

Anne Weber, City of St. Paul
April Rust, Project Wet, DNR
Brenda Erickson, CGEE at Hamline
Dan McLean, MPCA
Dawn Dubats, Rice Creek Watershed District
Jeff Ledermann, MPCA
Jen Collova, City of Farmington
Jim Heintzman, SMM

Joan Guilfoyle, National Park Service, MNRRA
Johanna Schussler, City of Burnsville
Kate Knuth, CGEE
Lyndon Torstenson, National Park Service, MNRRA
Michele Hanson, MDNR
Ron Struss, UM Extension
Sage Passi, RWMWD
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.

PARTNER UPDATES

Ron Struss introduced the possibility of the League of Minnesota Cities hosting a NEMO leader in its office. The proposal is still very much in the review process, but it is a good possibility.

The National Park Service is now offering programs for school groups at the **Mississippi River Visitor Center**, located off the lobby of the Minnesota Science Museum. There is no fee for programs, and teachers can schedule groups by calling the Center at 651-293-0200. Find information about the following, and more, at the Center: watershed addresses, pollution prevention, the Mississippi National River and Recreation area, and other national parks. <http://www.mississippirivervisitorcenter.org/index.html> for more.

Rice Creek WD and Washington CD are putting on a **training for landscapers on "Landscaping for Water Quality,"** covering buffers, rain garden and more. The training is March 15 at Roseville City Hall from 8 am to noon. Free breakfast, but you should RSVP by contacting Dawn Dubats: 763-398-3078 or connecting through www.ricecreek.org.

An announcement made for Alyssa Hawkins of Earth Force Green that the National River Rally 2006 is in Bretton Woods, NH from May 5-9. Info from Tracy who's attended in the past or check out www.rivernetnetwork.org/rally.

The city of Plymouth is hosting an environmental quality fair entitled "**Creekside Capers,**" at which kids and families will study the effects of human activity on Plymouth Creek. There is also a **yard and garden expo on Earth Day** including an Eco-Footprint Learning Center where families can measure and learn to reduce their environmental footprints. Go to www.ci.plymouth.mn.us for more info.

Deb Anderson brought in **The Toonies** to give a short (and funny) demonstration of their Enviro-Show. The group is available for hire for school, city or other events. Information at www.TheToonies.com or call 952-933-3438.

The **North American Association for Environmental Education Conference** will be held in St. Paul October 10-14, 2006. A call for presentation proposals is out; proposals are due February 22. April Rust is social committee head and is looking for suggestions of bands/DJs/etc. for social events. Visit www.naaee.org for more info.

Jeff Ledermann of the MPCA shared the draft Concept Proposal for the **Progress Center at the Minnesota State Fair**. MPCA will coordinate and develop exhibits for the entire building around the idea of the "Eco-Experience," including a rain garden/backyard scene in the middle of the building. Jeff asked if WaterShed Partners would like to get involved in the exhibit. There was excitement around the idea, and discussion included how to go about balancing WaterShed Partners Fair activity in the DNR building with the new opportunity.

UPDATES ON METRO WATERSHED PARTNER ACTIVITIES

The next meeting of the Steering Committee on February 13 will confirm details of the strategic planning session at the March Partners meeting. The next WaterShed Partners meeting on March 8 will be a strategic planning session. To support the process, a survey link will be sent out via the listserv. Please complete the survey!

Ron Struss presented a report on "**Minnesota Water – Let's Keep it Clean**" that includes information about media campaign, its finances, awards, and evaluation. The program's website is www.cleanwatermn.org. He also informed us that a stormwater work group will likely be forming under the statewide stormwater group.

It was also discussed whether or not to offer "Green up Your Lawn" brochures and posters for order. A baseline number of materials would have to be ordered to make printing cost-effective.

Tracy Fredin expects ten water-education kiosks to be installed in metro locations, perhaps Minneapolis, shortly.

PRESENTATION

Clean Water Legacy Project – Jon Hunter, Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Jon explained the Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP) and then introduced the Clean Water Legacy Project. MEP, a partnership of 90 environmental groups in Minnesota, is working on protecting Minnesota waters through the Clean Water Legacy Project. The project aims to secure \$80 million in annual funding from the state to test Minnesota water, prepare and implement water clean-up plans, and ensure clean waters remain clean. The group is asking for \$40 million from the state this year. The group will hold a Legislative Forum on March 1st and a Citizens' Day at the Capitol on March 14th. A short discussion about whether WaterShed Partners should get involved in the project followed the presentation. You can find more information at www.protectourwater.info.

NOTES

- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 9am to 1pm (note extended time for strategic planning)** 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.

- **Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, March 20, 2-4 p.m.** in room 012 Law and Grad Schools building 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
Deb Anderson, 651-644-8888
Dawn Dubats, 763-398-3078
John Bilotta, 952-361-1814

Louise Watson, 651-704-2089
Michele Hanson, 651-259-5606
Ron Struss, 651-480-7708
Sharon Doucette, 651-714-3538
Tracy Fredin, 651-523-3105

FFI: Contact a Steering Committee member or Michele Hanson at 651-259-5606.