



W A T E R S H E D
P A R T N E R S

WaterShedPartners Meeting Minutes 8-10-11

Attendees:

Lyndon Torstenson, National Park Service

Jana Larson, Hamline University

Jen Dullum, City of Farmington

Carrie Mack, RWMWD

Anne Weber, St. Paul

Michael Keenan, Metro Blooms

Peggy Knapp, Freshwater Society

Angie Hong, Washington Cons. Dist.

Kat McCarthy, Capitol Region WD

Madeline Seveland, Carver County WMO

Lynne Kolzee, MPCA

Randy Thoreson, National Park Service

Teri Heyer, US Forest Service

Elizabeth Beckman, CRWD

Anna Kerr, MPCA

Chandi McCracken, City of Eden Prairie

Leslie Yetka, Minnehaha Creek WD

Claire Bleser, 9 mile creek WD

Debbie Meister, MMC Associates

Emily Moore, Women's Environmental Institute

Trevor Russell, FMR

Member Updates:

- Teacher workshop on Climate Change - collaboration betw MNRRA and Will Stegar Fdn. And a talk featuring Will Stegar, Kerry Miller, Don Shelby, Jay Drake Hamilton - *Sense of Place in a Changing Climate* Thursday 7:30
- Mn Idea Open - after the winner is announced, Freshwater Society will launch a micro challenge - If you had \$500, how would you use it to convince your neighbors to keep leaves out of their street/storm drains? They will need a panel of judges.
- 100 yr anniversary of St. Croix River Association - 17 days in July. Photo collection and documentary of the trip is available. Volunteers who do the water quality monitoring gave a great presentation.
- Save the Fish and the Eat 'Em campaign - last week to register to win and sign up for the St Croix 360 e-newsletter.
- The MS4 general permit was on public notice and have re-issued a 21 day public notice if you wish to comment on it.
- A year from now, Freshwater Society will do water clean-ups for water quality with Girl Scouts. Their goal is to have 54,000 girl scouts doing the cleanups. October 13, 2012. Kick-off events are starting this week.

- Urban Connections is a new program with the Forest Service connecting with Urban citizens about trees in cities and their connection to water.
- Will Stegar, Jay Drake Hamilton et al are meeting in Edina tonight at 7.
- Chip Osborne Organic Turf Management for playing fields. Chip's system looks at the soil and if it's healthy enough, it's not going to support weeds and so there's no need for the use of chemicals. He has developed a training program and some people at the MPCA are looking for the support to bring Chip to Minnesota to offer trainings. He works with school districts, cities, parks etc. Trying to figure out how to finance his trip here. After three years, his approach is cheaper to implement. Looking to bring him here in November. A notice will go out to the WaterShed Partners with information to contact if you'd like to be a partner.
- MCWD is hosting a conference at the Arboretum on the benefits of trees in Watershed Management. More notices will go out to the listserve with information.
- Children's water Festival, September 28. A one-day festival at the state fair grounds. Need volunteers (100) class guides, arcade workers, mascot in costume, Blue Thumb station.
- Friday September 16, Forest Service and Bell Museum showing a documentary called Green Fire, on the life of Aldo Leopold.
- A Neighborhood of Rain Gardens documentary is showing September 9 at 7 at the St. Anthony Main Theater. (About the Metro Blooms project.
- Put-put golf for Clean Water exhibit developed by MCWD. They are willing to let other partners use it.

Steering Committee Updates:

STATE FAIR

The WaterShed Partners will have an exhibit at the DNR building at the State Fair again this year and we need YOU to volunteer to serve as staff at the exhibit. We just need one person per shift to be available to answer questions and perhaps conduct intercept surveys with fair attendees. It's a great opportunity to interact with the public and talk to them about the importance of clean water in Minnesota.

If you'd like to sign up for a shift, check shift availability at this link:

<http://www.hamline.edu/HUContent.aspx?pageid=2147511761>

and then email Jana Larson with the shift you'd like to sign up for:
jlarson25 at hamline.edu

Clean Water MN and the Minnesota Clean Water Challenge:

So far we've raised 47,000 dollars from 26 partners to support media outreach this year. This spring we did radio PSAs during Twins baseball games and on Minnesota Public Radio, 91.1 KNOW, streaming and live.

This fall we will do a campaign on Comcast TV and winter road salt PSAs on MPR.

We will also be using some of our funds to work on developing our Minnesota Clean Water Challenge -- We have started writing grants and doing additional fundraising for the challenge as well.

We have applied for additional funding from the EPA, RBC Blue Water fund, and the 319 funding to support the challenge. WE are looking to get funding to do a development and pilot phase of the Clean Water Challenge.

Notes from Christine Baumler's presentation: (her powerpoint is not yet available on-line; she is working on compressing it and hopes to make it available soon.)

Examples of using art to make the process of cleaning water visible:

Buster Simpson - Down spout planter, Beckoning Cistern,

Jackie Broonkner - The chutes with thumbprint filter, Urban Rain, San Jose

Salmon rain chain - water quality sculptures and public art in Portland

Christine's projects:

Maria Bates Raingarden

Swede Hollow Park

Eastside Gateway Raingarden

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

The cumulative impact of projects has an impact.

Below are the two lists from her presentation that people were interested in getting from her.

Work of artists:

- Making the invisible visible
- Paying attention
- witnessing
- Reciprocity
- Listening
- Connecting
- Collaborating
- De-centering
- Remaining unsettled
- Confounding expectations
- Transforming perception
- Keeping the invisible invisible

Spectrum of ways art can interface with watershed initiatives

- Make invisible systems (buried, temporal) visible (and audible)
- Acknowledge historic waters and cultural connections
- Translate data into comprehensible and aesthetic experiences
- Create an aesthetic interface between the natural and built environment
- Create innovative approaches to Best Management Practices that have an aesthetic, and interpretive dimension (art as functional infrastructure)
- Create temporary performance/ outdoor site specific events, and educational programming
- Inspire individuals and commercial owners to implement their own water quality features

Upcoming WSP meetings:

September - May Davenport. working with PCA to frame citizen engagement projects.

How to look at a community to determine their capacity for change.

October - Elizabeth Beckman. Stop the Rain Drain program

November - Roundtable at Hamline University

December - potluck and year-end review of accomplishments

NOTES:

- **Next Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, August 17, 2011, 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.
- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 9:00 am - 11:00 a.m.**, at Capitol Region Watershed District offices.

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