



Metro WaterShed Partners Accomplishments (1996-present)

- WaterShed Partners (WSP) officially formed in 1996 with established monthly meetings convened by the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.
- Original mission of group is to be an “informal association” committed to watershed education through educational projects, networking, and sharing of resources.
- Funded by a \$100,000 grant from Met Council, WSP worked with Science Museum of Minnesota to create professional quality watershed table exhibits. Tables include: 1) What is a watershed? 2) What is your watershed address? 3) Your street flows to the river, and 4) Clean water begins with you.
- In 1997, the mission was refined: “the WaterShed Partners aim to promote a public understanding that inspires people to act to protect water quality in their watershed.”
- 1998 Public media campaign (“Water Quality Action Campaign”) undertaken in collaboration with Board of Water & Soil Resources reaches 2.5 million households.
- Interactive watershed education computer kiosks developed.
- Staffing support for exhibits and partnership established through Hamline University’s Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE) in 1998
- Over a million people have interacted with the WaterShed exhibits since 1997; the exhibits have been displayed annually at the Minnesota State Fair, community events, and national conferences and have been a national model.
- Exhibit evaluation conducted by Wilder Foundation reveals notable learning occurring in response to exhibit interactions: 92% correctly define watershed.
- CGEE established a WaterShed Partners website.
- Awards received from MN Environmental Initiative, Partnership Minnesota, and MN GREAT (MN Government Reaching Environmental Achievements Together).
- Established Watershed Stewards Curriculum at Farnsworth Elementary School.
- Established the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Partnership (VSMP) with \$400,000 grant from Metropolitan Council in 2000.
- “Water Education Resource” 3-ring binder of ready-to-use educational materials provided to local units of government.
- NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) launched in 2000.
- VSMP convenes annual River Summit of high school stream monitoring groups beginning in 2001.
- Awarded \$150,000 two-year grant from McKnight to CGEE for MWSP programs.
- NEMO receives \$93,000 grant from Metropolitan Council.
- The name “Metro WaterShed Partners” (MWSP) was adopted and registered with the State of Minnesota in 2001. MWSP officially becomes a project of CGEE, providing liability and other benefits.
- Project NEMO receives \$125,000 “319” grant from MN Pollution Control Agency, and \$50,000 from Metropolitan Council.
- \$50,000 grant for “Think Clean Water” media campaign received from Metropolitan Council.
- Participated and presented at national Nonpoint and Stormwater Pollution Education Conference in 2005.
- Sold and supervised bulk printing of phosphorus and lawn care brochures and posters to organizations throughout Minnesota and the U.S.

- Created new educational computer kiosks for community education (at libraries, community centers, parks, special events)
- “Let’s Keep it Clean” Metro Media Campaign continues to help foster the Twin Cities clean urban stormwater education initiative. In 2006, over 72 PSAs were aired on major radio stations and over 300 television PSAs appeared on cable networks covering the region.
- MWSP continues to have a presence at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Education Building at the Minnesota State Fair every year. Over 50 thousand users interact with the Watershed Exhibit and computer kiosks annually.
- Continues to offer monthly professional training meetings and hands-on tours for its members.
- Metro WSP List Serve continues to serve as an effective form of communication between Partners, providing a means of promoting educational programs and offering opportunities for professional program sharing and information exchange.