



Member Information Sheet

Purpose & Objective: *This Information Sheet was created to provide a general overview of the Metro Watershed Partners for its Members and others interested in the Partnership. It is suggested that its contents be visited at the beginning of each Metro Watershed Partners Meeting. This will also be provided to those prospective new members and those interested in learning more about the WSP.*

WHO ARE THE METRO WATERSHED PARTNERS?

The Metro WaterShed Partners (WSP) is an innovative, dynamic coalition of more than 50 public, private, and non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The Metro WaterShed Partners promote a public understanding that inspires people to act to protect water quality in their watershed.

The mission of the Metro WaterShed Partners is two fold:

- **provide and promote collaborative watershed education products with consistent messages to the general public, local government staff, and elected officials,**
- **provide WSP Members a place and means for an information clearinghouse, a source of idea generation, and the coordination, collaboration, and support for watershed education programs.**

This award-winning partnership cooperates through educational projects including outreach and multimedia campaigns, networking, and sharing resources. A directory of members can be seen at: http://www.hamline.edu/education/cgee_site/WaterShedPartners/Partners/directory.html

HOW THE METRO WSP OPERATES

The Metro WaterShed Partners is guided by the Steering Committee and its day to day functions are overseen by Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE) which acts as the fiscal agent and provides administrative support.

The **Steering Committee** meets regularly on the Tuesday immediately following the WaterShed Partners meeting from 2 – 4 pm at CGEE on the Hamline University campus. It provides leadership, makes decisions, and moves the work of the Partners forward. The Steering Committee is comprised of 8-10 representatives selected on an annual basis. We strive to have representation from cities, counties, watershed districts & organizations, State, University and non-profit partners on the Steering Committee. Current Steering Committee Members can be found at http://www.hamline.edu/education/cgee_site/WaterShedPartners/Partners/steering.html

CGEE serves as a fiscal agent (tracking finances, administering grants) and provides administrative support (minutes, listserv, and basic communications). Currently, Jana Larson manages finances and provides administrative support.

HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE, NETWORK, AND SHARE

WSP Monthly Meetings: The Metro WaterShed Partners meet on the second Wednesday of every month from 9 – 11 am at the centrally located Capitol Region Watershed District Office in St. Paul. The first agenda item each month is Partner updates. Partners share information about an upcoming program, present an idea for an event, or to ask for input from the other Partners. An speaker is also part of each meeting.

ListServ: The Metro WaterShed Partners listserv keeps members connected and informed between meetings. Members use it to announce programs and events, share information, and ask for advice. To join the listserv, please email Jana Larson at: [jl Larson25 at hamline.edu](mailto:jl Larson25@hamline.edu)
Once subscribed to the listserv, you can email all the partners by sending the email to: watershedpartners@listproc.hamline.edu.

Website: The Metro WaterShed Partners website, http://www.hamline.edu/education/cgee_site/WaterShedPartners/index.html contains useful information including partner contact information, meeting agendas and minutes, and information about the watershed exhibits. The website is the best source for basic information. In addition, Metro WaterShed Partners maintains the Clean Water Minnesota webpage, which is a resource for water-quality information, updates, and seasonal tips. <http://www.cleanwatermn.org>

Questions or problems related to the Partner Meetings, the listserv, or the Website can be directed to Jana Larson at [jl Larson25 at hamline.edu](mailto:jl Larson25@hamline.edu) or by phone at (651) 523-2812. You may also contact any of the Steering Committee Members whose contact information can be found at <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/Partners/steering.htm>

Membership Benefits – What You Get from Membership in WSP

- **Communication Network** – you gain access to a network of watershed educational professionals with similar interests, backgrounds, experience, needs and successes.
- **Products** – the WSP assist in the production of education products such as displays, brochures, posters, and computer assisted education tools, all of which you have access to as a Member.
- **Economy of scale** – As a member, your efforts can be combined with others to achieve a more affordable product to all. For example colored brochures at a mere 0.22 each!
- **Unified messages** – through active membership you can help assure the watershed education messages received by the general public and by professionals is consistent across the Twin Cities Metro Area.
- **Support and endorsement** – Gain the support and endorsement by other professionals and organizations that can give your efforts more value and significance.

Membership Expectations – What You Give as a Member of WSP

As a member of the Metro Watershed Partners, you pledge to:

- **ATTEND** monthly meetings as often as possible,
- **VOLUNTEER** time at the exhibits at large events during the year (i.e. State Fair, Target Environmental Fair).
- **CONTRIBUTE** – the success of the collaboration is dependent upon a dynamic mix of new and veteran member who contribute to projects, tasks, and leadership roles throughout the year.
- **JOIN and USE** the listserv and communication mechanisms for program and effort promotion & discussion as appropriate.
- **SHARE** what you are currently working on.
- **FUND**- support the WSP financially through your organization and/or assist in obtaining grants on behalf of the Metro WSP.

Sample of Current Efforts and Products

- **Minnesota Water – Lets Keep It Clean -Metro Media Campaign**
A campaign consisting of news releases, advertisements, radio and TV advertisements, brochures, and other pieces designed to make watershed education more effective
Check out the website for more details www.cleanwatermn.org
- **Watershed Education KIOSK**
An interactive computer education KIOSK with 6 different watershed education programs in three languages developed in part for members use in their local regions. The KIOSK is a stand alone education program for use in such venues as libraries and community centers.
- **State Fair Exhibit – Watershed Education for Minnesotans at the DNR Building** The Metro WSP has a long history and partnership with the Minnesota DNR at the State Fair. The Metro WSP creates and provides a 30 foot watershed education exhibit in the DNR Building at the State Fair each year. In 2006, the Metro WSP is also providing some assistance at the new Eco Experience Building.