



NOTES April 12, 2006

ATTENDEES

Anne Weber, City of St. Paul
Dawn Dubats, Rice Creek Watershed District
Deb Anderson, Capitol Region WD
Jerry Spetzman, Chisago County
Johanna Schussler, City of Burnsville
Kate Knuth, CGEE
Lyndon Torstenson, MNRRA/NPS

Neal Bauer
Ron Struss, UM Ext.
Scott Vreeland, Msp. Park Board
Sharon Doucette, City of Woodbury
Teri Heyer, USDA Forest Service
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

Capitol Region Watershed District hosted a **Rain Garden Design** workshop on April 12.

Get ready for the **Como Lake Water Festival** on June 17th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. It will be happening rain or shine, South of the Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 North Lexington Parkway, St. Paul.

The USDA Forest Service has two new resources. The **"Trees Pay us Back"** brochure explains the value of urban trees. Find the info. at www.mntrees.org as well. The **"Research and Resources to Help Communicate the Value of Trees in the City"** is also available. For more information, contact Teri Heyer or go to <http://na.fs.fed.us/urban>

The **"Big River Student Art Contest"** is now open to all students in grades 4-6. Contest rules are online at www.nps.gov/miss/index.html. The deadline for entries to be received is May 31. Winners will be exhibited at the Science Museum and other venues. Categories include "Caring for the River" and "Mighty Mississippi." Further information, contact Kathy Swenson, 651-290-3030 ext. 303.

Rice Creek Watershed District is hiring an intern to help with monitoring erosion control and inspections

"Landscaping for Clean Water" is a web-based program offered by Rice Creek Watershed District that offers A-Z how-to information about native gardens, trees, and shrubs, rain gardens, and shoreline stabilization. Go to www.ricecreek.org

The City of Woodbury will for the first time have 6 \$500 grants for native landscaping

The Minneapolis Park Board is going through strategic planning. Scott Vreeland is working to get the environment as an underpinning of every decision.

UPDATES ON METRO WATERSHED PARTNER ACTIVITIES

The **State Stormwater work group** – 15 members strong – is determining where the gaps are in stormwater education. The first meeting will be April 28.

The **Metro Media Campaign** has raised \$34,000 and is working with \$43,000 for the work this year. Ads stressing the importance of keeping grass clippings off the street will run last three weeks in May and the first week in June on WCCO Radio. Work is moving forward on producing and running a cable TV ad. The group decided not to move forward on the pre-movie ad at this time. Discussion is also ongoing about printing 90,000 brochures or coupons to go in bags handed out at the State Fair. Finally, the group is working on getting clean water to be a message for National Night Out.

The Metro Watershed Partners were represented at the **Target Environmental Fair** in Minneapolis. About five hundred people interacted with the exhibit at the Fair.

The State Fair **Eco-Experience** building is moving forward with an indoor and outdoor rain garden included in the plans. CGEE will be taking the lead on a kids area in the building, including a coloring area, computer kiosks and possibly Trish and the Toonies. Funding is still being worked on.

The **Kiosk Program** is moving forward, with four kiosks purchased for use in Minneapolis and Capitol Region Watershed District. There will be 4-5 kiosks out by June 1.

Strategic Planning moved forward with a short discussion of dividing into four groups: funding and membership, internal organization, media and public outreach, and local government officials and staff. The following people signed up for a group:

Funding and Membership: Tracy Fredin, Johanna Schussler, Neil Bauer, Scott Vreeland

Internal Organization: Wendy Griffin, Kate Knuth

General Public and Media Outreach: Ron Struss, Jenny Winkelman, Dawn Dubats, Teri Heyer, Jerry Spetzman

Local Government Staff and Officials: Dawn Dubats, Jenny Winkelman!

Please sign up for a group if you have not already done so!

PRESENTATION

Selected Topics in Turfgrass Research Related to Issues of Water Quantity and Quality – Bob Mugaas, UMN Extension Service

Bob covered highlights from a recent national conference on *Water Quality and Quantity Issues for Turfgrasses in Urban Landscapes* as well as some updates on current U of MN turfgrass research activities. The conference included orally-presented literature reviews, followed by comments and suggestions for improvements. A "Proceedings" document covering the conference presentations will be published. All manner of topics were covered, including turfgrass height, root depth, and thatch and mat in relation to pesticide and nutrient leaching. The research was varied and difficult to

extrapolate from it to sweeping generalizations. To find resources on these issues in "layman's terms" is on U of MN extension websites: www.sustland.umn.edu and www.turf.umn.edu.

NOTES

- **Next WaterShed Partners meeting: Wednesday, May 10, 9 to 11 a.m.** 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, May 15, 1-4 p.m.** 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.

2005 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

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 952-858-0720.