

## **BCWMC Education & Public Outreach Committee**

**August 11, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. - Golden Valley City Manager's Conference Room**

Committee Members present: Mary Karius, Liz Thornton, Margie Vigoren, Ginny Black, Mary Gwen-Lenth and Pauline Langsdorf

### **Article – Capture the Rain, Help the Earth**

Judy Arginteanu has completed the article on rain barrels and has contacted the Sun newspapers to determine their interest in publishing it. They are *considering* using it later this month – but no guarantees. The Education Committee is very pleased with the quality of the article. It is both interesting and informative. Once it has been printed we want to post it on the BCWMC website. Hennepin County Environmental Services has expressed interest in posting it on their website. Chris Sundberg asked about making it available to her lake association. We think this is an excellent idea but feel we need to let the newspaper run it first.

### **Hennepin Conservation District – Meeting on Legacy Funds**

A number of BCWMC commissioners, TAC members and Len Kramer attended the conservation forum focusing on an overview of the legislative session, specifically related to clean water funding which was sponsored by the Hennepin Conservation District. Speakers were from the MPCA and BWSR. We were told that water education projects could be considered for funding. We expect that an RFP will come out in the early fall.

With the potential of funds available for water education the Education/Public Outreach Committee discussed what types of projects we would like to see proposed. In our estimation it is important to bring teachers and schools into the discussion early so that when the funding RFP goes out there has been some prior discussion as to what type of program will benefit them and their students. The committee suggested a focus group of environmental educators be brought together to discuss: 1) what are their resource needs; 2) what is already available (previously developed); 3) what they would actually use; and 4) what obstacles do they often encounter in doing water education? We anticipate Hennepin County Environmental Services will develop a grant proposal for BCWMC grant funds to form a teacher focus group to explore the questions listed above.

The Education/Public Outreach Committee has scheduled a committee meeting on August 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Conference Room at Golden Valley City Hall, to consider a grant application for pulling together a teacher focus group.

### **Summer School Program at Patrick Henry H.S.**

At the July BCWMC meeting we made mention of the summer school program held at Patrick Henry High School – *A Political and Environmental Study of Shingle Creek* - which was a collaborative program between the Minneapolis Schools and Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission. In this program students who completed the class received a credit in science and a credit in social studies. Chair Welch asked the Education Committee to look into the project. We have a copy of their 2009 Final Report and will include it with additional information we continue to collect related to this project. We

want to make sure teachers and school districts in our watershed are aware of this project between the Shingle Creek WMO and the Minneapolis Schools.

### **Resident's Concern**

It was brought to our attention that a resident with property on Northwood Lake would like to have a meeting to discuss the condition of the lake. In our judgment the commissioner from New Hope should be the one to decide how he would like to address this.

### **Brochure - 10 Things You Can Do - Update**

Brochures have been received. Each BCWMC TAC member will receive 500 copies and more copies will be available upon request.

Pauline handed out the brochures at her National Night Out Event and at the New Hope/Crystal/East Plymouth League of Women Voters board meeting. In September, the LWV board will make them available to the public at their booth at the New Hope Farmer's Market. They thought that the inside page would make an excellent poster and that many teachers would want to display this type of poster in their class room. If such a poster is made available, it could be used in a variety of public places. This recommendation will be passed on to Hennepin County Environmental Services as they coordinated the development and production of this brochure.

### **Website**

The committee decided to continue website review at our September meeting. We will explore the idea of having the website hosted in another way. We will discuss issues or complications which may be related to changing the host for our website and the costs related to a different host site. We will continue to discuss website modifications in order to be ready with recommendations when more website funds become available in our 2010 budget. Very little money remains in this line item in our 2009 budget.

### **Upcoming Education/Public Outreach Meetings**

August 20 – 10:00 a.m. – Golden Valley Council Conference Room – to consider a potential grant proposal

September 10 – 9:00 a.m. – Golden Valley Council Conference Room

Joint EPOC meeting in the fall – I believe it is scheduled in October.

Notes by Pauline Langsdorf