

BCWMC EDUCATION/PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE NOTES

12/4/90 – 9:00 a.m. – Plymouth City Hall, Parker’s Lake Room

Members present: Liz Thornton, Margie Vigoren, Stu Stockhaus and Pauline Langsdorf

Teacher Focus Group

Seven teachers have confirmed that they will attend the Teacher Focus Group on January 14th in the Council Conference Room in Golden Valley City Hall from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Three of the teachers we have contacted haven’t returned our calls. We are still looking for two middle school/jr. high teachers to take part in the Focus Group. The teachers who have confirmed are from Armstrong, Cooper and West Lutheran Sr. High Schools, Robbinsdale Middle School and Noble, Meadowbrook and Birchview Elementary Schools. These schools are located in Plymouth, New Hope, Robbinsdale and Golden Valley. The school districts they represent are Wayzata, Robbinsdale, Hopkins and one private school.

The goal of this Teacher Focus Group is to learn from the teachers: what they are currently doing; what barriers they face when wanting to do watershed/water type education; what materials are available to them; what materials they would actually use; what barriers they see in how our BCWMC grants are structured and how can we better direct our grants.

A total of \$1,000 has been approved for up to 10 \$100 stipends for the teachers who attend this workshop. Since we will run over the dinner hour we want to provide pizza and will use money from the \$1,000 approved for this Focus Group, should we have fewer than 10 teachers participating. If we do have 10 teachers we would like to use an additional \$100 from the education budget to buy pizza or sandwiches for our participants.

We will have samples of watershed education materials for our participants to review as well as some resource materials for them to take with them. Included in these materials will be our watershed map showing the cities in different colors. Margie will develop a handout sheet of websites that are useful for watershed education. Once developed, we would like to have this information posted on our BCWMC website. We will also provide teachers with a handout of information about and an application for our grant program. Pauline will contact Sage Passe, of Washington, Ramsey Watershed District, to learn what materials they use in their teacher program. We will also contact Mary Karius to see what materials she may have to display/handout. We will set up our exhibits as well as other hands on teaching tools there.

Salt and Winter Road Maintenance Article

This article will be written by Judy Argentineau and be marketed to the local press in January. We are recommending that she contact someone involved with street maintenance at the City of Golden Valley, Connie Fortin of Fortin Consulting for information as to what individuals can

do on their own property and Ridgedale Shopping Center regarding how they manage their parking lots to reduce polluted runoff into our waters.

Northland NEMO Update

We discussed Northland NEMO (nonpoint education for municipal employees) and the requirements to being a charter member of this organization. As of this writing the metro area Watershed Districts (WD's) and two Watershed Managements Organizations (WMO's) are charter members. Being a charter member means that they have signed the NEMO charter and have a designated person who attends NEMO meetings and many of these representatives are trained to facilitate the use of NEMO's watershed and lake management games. Also, JASS, which represents an additional four WMO's in our West Metro area has been sending a staff person to NEMO meetings.

The BCWMC Education/Public Outreach committee would like to have the option of using the materials developed by Northland NEMO but feel that as volunteers we don't have anyone to take on that responsibility. Another way of obtaining use of the NEMO materials and a NEMO game facilitator is to support NEMO financially. However, we don't have NEMO support built into our 2010 budget. We will look into this further following our January Teacher's Focus Group.

Blue Thumb Upcoming Meeting

Renewing Blue Thumb membership is also due by the end of the year as are orders for Blue Thumb materials. Their upcoming meeting is on December 11. We hope to have a representative at the meeting.

General Recommendation

As the BCWMC looks at administrative options we strongly recommend that the BCWMC seriously explore how the Commission can be actively involved in the opportunities we currently miss for educational outreach by not having staff or a consultant handling this important task. As volunteers, our Education/Public Outreach Committee isn't able to do all that could and should be done in this important area.

Upcoming Meetings

Joint EPOC, December 8th at 8:30 a.m. at Plymouth City Hall

BCWMC Education/Public Outreach Committee, January 7th at 9:00 a.m. at Plymouth City Hall

Notes by Pauline Langsdorf