

BCWMC Education/Public Outreach Committee

11/13/09 – 9:00 a.m. – Plymouth City Hall – Parker’s Lake Room

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

Teacher Focus Group

Several teachers have been recommended to the committee and they have been contacted. Five have said they are interested and we are waiting for others to return our calls. The teachers who have stated their interest are a Cooper high school teacher, a teacher from Robbinsdale middle school, a teacher from Noble elementary school (these three schools are in the Robbinsdale School District) – a teacher from Meadowbrook elementary school (in the Hopkins District) - and teacher from Birchview elementary school (the Wayzata District). We are awaiting return calls from two high school teachers (one from Armstrong and one from West Lutheran), and a middle school teacher from (Anwatin Middle School in Minneapolis). We hope to have at least two more teachers recommended and we may need more depending on what we hear from those we’ve contacted. We are attempting to include representatives from a number of school districts as well as teachers from a range of grade levels.

The date that has been chosen is January 14th and we will confirm this with the teachers who we have heard from by e-mail as well as a letter of confirmation to be sent out on BCWMC letterhead.

Meadowbrook Fall Festival

BCWMC was represented at this event on October 24th by Liz Thornton, Stu Stockhaus and Mary Gwen-Lenth. Linda Loomis was also there wearing many hats and spent time greeting and sharing information with event participants along with our education/public outreach committee representatives. The event was well attended (estimate 100 families) and our representatives talked with many participants. Several people realized that their school had received a grant from BCWMC and thanked us for it. From Hennepin County we borrowed an interactive exhibit to simulate water and pollutants going down a storm drain. This demonstration piece works well in this setting. We also handed out copies of the “10 Things You Can Do” brochure and wildflower seed packets.

NEMO – Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials

At the November 10th Joint EPOC meeting it was reported that NEMO would like watershed organizations to become partners. Currently the watershed organizations who are partners are watershed districts and various agencies along with Mississippi WMO. There is no charge for being a partner although a charter must be signed and participation in training and events (which may have a cost) is expected. The deadline for becoming a partner is December 31, for 2010. We would like to have this on the December agenda for consideration.

Pauline reported that John Bilotta, from NEMO, was at the 11/10/09 Joint EPOC meeting and at that meeting he showed us the Watershed and Lake board games. Pauline was very impressed with these new educational tools and can see many ways in which they would be useful (i.e. with City Councils, Planning Commissions, Environmental Advisory Commissions, WMO’s and Lakeshore Owners Associations). NEMO is in the process of training facilitators to take out these educational tools. John

estimated that it takes about 45 minutes to play the game but with follow up discussion and game introduction it probably takes between an hour and a half to two hours.

Draft Education Plan for Joint EPOC

The BCWMC education/public outreach committee spent some time reviewing the draft Education Plan for the Joint EPOC. We decided that we need to break the draft plan into groups of similar categories and then prioritize these categories. Then we need to prioritize the audiences within each category. Due to the amount of work needed, the Joint EPOC has scheduled a meeting on December 8th to continue work on the draft. It will be several months before this project will be completed. At this time the draft has identified 28 target audiences and we identified two more we would like to add. We will continue to review this at our next BCWMC ed/outreach committee meeting on December 4th.

Amendment to Judy Arginteanu's Contract

Pauline will be late to the November BCWMC meeting and Stu will speak to this board item.

Rain Barrel and Storm Drain Newspaper Articles

We would like to have these articles posted on our website. At the Joint EPOC meeting a WMO commissioner from Elm Creek asked for copies of the articles for their use. Pauline sent copies to him.

Website Hosting

We feel that this is a policy discussion that needs to take place at the Commission level. Ginny provided us with examples of costs and companies that host websites. We recommend that this discussion be on the January agenda - there is no urgency on this topic.

Next Meetings

BCWMC Education/Public Outreach Committee – Friday, Dec. 4th at 9:00 a.m. – (Plymouth City Hall – location unconfirmed as this writing)

Joint EPOC – Tuesday, December 8th at 8:30 a.m. – (Plymouth City Hall – location unconfirmed as of this writing)

Notes by Pauline Langsdorf