

BCWMC Education & Public Outreach Committee Meeting Notes

September 10, 2009 – 9:00-10:45 a.m.

Golden Valley Council Conference Room

Members Present: Ginny Black, Liz Thornton, Margie Vigoren and Pauline Langsdorf

Teacher Focus Group

As discussed in our August Education & Public Outreach Committee meeting we suggest that the BCWMC sponsor a focus group of science and social studies teachers representing multiple grade levels. We continued and refined this discussion at our 9/10/09 meeting. This focus group would be structured to learn from teachers: 1) their water education resource needs; 2) their awareness and reactions to water education resources that are currently available (previously developed); 3) what water education resources they would actually use; 4) what barriers they encounter to using available water education resources. We also want to make them aware of anticipated funding becoming available through grants through the Clean Water Legacy Fund. As part of the discussion we will have them explore potential ways Legacy Funds could benefit them and their students. We will also seek input on how we can better direct our BCWMC grants.

This focus group would be moderated by Education & Public Outreach Committee members Liz Thornton, a retired science teacher, and Stu Stockhaus, a retired social studies teacher, along with Mary Karius, director of River Watch.

Recommendation: Use remaining 2009 funds in the Education/Public Outreach budget for survey follow-up to gather information from science and social studies teachers in multiple grade levels to learn: 1) how to facilitate teachers being able to access existing as well as developing materials that fit into their standards; 2) ways to optimize our grant program; 3) how to make teachers aware of availability of funding through Clean Water Legacy grants; 4) their ideas for the potential use of education dollars through the Clean Water Legacy funds. We recommend that each teacher taking part in the focus group be reimbursed for their time and expertise with \$100 stipends with the total of stipends not to exceed \$1,000. We estimate that with our committee members volunteering their time and expertise to facilitate the focus group we will more than double the value of the \$1,000 spent on this project.

Newspaper Articles Update

Judy Arginteanu has completed the article on Shoreland Restoration. We are very pleased with the article. We find it both very interesting and informative. However, Judy suggested, and we concurred, that the shoreland restoration article may be a more marketable article in the spring. Therefore we have decided that although not too late to plant yet this year we will hold this article until spring. The timing is right for development of an article on keeping leaves etc. out of our stormdrains and that will be the subject of our next article. We have found residents in Plymouth, Crystal and potentially Minneapolis to be our interview subjects for the personal interest side of this story. We anticipate the

article being ready to pitch by mid-to-late September. We continue to encourage others to suggest story ideas and potential people to interview for our articles.

Website Review

As of our 8/20/09 BCWMC meeting \$657 remained in this line item of the General Account. We will continue our website review at our October meeting when we will meet at a site where we can project websites for easier review. We will continue to look at other options for a website host site. Margie Vigoren will check room availability at Plymouth City Hall.

Education Consultant

Pauline Langsdorf shared a brochure that both she and Mike Welch received from Sarah M. Stai PhD, CE, LEED AP, a consultant interested in working for watershed organizations in education and public outreach. We will keep her information of file for future reference.

Budget Review

We have asked Amy to review the invoices that have been paid from the Education/Public Outreach and the Education Partnerships/Grants/Demonstration portion of the General Account. We feel that some of the invoices have not been charged to our budget. We also want to verify which partnerships have not been paid. We find the payments harder to track since we no longer receive hard copies of invoices and meeting minutes.

Grants

Committee members reported receiving inquiries from residents interested in pursuing grant proposals where projects would take place on their property. Due to expressed opposition by a few commission members to grants for projects on private property we have not encouraged them to apply. We continue to feel that this limits our grant program applications.

Next Meetings

Joint EPOC will meet on October 6th at 8:30 a.m. – tentative location is Plymouth City Hall

BCWMC Education & Public Outreach Committee will meet October 8th at 9:00 a.m. – tentative location is Plymouth City Hall

Notes by Pauline Langsdorf