

BCWMC Education and Public Outreach Committee Meeting Notes

October 4, 2007 – 9:00AM – Golden Valley Council Conference Room

Notes

Committee members present: Richard Johnson, Liz Thornton, Margie Vigoren, Pauline Langsdorf

Guest Presenter: Mary Karius, River Watch, Hennepin Co. Environmental Services

Mary Karius gave us a thorough update on the River Watch Program update as well as a copy of their annual report. We are circulating the report between committee members. Some of the things BCWMC funding provides are; recruiting teachers, providing sampling equipment for the class, teacher training, bussing the students to the sampling site and oversight by the River Watch program coordinator. Ms Karius is in the process of recruiting teachers with a goal of three teachers/classes sampling Bassett Creek. Some teachers will begin sampling within the next week or so. We also discussed other potential sampling sites. One of the current sites sampled in Bassett Creek is at the impound lot in Minneapolis. She reported that the teacher and she felt that this no longer is a good sampling site. Liz shared information with Ms Karius regarding pros and cons of the site she sampled while teaching at Wayzata High School. We asked Ms Karius to contact BARR to help determine if the collected water quality data is used by BCWMC, and to see if Barr has other sites they would prefer to see sampled.

The Ed. and Outreach committee spent time reviewing the current grant criteria. Those present thought the last point under Eligible/Ineligible Costs should be changed from *Grants must be used to provide new or expanded activities and cannot be used to subsidize ongoing activities* to read *Preference will be given to grants that provide new or expanded activities*. This change in wording would not exclude projects we may want to see repeated from receiving future grants. We also feel that the schedule for application deadlines and board action is not working and would like to see this eliminated. We would prefer reviewing grant applications as they come in and awarding grants to the chosen programs/projects until the amount in this program is spent. Grant criteria discussion will continue at our October 16th committee meeting following the Joint EPOC meeting at French Park.

Margie Vigoren and Pauline Langsdorf reported on the meeting we had with Judie Anderson of Shingle Creek WMO and West Mississippi WMO and Kristen Denzer of Metro Blooms (MB). MB

has revised their program to require a more modest commitment of funding. Since MB accepts participants from areas other than those who reside in the sponsoring communities or watersheds boundaries, we discussed looking at sponsorship of MB workshops as trying to ensure that the general area is served. Our residents have the opportunity to benefit from workshops that are sponsored by other cities or watersheds. Therefore we looked at where workshops are currently planned and where ones may be needed. This approach also takes into consideration that a resident may not be able to attend the one in their community/watershed on the specific date it is offered but provides them with additional options for dates and locations. We will discuss MB further at the Joint EPOC meeting on October 16th.

Notes by Pauline Langsdorf