



Item 7C.
BCWMC 3-17-16

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MINUTES

February 9, 2016

A meeting of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) was called to order by Diane Spector at 8:34 a.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd, Plymouth, MN.

Present were: Doug Baines, Elm Creek WMC; Laura Jester, Bassett Creek WMC; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Denis Hahn, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Diane Spector, Wenck Associates; Dawn Pape, Metro Blooms; Jennifer Schaust, Educator; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

1. Motion by Baines, second by Scharenbroich to approve the **agenda*** as presented. *Motion carried.*
2. Motion by Jester, second by Scharenbroich to approve the **minutes*** of the December 8, 2015 meeting as presented. *Motion carried.*
3. **Watershed PREP.** Educators are scheduling school visits. A spreadsheet will be made available on Google Docs to allow all partners to access and view scheduled visits. The MWMO Mini-Grant has been closed with five schools visited. The Minneapolis schools were difficult to get into. Mary Anderson will be meeting with Minnehaha Creek Watershed District educational staff because there are schools in the MCWD area that are interested in hosting the program. Plymouth will continue to fund visits to MCWD schools located within the city.
 - a. Pape noted that working with the **YMCA after school programs** may be an opportunity to pursue. The Educators will discuss how the lesson could be adapted to fit a broader age range. **Home schooling networks** might be another opportunity to expand the program.
 - b. **Sharing curriculum.** Jester has been working with the Comfort Lake Watershed who has requested a copy of the curriculum to use in their area schools. Schaust will contact Jester and share the PowerPoint used in the classroom lessons. The biggest challenge may be finding the white paint trays used in the lesson. WMWA members agreed to share the curriculum at no cost.
4. **Outreach Events.** Schaust was requested to attend the Brooklyn Center Cleanup event on April 16, as well as the Fernbrook Elementary Nature Night on May 22. Educators will also help to staff the booth at the Plymouth Expo on April 8-9. The Enviroscape will be used at both April events. The Educators will also promote the Pledge to Plant Campaign at the Plymouth Native Plant Sale on May 28. Hahn will send Schaust the TRPD outreach schedule.
5. **Special Project Update.** The Pledge to Plant for Pollinators and Clean Water Campaign landing page is nearly ready for launch. Members viewed the landing page at the meeting. After visitors make a pledge, they are brought to the "What to do now" page that offers links to the plant selector tool, the Blue Thumb partner list, and a list of grants. They are also asked to share their pledge on Facebook and Twitter with a link to share. The website will be live by February 20, the date of the Wild One's conference. Spector will attend the conference and kick off the campaign with a five minute speech. The social media campaign outline will also be rolling out through the Blue Thumb Facebook and Twitter accounts. Members are asked to share posts. Pape will also write up a short press release for use in member cities and the WMWA newsletter. It was suggested that a forum page be set up either on the website or on Facebook for people to share ideas for plantings, solicit help, and offer help. Spector noted that there is a successful forum for the Tiny Fields Project in the Victory neighborhood for helping neighbors plant heirloom gardens.

**in meeting packet*

BASSETT CREEK: Crystal • Golden Valley • Medicine Lake • Minneapolis • Minnetonka • New Hope • Plymouth • Robbinsdale • St. Louis Park
ELM CREEK: Champlin • Corcoran • Dayton • Maple Grove • Medina • Plymouth • Rogers
SHINGLE CREEK: Brooklyn Center • Brooklyn Park • Crystal • Maple Grove • Minneapolis • New Hope • Osseo • Plymouth • Robbinsdale
WEST MISSISSIPPI: Brooklyn Center • Brooklyn Park • Champlin • Maple Grove • Osseo

Pape is still working on how to collect the square footage of the plantings with Joint Monarch Venture, who is collecting the same information, to see if there is a way to link the databases.

Pape noted that an organization in New York was interested in joining Blue Thumb and the Pledge to Plant campaign. Blue Thumb currently has partners in Kansas, Missouri, and Indiana. The campaign may go nationwide as the message is important in many areas of the country.

6. A draft **annual report** was provided for members. The word "stakeholder" will be exchanged for the word "public" everywhere in the document. Jester provided additional written changes. The budget will be included in the annual report. Additional comments or changes should be sent to Juntunen via Email by Friday, February 12. The report will be sent to member cities and watersheds.

7. **Website.** Information for the salt workshop on February 17 has been posted to the website. Spector is creating an interactive map for Shingle Creek and will expand on it for the WMWA website. Schaust has created a website for teachers to schedule visits. That site will be linked once it's finished.

8. **E-Newsletter.** Articles for the spring edition of the newsletter were sent to Alisa last week. The next articles are due March 11. Articles will include the Pledge to Plant campaign, spring/Earth Day events, the annual native plant sale in Plymouth, Plymouth's water conservation rebate program, and project highlights.

9. **Budgets.** The budget spreadsheet will be reformatted to remove 2014 and make the 2015 budget and actual adjacent. The budget will be included in the annual report. The entirety of the budget was not expended in 2015. Those funds will carry over to be used in 2016. The member watersheds have been invoiced for the 2016 dues.

10. **Other Business.**

a. Shingle Creek will be kicking off its **Twin Lake Carp Management Program** with TAC and stakeholder meetings scheduled in March. There will be a significant public outreach and communication component to the program. The lake association will be involved in catching and tracking the carp.

b. Bassett Creek will designate a committee to determine the **Commission's role in aquatic plant management and AIS**. This is the last year that the City of Plymouth will fund herbicide treatments for curlyleaf pondweed in Medicine Lake.

c. The **Elm Creek watershed wide TMDL** is nearing completion.

d. **The next WMWA meeting** will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, in the Parkers Lake Room, Plymouth City Hall.

8. **Adjournment.** There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

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