



Item 7C.
BCWMC 4-20-17

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www.westmetrowateralliance.org

MINUTES

January 10, 2017

A meeting of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) was called to order by Diane Spector at 8:33 a.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, MN.

Present were: Laura Jester, Bassett Creek WMC; Shelley Marsh, Brooklyn Center; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Bob Grant, New Hope/Shingle Creek WMC; Tammy Schmitz, MWMO; Diane Spector, Wenck Associates; Dawn Pape, Lawn Chair Gardener; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

1. Hearing no changes or additions, the **agenda*** was approved as presented.
2. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Spector to approve the **minutes*** of the November 29, 2016 meeting. *Motion carried.*

3. **Watershed PREP.** The final report* of school visits for 2016 was provided. Over 2850 students in 107 classes participated in Lesson 1, What is a Watershed and Why Do We Care? In addition, 524 of those students also participated in Lesson 2, Project Wet – The Water Cycle. Educators and/or Staff participated in 10 school, city, or county education events to promote watershed awareness to attendees of all ages.

4. **Pledge Campaign.**

Native Plant Sales. Reviewing the list of all possible events, choices were narrowed down to:

- Plymouth Home Expo, April 7-8
- Plymouth Native Plant Sale, April 29, St. Barnabus
- Metro Blooms workshops, May 4, 2017 6-9 pm Crystal Community Center
- Father Hennepin Festival, Champlin, June 9-11, 2017
- St. Louis Park Partacular, June 17, 2017.
- Camden Farmer's Market, Thursdays (July) 4-6 p.m.
- Carp Festival, Coon Rapids Dam
- New Hope Farmers Market, August 19
- Golden Valley Art & Music Festival, Saturday mid-September
- One additional sale further west (Medina/Corcoran/Dayton/Rogers)

Staff will communicate with the Master Gardeners and Master Water Stewards about the Pledge campaign and native plant sales. Members of these organizations can count volunteer hours.

Staff will update the website with Native Plant Sale information once scheduled.

5. **Outreach Events.** Metro Blooms is offering "How to Create A Weather Resilient Yard" workshops in place of the previous raingarden workshops. The new format will incorporate low-mow grass and other turf replacements, as well as native and raingardens. The cost for cities is \$750. Plymouth, Champlin, and New Hope/Crystal/Golden Valley are planning to host the workshops. Marsh noted that Brooklyn Center may also be interested and she will contact Becky Rice directly for more information.

**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

6. **2018 Budget.** An additional \$1,000 was added to the administrative budget for a total of \$16,000. Carry-over funds from 2016 to 2017 are \$910 for the Campaign, and \$3147 from the Watershed PREP program. The Administrative budget was \$1 over budget in 2016. Educators will be requested to review their budget for 2018 and recommend changes as necessary. Additional topics included the possibility of providing cost-share to accomplish large turf-to-native conversions for the Pledge campaign and/or write grants for that purpose.

Members present supported a cost increase for the Campaign of \$500 from each watershed, increasing the total Campaign budget from \$6,000 to \$8,000 to explore grant opportunities. The total increase to the 2018 budget would be \$750 per watershed, for a total annual budget increase of \$3,000.

7. **E-Newsletter/Website/Social Media.** Jester received articles from Scharenbroich, Pape, and John Bilotta at Extension. Articles will be submitted to Hennepin County by January 18 for publishing at the end of January. Staff will update the website with Native Plant Sale information once scheduled.

Pape will submit a bid to provide social media services for the Pledge campaign. The bid will be submitted for review and approval at the February meeting. The most “liked and shared” posts on the page in 2016 were photos taken by Pape, such as her son sweeping leaves out of the street and the Prince “Purple Raingarden”. Staff will post the salt photo and Channel 12 spot on chlorides to the Facebook page. Spector has been joining and sharing information to Lake Association Facebook pages. Pape will pursue obtaining a list of Minnesota Lake Associations.

Schmitz noted that MWMO has a Flickr account and WMWA is welcome to use their photos. WaterShed Partners also has photos for sharing on their website.

8. **Other Business.**

a. Pape created **new display materials** for Bassett Creek including a map of the watershed that allows citizens to place a pin on their home in up to three colors to show how they are preventing pollution and a bean-bag toss game.

b. MWMO has hired Abby Moore to fill the **training and community outreach** position. Schmitz will invite her to a future meeting of WMWA. **Mini-grant** applications are due in February and could be used for projects along the MWMO/Shingle Creek/Bassett Creek/West Mississippi border.

c. Plymouth is scheduling **salt workshops** with Fortin Consulting to cover Turf, Level 1 Street, and Level 1 Parking Lot/Sidewalk. Bassett Creek is also planning to host a Level 1 Parking Lot/Sidewalk salt workshop which is targeted at building and property managers, townhome associations, retail shopping centers, and churches. Jester will work with Scharenbroich on the scheduling. The workshops will likely be scheduled for late summer or fall. Juntunen suggested submitting an article on salt and the workshops to the Community Association Institute to reach managers and boards of townhome associations. An article submitted to Eco Faith Network could also reach churches.

d. Bassett Creek has **two new Commissioners** from Plymouth.

e. The construction at **Four Seasons Mall** in Plymouth will include a CIP project and restoration of a wetland on a city lot adjacent to the site.

f. The Shingle Creek Commission will be awarding contracts for **bio-char and iron-enhanced filter benches** in three ponds funded by a research grant. The project sites will be monitored for two years.

g. The Shingle Creek **public art re-aeration** project is moving ahead with two artists chosen and sites near Champlin Park High School and at the outlet of Palmer Lake. A third site may be added. Schmitz asked to be notified about any tours or open house events for this project.

h. Shingle Creek WMC will complete a **subwatershed assessment** for all area within the watershed in the city boundary of Minneapolis in 2017.

i. The Brooklyn Center **Shingle Creek Cleanup** is scheduled for Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day). The event will include an open house event at Public Works.

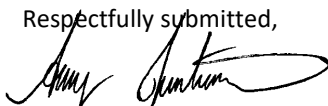
j. Scharenbroich is working with JASS to update Plymouth's **Local Water Management Plan**. Jester is creating a list of criteria that Bassett Creek will require in the plan update.

k. New Hope is constructing a new **City Hall**. The construction may include some interesting BMP demonstrations.

e. **The next WMWA meeting** will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, in the Medicine Lake Room, Plymouth City Hall. The meeting will focus on the 2018 proposed budget and assignments for approaching growers for native plant sales.

9. **Adjournment.** There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

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MINUTES

February 14, 2017

A meeting of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) was called to order by Diane Spector at 8:31 a.m., Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, MN.

Present were: Laura Jester, Bassett Creek WMC; Doug Baines, Elm Creek WMC; Shelley Marsh, Brooklyn Center; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Sharon Meister and Mary Anderson, Educators; Diane Spector, Wenck Associates; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

1. Motion by Baines, second by Scharenbroich to approve the **agenda*** as presented. *Motion carried.*
2. Motion by Baines, second by Scharenbroich to approve the **minutes*** of the January 10, 2017 meeting. *Motion carried.*

3. Watershed PREP.

a. The **final report**** of school visits for 2016 was provided. Over 2850 students in 107 classes participated in Lesson 1, What is a Watershed and Why Do We Care? In addition, 524 of those students also participated in Lesson 2, Project Wet – The Water Cycle. Educators and/or Staff participated in 10 school, city, or county education events to promote watershed awareness to attendees of all ages.

b. **2017 schedule.**** Fair, Monroe and Champlin Park usually schedule in the fall. Educators recommended creating a video that can be sent to teachers about the program to get more buy-in due to the pressure for testing if there are available funds. Jester's daughter is in a film club at her school and may be able to complete the filming as a school project. The Educators asked Jester to see if she may be available to film on March 23 at Oakwood Elementary during the Watershed PREP classes. Home school groups were suggested to expand the reach of PREP.

4. Pledge Campaign.

Native Plant Sales. Reviewing the list of all possible events, choices were narrowed down to:

- ~~Plymouth Home Expo, April 7-8~~ Event is too early in the year.
- Plymouth Native Plant Sale, April 22, St. Barnabus. Spector may attend for WMWA.
- ~~Metro Blooms workshops~~ Timing of events isn't conducive to sale
- Father Hennepin Festival, Champlin, June 9-11, 2017
- St. Louis Park Partacular, June 17, 2017.
- Camden Farmer's Market, Thursday, July 13 4-6 p.m.
- ~~Carp Festival, Coon Rapids Dam~~ Event is no longer held
- New Hope Farmers Market, August 19
- Golden Valley Art & Music Festival, Saturday mid-September
- One additional sale further west (Medina/Corcoran/Dayton/Rogers)

Staff will communicate with the Master Gardeners and Master Water Stewards about the Pledge campaign and native plant sales. Members of these organizations can count volunteer hours. Spector mentioned that she has a volunteer in Corcoran.

**in meeting packet*

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ELM CREEK: Champlin • Corcoran • Dayton • Maple Grove • Medina • Plymouth • Rogers
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Staff will update the website with Native Plant Sale information as each are scheduled and confirmed. A media campaign including press releases and content for the website and social media needs to be developed to get the word out about these events.

5. Outreach Events.

a. Metro Blooms **"How to Create A Weather Resilient Yard" workshops** in Plymouth, Champlin, and Crystal. Juntunen will ask them to hand out Pledge cards.

b. **Plymouth Home Expo.** Juntunen will rent the pull out roots display and a WaterShed Partners display recommended by Jester. Scharenbroich will print maps for the Shingle and Elm Creek booths. Seeds will be ordered for Bassett, Elm and Shingle Creek WMCs for handouts. The enviroscape will not be used this year due to the mess and time consumption.

c. **Plymouth Turf Grass Maintenance Workshop** will be held March 2 at 7:30 a.m.. The class is already 70% full.

d. The **Great Shingle Creek Cleanup** is April 22 in Brooklyn Center. Anderson and Meister are unable to attend. Juntunen will reach out to the other Educator, Jenny Schaust, and possibly a Master Water Steward or Master Gardener.

e. Crystal is hosting a **Winter Maintenance for Sidewalks and Parking Lots** workshop on October 13, 2017. Plymouth will also host two workshops this fall. The goal is to get private contractors to attend.

6. E-Newsletter. The latest edition of Water Links just went out and will be posted to the website. Juntunen will also post a link to Facebook. The next articles are due mid-March.

7. Website/Social Media. The proposal from Lawn Chair Gardener to manage the social media at a cost of \$2500 was discussed. In addition to the social media management for the next 12 months, it was decided that Pape would also be asked to write press releases for the native plant sales. Motion by Jester, second by Spector to approve the proposal at up to \$3,000 to include press releases for plant sales. *Motion carried.*

The links to Water Links should be moved to Resources or Education instead of What Can You Do.

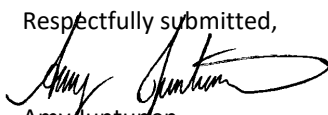
8. Other Business.

a. Spector noted that **Loring Elementary** wasn't on the PREP list. The school is in the Shingle Creek watershed. She will get information to the Educators.

b. **The next WMWA meeting** will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, in the Medicine Lake Room, Plymouth City Hall. The meeting will focus on the 2018 proposed budget and assignments for approaching growers for native plant sales.

9. Adjournment. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

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