



WEST METRO WATER ALLIANCE

3235 FERNBROOK LANE | PLYMOUTH, MN 55447

763.553.1144 | judie@jass.biz

www.shinglecreek.org

Item 9G.
BCWMC 2-20-14

MINUTES

January 14, 2014

A meeting of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) was called to order by Diane Spector at 8:38 a.m., Tuesday, January 14, 2013, at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, MN.

Present were: Doug Baines, Elm Creek WMC; Shelley Marsh, Shingle Creek WMC; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Mary Anderson and Jenny Schaust, Educators; Joan Nephew, Freshwater Society (FWS); Randy Anhorn, Mary Karius and Alisa Reckinger, Hennepin County Environmental Services (HCES); Denis Hahn, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Diane Spector, Wenck Associates; and Judie Anderson and Amy LeMieux, JASS.

1. Members **introduced themselves** to the new attendees.
2. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Hahn to approve the **Minutes*** of the November 12, 2013 meeting. *Motion carried.*
3. **Watershed PREP.**
 - a. **Hennepin County Green Partners Grant.** Schaust has completed and submitted a Green Partner Grant (ROOT) application to Hennepin County to enhance the Watershed PREP initiative. The project goals are to increase participation in Watershed PREP and develop a stronger connection to action. Funds requested total \$7,940. The application has made it to the recommendation list and is likely to be funded. More information will follow at the February meeting. The grant is for a one-year period that will begin in March or April. The first step will be to develop the survey.
 - b. **Jackson Middle School (Champlin) Expert Day Jan 29.** The Expert Day is a mini-conference with a theme of conservation and sustainability. Thirty-five experts will be putting on presentations and the 8th grade students will be able to choose to attend two or three presentations, then choose a capstone project. The Educators will do a modified Watershed PREP presentation. Results will be brought to the February meeting.
 - c. **5th Grade standards - linking 4th grade work to next year.** A long term goal would be to consistently return students to the elements of Watershed PREP, such as asking for examples of beneficial and harmful human interactions with surface water. With the 8th grade Expert Day, it may make more sense to push standards every two years, in 4th, 6th, and 8th grades. The Rice Creek Watershed has had a substitute teacher program in the past that would teach an environmental lesson day. The County is considering ways to make the Water Festival for 5th graders more accessible for kids to participate.
 - d. **Spring Watershed Lessons.** Most teachers haven't focused on their lessons for March yet, with the pervasive snow and cold. Educators are contacting teachers to schedule lessons now.
4. **2014 Marketing Plan.**
 - a. **Partnership with Excelsior Brewery.** Excelsior is still very committed to the program, but Nephew has had a hard time reconnecting with the owner, John Klick. A spring roll out is expected.
 - b. **10 Things brochure.** The WMWA website can be used to link to other county watersheds and cities. Members were asked to review the revised brochure and provide comment to LeMieux within one week. An image for item 10 is still needed.
 - c. **Brochure for Developers.** WMWA will develop a brochure directed towards property developers detailing BMPs that could be implemented, similar to one developed by the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi WMOs. The *Guidebook for Commercial Properties and Common Ownership Communities* was included in the meeting packet. The brochure was created in 2005 and will be updated to make it more eye catching and include information such as raingardens and pervious pavement. The administrative office does receive requests for this brochure.

**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

5. **E-Newsletter – Water Links.** Reckinger reviewed the statistics of open rates and following links for 2013. Articles should continue to be submitted to LeMieux for inclusion in the newsletter. Reckinger will send out the monthly topic list for review. There are articles on road salt, an upcoming seminar by FWS and case studies on the Master Water Steward program that can be included in the next newsletter. Schaust will provide an article on Watershed PREP. A write-up of the Plymouth Yard & Garden expo could also be included.

a. **Writer.** Spector drafted a position description for the volunteer newsletter and will solicit volunteers. Staff will send an electronic version to Nephew and Karius for posting as well. Volunteers will be asked to submit samples of writing.

6. **Announcements.**

FWS is hosting a **public speaker series** on water quality and fracking that will be open to the public.

FWS is collaborating with other organizations to host the **Lakes and Rivers Conference** that Minnesota Waters held in the past. The conference is scheduled for May 1-2 in Brainerd. The conference is geared toward citizens and will focus on citizen engagement, runoff, and watershed restoration issues.

The 13th annual **Road Salt Symposium** will take place at the Landscape Arboretum on February 6.

Baines and Karius volunteered to assist with the **Plymouth Yard & Garden Festival** on April 11 and 12.

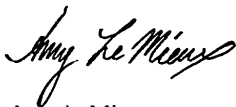
Baines noted that an article in *Ag Daily* indicated that the ag community will keep an eye on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL to learn whether the EPA has regulatory authority to restrict nutrients from ag land.

The second cohort of **Master Water Stewards** begins next week.

The **next WMWA meeting** is scheduled for February 11, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at Plymouth City Hall.

7. **Adjournment.** There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy LeMieux
Recording Secretary

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