

Bassett Creek WMO
Education and Public Outreach Committee Meeting
December 11, 2007 – 9:00 AM
Golden Valley City Hall

Committee members present: Margie Vigoren, Richard Johnson, Mary Gwen-Lenth and Pauline Langsdorf

Survey Update - Margie Vigoren reported that Decision Resources is finishing the calling phase of the survey they are doing for the Joint Watersheds on the public's understanding of watershed issues and sources of their information.

Retractable Exhibit Update - Liz Thornton, Margie Vigoren and Pauline Langsdorf met in November and developed a layout design for a new retractable exhibit. The Education/Outreach Committee reviewed it and made suggestions. With this input, Margie and Pauline will meet with a designer from Featherlite to finalize the design and order the exhibit made. Money for this exhibit is contained in the 2007 Education budget and authorization for this expense (up to \$1,200) was granted at a previous BCWMC meeting.

Pilgrim Lane Elementary School and Nature Center Partnership Grant Proposal - The committee reviewed the grant proposal from Pilgrim Lane Elementary School. As noted in the last paragraph of the proposal, Pilgrim Lane's principal held a meeting with School District 281's Teaching and Learning Science Specialist and Directors from the Jeffers Foundation. The purpose of this meeting was to explore the possibility of replicating this learning experience across the district with hopes of building this type of water education experience into the district's science core curriculum.

Recommendation: The Ed/Outreach Committee recommends that the grant proposal for the Pilgrim Lane Elementary School and Nature Center Educational Partnership be approved for \$940 with the money to come from the Demonstration Projects line item.

St. David's child Development and Family Services Grant Proposal for DNR Project WET and Project WILD Aquatic Training for Teachers in the Bassett Creek Watershed - Project WET and Project Wild Aquatic are well tested programs that have, for several years, been promoted by staff of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The committee feels that these are good water and water quality education programs and that the teachers who take part in this training and ultimately the students would benefit from their teachers taking part in this training program.

Recommendation: In order to ensure the grant money is used to benefit students within the Bassett Creek Watershed, we recommend that BCWMC reimburse the grantee up to \$100 per

participating teacher provided that the teacher teaches in a school within the Bassett Creek watershed or that 25% of the student body for that school live within the Bassett Creek Watershed. The grant total cannot exceed \$1,000. This money is to come from the Demonstration Projects line item.

WaterShed Partner's/ MN Water - Let's Keep it Clean Invoice – Our budget includes \$5,000 for support of WaterShed Partners within the budget line item titled Demonstration Projects. This organization is made up of approximately 40 organizations working on watershed issues. Their MN Water-Let's Keep it Clean workgroup puts together stormwater education public service announcements and DVD's as well as print media for use by watershed organizations, local governments, educators and individual citizens.

Recommendation: The Ed/Outreach Committee recommends approval of the invoice from WaterShed Partners/MN Water Let's Keep it Clean for \$5,000. The money is to be taken from BCWMC's Demonstration Projects line item.

Plymouth's 2008 Environmental Expo at Sunset Hills Elementary School (March 20, 2008) – Last year several BCWMC commissioners, along with staff from Shingle Creek WMO took part in Plymouth's 2007 Environmental Expo at Pilgrim Lane Elementary School. We felt this was a very worthwhile event although we did a demonstration that was too labor intensive. Students at Sunset Hills Elementary come from within the Bassett Creek watershed and based upon the excellent attendance that the Plymouth Environmental Expo draws each year, we recommend taking part in it again this year. Participation requires that we set up between 4:30 and 6:00 PM and that we be ready to interact with students and their parents between 6:00 and 8:00 PM. We have money designated in our 2008 budget to purchase an Enviroscape. A demonstration using the Enviroscape would work very well for this event. This demonstration can be handled by one person, although it would help a great deal to have two people available.

Recommendation: We recommend that BCWMC provide either commissioners or staff to operate our demonstration at Plymouth's 2008 Environmental Expo at Sunset Hills Elementary School on March 20, 2008, and to register for a booth at this event.

Plymouth's 2008 Yard and Garden Expo – April 4th and 5th - This well attended event is held yearly in Plymouth. Liz Thornton and Commissioner Ginny Black have represented BCWMC at this event for the past few years. We recommend participation again this year. The cost for a booth is \$50.

Recommendation: We recommend approval of the \$50 booth fee and that BCWMC participate in the Plymouth 2008 Yard and Garden Expo.