



Item 8C.
BCWMC 6-19-14

3235 FERNBROOK LANE

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www.shinglecreek.org

MINUTES

April 8, 2014

A meeting of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) was called to order by Diane Spector at 8:32 a.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, MN.

Present were: Laura Jester, Bassett Creek WMC; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Mollie Thompson, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District; Mary Anderson and Jenny Schaust, Educators; Steve Christopher, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); Karl Hakanson, U of M Extension/Hennepin County; Diane Spector, Wenck Associations, Inc.; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

1. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Jester to approve the **Minutes*** of the March 11, 2014 meeting. *Motion carried.*

2. Watershed PREP.

a. **Update - 2014 classes.** A handout was provided showing new schools for spring. Oakwood and Gleason Lake Elementary Schools are in the Minnehaha Creek watershed, but Plymouth will pay for PREP to be given at those schools. Student components of the program have been posted to the website www.shinglecreek.org under What You Can Do > Storm Drain Goalie. Teachers gave good feedback on the program during development. Feedback on implementation will also be sought.

b. **Update – 2014 Events.** Three events are upcoming: the Plymouth Yard & Garden Expo, Brooklyn Center's Earthfest, and a Twin Lakes lakeshore workshop. Spector is meeting with the Meadow Lake Association this Saturday for their annual meeting.

c. Hakanson noted that he is attempting to meet with three local farmers to do an **on-farm demonstration**.

3. 2014 Marketing Plan.

a. **Partnership with Excelsior Brewery.** Juntunen has forwarded the selected questions to John Klick at Excelsior Brewing, but hasn't heard back. The QR codes on the coasters will direct people to a special page on the Excelsior Brewing website.

b. **10 Things brochure.** The brochures have been printed and are available for pick up at the JASS office.

c. **Guidebook for Commercial Properties and Common Ownership Communities.** Spector is continuing to update the Guidebook.

4. E-Newsletter – Water Links.

a. Two **contract writers**, Kristina Geiger and Mary Beth Pottratz, have been added to the team. Alisa Reckinger and Amy Juntunen are the primary contacts for the newsletter.

b. **Article ideas:** Plymouth Yard & Garden Expo results; Metro Blooms Workshop in Plymouth, April 22 at St. Barnabas; Twin Lakes Shoreline Workshop; Jester will write an article on a BCWMC project; NEMO Workshops; Upper Mississippi Bacterial TMDL on notice; Shallow Lakes Forum; Scharenbroich on MS4 issue; Call for CAMP/SHEP/WHEP volunteers; Possible de-listing of Wirth Lake; Dance Hall Creek assessment; Eco-Palooza in Eden Prairie on May 17.

**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. **Other Business/Announcements.**

a. **Minneapolis Public School Summer Program.** Spector received a call from a former Patrick Henry High School teacher that participated in past summer programs. Minneapolis public schools is interested in reinstating the Shingle Creek summer program, though it would need to be a shortened program due to the retirement of one of the teachers of the course.

b. Victory neighborhood is starting a new **water quality campaign** with yard signs on every block – Do not disturb our lakes and rivers, with seasonal messages re leaves and pet waste. The other campaign is “Victory’s Secret” re the benefits of hanging clothes to dry, rather than using a dryer.

c. **Dick Gray**, founder of the Freshwater Society, has passed away. A memorial service will be held at the Gray Freshwater Center April 19.

d. **NEMO Workshops.** NEMO 101 – *Linking Land Use to Clean Water* - workshops have been scheduled for May 8 in Edina and May 14 in Excelsior, from 5:00-8:30 p.m. The workshops are free but registration at <http://z.umn.edu/NEMO101> is requested.

e. The **Lakes and Rivers Conference – State of Water Conference** will be held May 1 and 2 at Cragun’s in Brainerd. Citizens are encouraged to attend. Five different tracks will be presented. The conference is sponsored by the U of M, Conservation Minnesota, and the Freshwater Society.

f. The **next WMWA meeting** is scheduled for May 13, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at Plymouth City Hall.

6. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, motion by Scharenbroich, second by Marsh to adjourn. *Motion carried.* The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

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MINUTES May 13, 2014

A meeting of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) was called to order by Diane Spector at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, MN.

Present were: Laura Jester, Bassett Creek WMC; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Jenny Schaut, Educator; Mary Karius and Alisa Reckinger, Hennepin County Environmental Services (HCES); Denis Hahn, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Diane Spector, Wenck Associations, Inc.; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

1. Motion by Jester, second by Scharenbroich to approve the **Minutes*** of the April 8, 2014 meeting. *Motion carried.*

2. **Watershed PREP.**

a. **Update - 2014 classes.** School visits are going well. Staff will pull click-through numbers for the student presentations to determine how many kids are going through the presentation with parents. Once teachers get most of the surveys back, they've been taking a group photo with the class holding up the pencils. Might be able to get these photos on a city website for additional P.R. Photos will also be sent to the grant coordinator.

Presenting a Train-the-Trainer for Watershed PREP to other watershed organizations with education staff was proposed to continue to expand the program.

b. **Presentation to Twin Lakes lakeshore owners.** Eighteen lakeshore owners attended the general presentation. Information on landscapers that can evaluate their shoreline for design/improvement was in demand. Schaut can refer owners to the Blue Thumb partner website since many partners are landscape companies. Randy Anhorn might also be a good resource.

Attendees noted that a city shoreline restoration on Middle Twin is being used by people who cut and harvest the wildflowers for probable sale. Police state that it isn't vandalism, so they are unable to apprehend such people.

c. **Update – 2014 Events.** Next year the Enviroscape should be part of the Environmental Fair, rather than at a watershed booth since there were many more kids at the fair. Schaut engaged with 79 attendees at the Brooklyn Center Earthfest from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Several kids stopped who remembered the water lesson from the previous year.

Jackson Middle School has requested Schaut to return for their next eighth grade event and would also like to create a program for sixth grade students.

[Reckinger arrived 9:16 a.m.]

3. **E-Newsletter – Water Links.**

a. The last newsletter was sent out in January. Reckinger outlined a plan to send the newsletter on a quarterly basis instead of monthly because Hennepin County is not able to provide the level of support necessary for a monthly newsletter. Most of the content is not time specific and notices of upcoming events or workshops is usually sent out on other lists. The open rate for the newsletters sent in the past has been approximately 20% out of a 1,000-2,000 subscriber list. Consensus is to move to a quarterly newsletter. The County will still send the newsletter, but it needs to be provided in a completed format so there is not much work other than inserting the final text into the newsletter layout. Jester and Juntunen will act as editors for their respective organizations. Guidelines for story length, etc., have been provided by Reckinger. The volunteers would send the stories through the Commissions for final approval.

**in meeting packet*

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Updated lists should be sent to Reckinger. The system automatically removes duplicates and it would ensure that all new City Council members and Commissioners are receiving the newsletter.

Reckinger and Juntunen will meet with the volunteers with the aim to send out a newsletter in August.

- b. **Article ideas:** Watershed PREP, fall cleanups, city compost pickup days.

4. **2014 Marketing Plan.**

a. **Partnership with Excelsior Brewery.** Juntunen has forwarded the selected questions to John Klick at Excelsior Brewing, but hasn't heard back. The QR codes on the coasters will direct people to a special page on the Excelsior Brewing website. Juntunen will reach out to John Klick and Joan Nephew regarding this project.

- b. **10 Things brochure.** The brochures have been printed and are available for pick up at the JASS office.

c. **Guidebook for Commercial Properties and Common Ownership Communities.** The final revision was included in the meeting packet. Jester and Juntunen will query their WMO cities to determine a print quantity.

[Reckinger departed 9:44 a.m.]

5. **Budget.** Jester noted that the budget should be discussed earlier in the year since the Bassett Creek WMO budget has already been set. The amount indicated does fit with their approved budget for 2015. There is \$6,000 budgeted for special projects, such as the coasters. Perhaps some of that can be moved into PREP expansion.

Motion by Jester, second by Hahn to approve the proposed budget as presented. *Motion carried.*

6. **Other Business/Announcements.**

a. Bassett Creek WMC is hosting a **watershed tour** on May 29, 12:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m. This will be a bus tour of stream restoration, a pond diversion project, the Wirth Lake project and the entrance to the tunnel where Bassett Creek flows underground at the WOMP station.

- b. Shingle Creek WMC will also host a **watershed biking/walking tour** on May 31.

f. The **next WMWA meeting** is scheduled for June 10, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at Plymouth City Hall. The educators may perform the Watershed PREP lesson since there is not much on the agenda. Kids are welcome to attend.

7. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, motion by Scharenbroich, second by Marsh to adjourn. *Motion carried.* The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

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