

**Joint Education and Outreach Meeting**  
**Bassett Creek, Shingle Creek, West Mississippi, Elm Creek and**  
**Three Rivers Park District**  
**April 10, 2007**

Bassett Creek Outreach and Education Committee Members Present:

Liz Thorton, Ginny Black, Pauline Langsdorf and Margie Vigoren

In reviewing the demonstration we did at the Environmental Quality Fair at Pilgrim Lane School we made the following suggestions:

- Allow more time for setting up and testing the treatment system so the water runs cleaner before the students start adding the polluted water.
- Prior to starting the demonstration on water clarity, we should put more pollutant materials in the container of polluted water in order for the first visitors to have a better understanding of how a sechi disc works.
- Pour water through something that looks like a storm drain instead of directly into the wetland container and directly into the river/lake container.
- Good demonstration but requires heavy lifting for the “treatment” container. Heavier than most of us can handle.
- Discuss how street sweeping and plantings help improve water quality.
- It requires several volunteers – more than we usually would have available.
- Liked the blacklight demonstration showing that not all pollutants are visible. It was a demonstration that is easy to set up and take down. (used tonic water and plain water for the demonstration)
- We appreciated the help of the volunteers from the high schools and also the adult volunteers that the City of Plymouth recruited.

We thought it went well for a first time through. The MPCA considering using this demonstration at the State Fair.

**Metro Blooms – Grant Application**

We decided not to apply for a grant from BWSR for more Metro Blooms presentations. What Metro Blooms wanted was more costly, \$75,000, than what we felt would be funded through a BWSR grant. BWSR’s money, \$350,000, is intended for state-wide use and this would have required a large portion of it.

### **RFP for Survey**

The RFP for a survey of opinions on water quality issues will go out this Friday with the proposals due by April 25. The survey committee will continue working on this and the questions will be circulated via e-mail to the EPOC Joint Committee for review.

### **Workshop on Infiltration of Clay Soil**

We are considering looking into the possibility of sponsoring a workshop on infiltration of clay soils. This will require more discussion. The proposed audience is city engineers.

### **Children's Water Festival**

We discussed the need for getting the word out that we have transportation funds available for classes from each of our watershed's grant programs for schools in our respective watersheds.

### **Blue Thumb Program**

We want to look into this program as a possible addition to our programs. We are interested in getting their brochure on "Native Plant Gardens".

### **Other Brochures/Handouts of Interest**

- The "No Salt Diet", revised by the City of Plymouth.
- "BMP's for Property Managers" written by the Shingle Creek WMO.
- Explore purchasing the seed packets currently being used as handouts by Shingle Creek WMO.
- Blue crayons or blue pencils

**Next Joint Committee Meeting – probably not until September.**