



Item 7D.
BCWMC 10-17-19

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www.westmetrowateralliance.org

MINUTES

August 13, 2019

A meeting of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) was called to order by Diane Spector at 8:31 a.m., Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd, Plymouth, MN.

Present were: Doug Baines, Elm Creek WMC; Catherine Cesnik, Elm Creek WMC; Amy Reigel and Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Sharon Meister, Educator; Diane Spector, Wenck Associates; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

1. The **agenda*** was approved as presented.
2. Motion by Baines, second by Scharenbroich to approve the **minutes*** of the July 9, 2019 meeting as presented. *Motion carried.*
3. **Watershed PREP.** Two schools have already scheduled for November. The Educators are working to contact teachers and schedule classes. Any connections to elementary school staff are welcomed.
 - a. **Kid's Fest.** Meister tabled at the Plymouth Kid's Fest event on August 1, 2019. There were over 4,000 attendees. The Enviroscape and beanbag toss displays were popular. The City of Plymouth donated coloring books and crayons and Bassett Creek WMC donated additional items as giveaways. It was suggested that next year's display placement should be in a quieter area. Scharenbroich noted that Plymouth may develop a handout to be used with the Enviroscape display.
 - b. **PREP video update.** Mary Amsden contacted CCX, who said they could train the Educators or other WMWA volunteers to use the equipment to create a video. However, they have been unresponsive over the past two weeks. Scharenbroich noted that the Plymouth interns could be used to help with the project, but the City only had them available until the end of August.
4. **Project Coordinator Position.*** A position description was included in the meeting packet. This position would be 8-10 hours per week and be used to update the current Education and Outreach Plan and keep it up-to-date moving forward, develop annual work plans, keep abreast of metro-wide practices, maintain the website, attend WMWA meetings, and coordinate Metro Blooms workshops. Additional duties may be added in the future.

The Special Projects budget line item would be used to fund the position and would need partner approval. Watershed staff have not had additional time in their work schedules to complete additional WMWA tasks, a dedicated coordinator would be valuable to ensure specific tasks are completed in a timely manner. Currently the special projects fund is being used to fund the social media campaign. Discussion of the impact of this campaign will occur at the September meeting.

Cesnik is interested in taking on this position. Commissioners and Commission counsel have agreed that this would not be a conflict of interest as Cesnik will be recused from voting on any issues regarding the position and are supportive of Cesnik for the position.

Motion by Baines, second by Meister to recommend to member watersheds to approve this position and funding through the special projects fund. *Motion carried, Cesnik abstaining.*

Spector will create a memo regarding this recommendation for inclusion in the September meetings for member watersheds.

**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. **Road Salt Symposium.*** The Freshwater Society is seeking funding for their Road Salt Symposium in October 2019. A symposium was also held in February 2019. Freshwater Society has decided to move the symposium from winter to fall. It was suggested that WMWA contribute to the symposium in lieu of the individual member watershed commissions. After discussion, WMWA will not fund the Symposium because it is not a WMWA target audience. Name recognition would be better for the commissions, rather than WMWA.

6. **Roots Display.** Six Blue Thumb members are also interested in purchasing a pull-out-roots display. However, the vendor that has created them in the past is unresponsive. Blue Thumb is pursuing a new vendor/designer for the displays.

7. **Website/Social Media.** Monthly reports were reviewed. Discussion whether the social media impact justifies the expense will occur at a future meeting.

8. **Other Business.**

a. **Lawns to Legumes** is a new program recently awarded a BWSR grant. The program's audience is homeowners and is targeted to increase native pollinator habitat in Minnesota. Cost-share grants will be awarded to individuals and demonstration neighborhoods will be created. This program may choose to partner with the Pledge to Plant program.

b. There were 100 WMWA resident attendees of the **Resilient Yard workshops** hosted by Metro Blooms. WMWA members paid a total of \$9,000 to host these workshops. The effectiveness of reach to cost may be discussed at a future meeting.

c. Minnesota has a new **state bee**, the Rusty Patch bumblebee. The rusty patch bumblebee is highlighted in the Lawns to Legumes program and will also have its own display at the Blue Thumb exhibit at the State Fair.

d. Juntunen will email members regarding volunteer opportunities at the State Fair for Blue Thumb and Watershed Partners.

e. **The next WMWA meeting** is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at Plymouth City Hall.

9. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, motion by Jester, second by Baines to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

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MINUTES

September 10, 2019

A meeting of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) was called to order by Diane Spector at 8:31 a.m., Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd, Plymouth, MN.

Present were: Laura Jester, Bassett Creek WMC; Catherine Cesnik, Elm Creek WMC; Amy Reigel and Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Diane Spector, Wenck Associates; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

1. The **agenda*** was approved as presented.
2. The **minutes*** of the August 13, 2019 meeting will be presented for approval at the October meeting.
3. **Watershed PREP.** The next PREP class is scheduled for September 25 at Noble Academy if Commissioners or members would like to observe.
 - a. **PREP video update.** The Educators will be meeting with CCX this Thursday, September 12 regarding the video.
4. **Chlorides**
 - a. **Salt Workshops.** Bassett Creek is hosting a salt workshop on September 24. Enrollment is currently at 13 with room for 30.
 - b. **County-wide Group.** There have been no updates since last spring. A survey and focus group sessions were supposed to be held to move forward with a collaborative plan this fall.
5. **Project Coordinator Position.*** Elm Creek WMC has already approved this position. Approval is on the agendas for Shingle Creek and West Mississippi WMCs this Thursday and Bassett Creek WMC next week. Motion by Jester, second by Spector to approve execution of the contract for this position pending approval from member WMCs and directing Counsel to draft the contract. *Motion carried*, Cesnik abstaining. Cesnik would be a contractor for the Shingle Creek WMC as fiscal agent for WMWA. Tasks for this position will be set at the October meeting. One of the first tasks should be to reach out to member cities to learn of their current education gaps and needs.
6. **Website/Social Media.** Monthly reports were reviewed. Funding for this activity currently comes from the Special Projects line item. The Project Coordinator position will also be funded from this line item. However, there are not enough funds to cover the Coordinator position, Social Media and the roots display. Members will need to consider how to prioritize future funding. Cesnik noted that Facebook Events seem to get more engagement. Posts from cities and other watersheds can also be shared more often.
7. **Other Business.**
 - a. All four member watersheds are holding public hearings regarding **2020 Capital Improvements** this month. West Mississippi will be considering funding a prairie restoration on the north end of the park and a pond/wetland complex to treat 250 acres that are currently untreated on the south end.
 - b. There was a lot of interest in the **Lawns to Legumes** program at the State Fair with many attendees signing up for email updates. Workshops for homeowners are included in the program, along with cost-share funding for

*in meeting packet

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installations. A simple fact sheet describing the classes available, desirable plantings and online resources would be helpful.

c. **The next WMWA meeting** is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at Plymouth City Hall.

8. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, motion by Jester, second by Baines to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

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