

# WMWA

## WEST METRO WATER ALLIANCE

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### MINUTES

October 8, 2019

A meeting of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) was called to order by Diane Spector at 8:34 a.m., Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd, Plymouth, MN.

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

1. The **agenda\*** was approved as presented.
2. Motion by Jester, second by Scharenbroich to approve the **minutes\*** of the August 13, 2019 meeting as presented. *Motion carried.* Motion by Jester, second by Scharenbroich to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 meeting with a correction to the spelling of Riegel's name. *Motion carried.*
3. **Watershed PREP.** Juntunen will obtain a schedule of upcoming classes from the Educators. Meister is teaching a class today.
4. **Project Coordinator Position.\*** A draft contract has been provided to Cesnik for review. Concern was expressed regarding the not-to-exceed amount of \$18,000 which would include expenses. Juntunen noted that if a sign or materials were to be purchased, it would not be done through Cesnik and those expenses would not count.

Priority tasks for the position include:

- a. Contacting member cities and identifying their education needs and gaps that WMWA could fill, especially regarding MS4 permit requirements.
  - b. Pursue a Roots Display purchase. Juntunen will provide Cesnik with the contact information for Beth Carreno at Rice Creek WD and John Bly at Blue Thumb since Blue Thumb is attempting to coordinate a mass purchase.
  - c. Create annual work plan proposal based on comments from cities, the overall Education and Outreach Plan and the annual budget. Review and revise the Education and Outreach Plan as necessary.
5. **Metro Blooms/Lawns to Legumes Workshops.**
- a. **Metro Blooms Resilient Yard Workshops.** Metro Blooms provided attendance numbers for the 2019 workshops. Only 100 citizens attended the workshops hosted at a cost of \$9,000. Of attendees, only 20% intend to install a planting. The cost for the reach is very high. Future plans may include having Master Water Stewards host smaller "garden parties."

The follow-up surveys showed that people were willing to have the installations, but less willing to do the physical labor needed to install plantings. Perhaps a better use of funds would be to provide matching grants for installations instead of hosting workshops.

- b. The still-in-development **Lawns to Legumes** statewide native planting program will include a workshop component. Metro Blooms/Blue Thumb has scheduled Train-the-Trainer workshops, the closest being in Maple Grove on Friday, November 8, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Juntunen and Spector plan to attend to learn more about this program. It is possible

*\*in meeting packet*

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WEST MISSISSIPPI: Brooklyn Center • Brooklyn Park • Champlin • Maple Grove • Osseo

that in 2020-2021 these workshops would be utilized instead of the Resilient Yard workshops. The individual grant portion opens in November 2019 and the RFP for demonstration neighborhood installations opens in December 2019.

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. The Coordinator may be able to get more information from cities about their projects for water quality, work with the Educators on PREP posts, and find relevant information from other watersheds/cities to post, rather than paying for content development. It would be best if we could get our member cities to share our posts to their wider audiences and gain traction with local lake associations.

7. **Other Business.**

a. Juntunen will provide Cesnik with WaterShed Partner information and logins to review the MS4 toolkit and other materials that organization has available.

b. Juntunen will provide updated financials at the November meeting.

c. Bassett Creek WMC hosted a **salt workshop** in September. There were 22 attendees, made up mainly of property managers. Feedback is that the workshop moved too slow and was the wrong information for the audience, causing the audience to be disinterested and even leave during the workshop. Online training might be a better option for this audience, but Fortin doesn't seem interested in developing that platform.

d. **The next WMWA meeting** is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 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 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen  
Recording Secretary

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