

SWPPP Steering Committee meeting 2/18/05

Present: Rich Axler, Tim Bates, Tom Beery, Bev Ecklund, Nicole Hynum, Erik Larson, Mahjoub Labyad, Marnie Lonsdale, Candice Richards, David Schimpf, John Weiske, Zandy Zweibel, and recorder Cheryl Anderson

Absent: Cindy Hagley, Tim Holst, Jesse Schomberg

Introductions: Olaf Kuhlke, Geography Professor, sat in on today's meeting as a potential member.

Current member status- appointments are made by Greg Fox annually in August, which doesn't align with filing of annual report. New membership opportunities will be available in August 2005. Anyone that would like to make a change in their membership or nominate a new member should notify Candice.

Please document education & outreach hours for 2004 plan year (classes taught, workshop presentations, etc) Please send form or email record to Candice, Erik or Cheryl. Documentation is required for SWPPP report.

Report on awards and nominations received included Duluth Streams a media award to R.S.P.T. and nominations to Nicole Hynum and UMD Stormwater. Tim Bates asked if the RSPT group has ever considered awarding groups it works with for their excellent efforts. (They haven't, but will discuss).

Regional Stormwater Protection Team- Marnie reported that the scheduled spring campaigns for radio and TV ads will create something of a local watershed media blitz. The EPA handbook will contain a media disk of the ads for reference. Rex the Dog costume may be ready in the home show so that Rex can make a guest appearance, possibly handing out mutt mitts. June 4-5, 2005 is the Watershed Festival in the Kmart parking lot near the Miller Hill Mall. The event will feature a nationally recognized environmental entertainer. Vendors will also be selling environmentally valuable items - mowers, rain barrels, etc. Event will highlight the condition of Miller Creek and will be a fun way to promote the Duluth environmental scene to "Joe Citizen". There will be individual and group volunteer opportunities for the Watershed Festival, and UMD has made a commitment for involvement. Events Services students will provide clean-up help and other UMD groups are encouraged to participate.

The RSPT is also considering a "Bucket Brigade" pilot program in Miller Creek and Chester Bowl area to stop sand and leaves from ending up in the streams after being swept into the streets. Program has been successful in other municipalities. Nicole will contact Dan Hartman from the SA about coordinating the bucket brigade with student volunteer snow removal efforts.

Litter survey is complete and committee has reviewed results. Four focus groups w/ 6-8 people from on-campus and off-campus groups will meet to discuss litter behavior, clean-up incentives and recognition. Any other topic suggestions can be emailed to Nicole. Nicole is looking for volunteers to record notes and will email schedule information to Cheryl for distribution to steering committee.

Sea Grant is sponsoring a team event in May in conjunction with the zoo. Environmental messages will be displayed along the route from Spirit Mountain to the zoo. More info will be forthcoming,

Annual Meeting Recap - Erik. The Power Point presentation will be on the web site by March 1st. Presentation was a review of BMPs, discussion of the rain garden, and other Stormwater projects. Annual meeting spawned two 2 radio interviews and 2 TV interviews. Comments were recorded and distributed to steering committee at today's meeting. Annual report is being prepared and

goals are mostly being met. No HEAPR funding came last year so those extra designs did not get finished. Completed report will be on the web page after signed by Greg Fox.

Projects- Swenson pond design is out for review. Project will reroute runoff into a pond to grow wild rice. Diversion of stormwater will benefit Oregon Creek.

SpHC addition is going out to bid, plan has been approved with no net gain in impervious surfaces.

Parking lot Q renovation will have 2 sand filtering ponds. UMD Parking Department is going above and beyond what is necessary or required with their work.

FM may need volunteers for planting on the lot B raingarden project, Erik will announce if volunteer opportunities exist.

UMD is partnering with two other local agencies to apply for a BOWSER grant to complete Glensheen lakeshore project. Erik will let Jesse Schomberg know what was applied for and with whom.

Opportunity exists for input on the educational signage that will be installed at the raingarden site. Anyone with suggestions should contact Erik Larson. To be discussed at April SWPPP meeting.

Candice distributed and discussed next year's BMP task spreadsheet. Primary focus of committee in year three will be on Litter Control and developing Grounds Standards. Members that were unable to attend today's meeting will receive their copies via campus mail early next week. If there are items you are interested in, please contact Erik or Candice.

Grounds Standards- FM Grounds staff will invite input from the campus community and neighbors to evaluate the impact of landscape choices on campus appearance, use and operations. The standards that are developed will be used to determine stormwater best management practices for Landscape, Turf, Irrigation, Pest management and Fertilizer management. Initial meeting will be held March 2nd in Sports and Health 191 from 9:30 to 11 am. Any SWPPP steering committee member interested in attending is encouraged to do so.

Annual public meetings may be required again in Summer 2005, due to change in MPCA reporting requirements. Erik will follow up and report at next meeting.

Next meeting:

Friday, April 1, 2005 (No Foolin'!) 10 AM – 11 AM Regents Room, Darland 5th floor.

Meeting adjourned.