

Stormwater Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes November 18, 2005

In attendance: Zandy Zwiebel, Rick Axler, Jesse Schomberg, Tim Bates, Mahjoub Labyad, Bev Ecklund, David Schimpf, Erik Larson and Candice Richards

1. September 23, 2005 Minutes approved

2. MPCA Annual Report Update

Erik relayed that Marnie had sent a letter regarding progress on permit requirements. Final requirements not yet available.

3. Schedule Annual Meeting

Discussed dates: End of January suggested; waiting until school starts again. We need to have notification out prior to break (30 day notice) and again after the students come back. Noon to 1 p.m. Jan 25 (Wednesday) tentatively scheduled. Location to be determined. And figure out what agenda will be.

4. Project Updates

Erik

Glensheen shoreline stabilization project complete, just waiting for signage. Rip-rapping the bank. Appreciate the comments, will redo signage.

Raingarden, all that is left is final signage.

Erik was told by Twin Cities campus that MPCA will supply monitoring equipment at the rain garden. Equipment was to be installed this fall, but probably won't be until spring. We think it will monitor turbidity, volume and temperature. Rain garden took water very well in extreme rains in October (4 to 5 hours). Level of overflow structure will be changed...next spring hopefully.

Wetland study will have to wait until spring

Finished the inspections for this year, we are generally well ahead the game. There are 3 problem areas, all in parking lots.

--Lot M (found 3" of fine black particulate in stormceptor, probably granular rubber off Griggs field.

--Lot P – Stormceptor was still not functioning due to City not fixing problems that need to be addressed.

-- T2 - filtering basin on lot T2 built 13 years ago is showing signs of over flowing. We should wait one or two years to see how sand filters function. Parking will need to address this issue in the future.

5. RSPT Report

Rich / Candice

UMD was asked to write letters of support for two Regional grant opportunities: UMD support for 2007 Watershed Festival and MN Lake Superior Coastal Program: Business Partnerships. Candice will draft for Greg Fox.

6. Other reports

Sept. 29 Rain Garden Celebration went very well. Good administrative support, Chancellor Martin and V.C. Greg Fox spoke. Great publicity on all TV stations. When legislators were on campus, Greg Fox brought them to see the garden. Pictures were used in the MAPPA presentation.

MAPPA presentation: Oct 11 in St. Paul, MN.- Erik and Candice presented an educational session on UMD stormwater efforts to 80 attendees of the Midwest Higher Education Facilities Officers Association.

Grounds standards survey: Peg and Candice still working on it

Other educational efforts: On Dec 2 Erik will be giving a presentation to the Minnesota Professional Soil Scientists meeting in St. Paul. ASCE presentation also done by Peg Dahlberg and Erik.

There is a stormwater conference – resource professionals alliance....December 8 and 9 in Minneapolis.

Litter Committee Report

Nicole is very busy with grad school. Jesse suggested that implementation of the recommendations be done through the steering committee. Jesse and Nicole will prioritize the recommendations and bring them to the next meeting.

7. UMD grant opportunities Due Dec. 2

- Beautiful U Grants

Candice sat in (via telephone) for system wide Beautiful U committee meeting. Beautiful U effort (and funding) is being extended to include coordinate campuses. The committee is very interested in litter; slogans, etc. The neighborhood cleanup effort will probably be the key UMD project. Candice distributed info from the website. Campus gets about \$5,000 to begin, and is accepting applications of university departments and student groups for grants up to \$3000. Collaborations between departments and groups are encouraged. Applicants must provide match. Discussed opportunities for student associations to join with neighbor groups for litter education, etc. Could be lectures, cleanups, signs, etc. Deadline is December 2, but may be extended. Candice can work with others, FM could be a partner. April 20 earth week is focus, but projects could be later.

- Candice passed out info on civic engagement grants. Casey LaCore (clacore@d.umn.edu) is UMD contact. Grants have to be sponsored by faculty and tied to a course.

8. F.M. Internships

Candice and Erik distributed a draft announcement of available student internship opportunities in F.M. related to stormwater projects. Some possible projects are creation of a self-guided rain garden tour, and a tour of campus stormwater projects.

Return comments to Candice. Discussed suggested faculty to distribute to. Thanks to Dave Schimpf who referred a student to Erik who started this morning. He is locating sump pumps on campus.

Dave suggested that we don't limit efforts to campus. There may be opportunities to do something with the city or other townships

Mahjoub mentioned coordinating stream cleanups around the entire town. It was suggested he submit a proposal for Beautiful U.

Rich discussed possible volunteer monitoring of stream such as done by Washburn and Edison students. Geology or biology club could possibly be involved.

9. Discussed Stormwater Awareness month and seminar for April, 2006. Candice noted number of lectures listed in April 19 2005 Currents. Discussed possibility of sending letter to departments that sponsor Spring lectures, designating April as Stormwater Awareness Month, giving resource information and asking that they schedule speakers concentrating on stormwater and related issues. It was suggested that Tim Holst might help with this.

Rich Axler mentioned that Tim Holst is coordinating an open monthly lunch meeting for people engaged in freshwater research, policy, or regulation issues, for networking and informal discussion. First meeting is 11:30 AM – 1 PM, Weds. December 7 at Duluth MPCA, 525 Lake Ave South.

Letters are to go out to other groups too, just for awareness. Candice can do letter. Jesse and Rich will help circulate it. Rich asked if we have money to defray costs for speakers. This might be a good grant proposal. Biology, geology and others have speakers come in anyhow.

Community partners can be brought in. Wild Ones Natural Landscapers is interested in participating in seminar series. All should gather suggested topics. Tom Berry from Center for Environmental Education should know of possible speakers & topics.

10. Next Meeting probably in January 2006.

11. Adjourn