

Storm Water Steering Committee Meeting October 20, 2006 Minutes

Present: Candice Richards, Rich Axler, Cindy Hagley, Zandy Zwiebel, Tim Bates, Sarah Arlt, Peggy Dahlberg, Jesse Schomberg, Mahjoub Labyad, Cheryl Love, David Schimpf, Erik Larson

Absent: Nicole Hynum, Marnie Lonsdale, Tom Beery, John Weiske

Vang Ahn Tang and Andy Phalan from the Twin Cities Campus participated in the meeting by speaker phone.

Introductions

Mission of UMD – SWPPP

Candice Richards gave an overview of the UMD Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program's mission, which is:

To reduce the negative impact of the UMD campus on Oregon Creek and the west branch of Tischer Creek by cleaning, controlling, and cooling water run off and to ultimately protect the water quality of Lake Superior.

Committee / Meeting schedule

This UMD steering committee was formed to oversee this program, which is beginning its fourth year at UMD Campus Community. Committee members are appointed by Greg Fox, based on recommendations and interest, but with a commitment to representing various entities on campus.

Meetings are quarterly: Usually Fall semester, late winter, Spring annual meeting (requires 30 day notice) & a summer e-mail update. (more about schedule later). Most of the real work is done outside of the meetings.

We are required to file an annual report by June 30th for each previous year.

The March 3, 2006 and April 26, 2006 Annual Meeting minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

2005 Annual Report –

Erik handed out the updated Annual Report for 2005 for review. We will now need to inspect storage areas and loading docks which will increase the number of inspections from 30 to 50 in future years. The MPCA also wants more text and better documentation in the BMP portion of the report.

Candice passed a long listing of educational activities accomplished in 2005 and thanked all for their many contributions.

The website has not been updated yet with the annual report.

Regional Stormwater Protection Team –

A grant on snowplowing contractors best practices and a capacity building grant was submitted to EPA. Grant applications in the Lester / Amity Creek neighborhoods were also submitted. A second Watershed Festival will be held June 2007 at Miller Hill K-Mart parking lot.

Beautiful U Day / Litter–

Several cleanups occurred which were very successful. Sea Grant received a grant to install signs at Tischer Creek. They would like it added to the website. (A question was raised whether the sign was up at Bagley. Peggy will check into it.) Litter bags and gloves were handed out by Facilities Management and students were asked to clean up as they left campus.

Andy reported on Twin Cities Beautiful U Day staff changes. Facilities Management will not chair B.U. Day next year, but will continue to assist in clean-ups. There will more on the subject at the next meeting.

Education and Outreach Activities –

Peggy was on Channel 8 TV “Great Gardening” show promoting the Rain Garden at UMD.

Several garden clubs and groups toured the Rain Garden this summer, including two bus loads from the Lakes and River Conference. Peggy said the Rain Garden did well this summer despite the drought. The Rain Garden brochure has a new picture on it, and a plant guide is being developed. Erik is developing a web page showing each of the of the storm water features we have on campus which will be a web accessible tour.

Jesse created a web site database of Best Management Practices at the NEMO Conference he attended.

Candice volunteered at the Eco Experience at the State Fair. The ‘Front Yard’ exhibit displayed a working rain garden and pervious paving.

Articles on the UMD Rain Garden appeared in the M newsletter, University of MN website and the MN Minute this summer.

Jesse presented at the Lakes and River Conference in Duluth in October.

American Institute of Architects plans to have an educational series in January, February, and March 2007, on the topic of streams in Duluth. The programs will be aimed at developers and architects and open to the general public.

Mahjoub has a summary of the student stream survey. They’re continuing stream clean-up and may be working with the students at the schools taking samples.

Candice reported that MPCA noted they had difficulty finding the Storm Water website through the UMD homepage. Candice will contact letter to Linda Deneen, representing the committee, asking for better placement for the website.

MCPA Permit Process Update – The 2006 SWPPP and permit application is up for public review by the MPCA. The report can be viewed by the public on Facilities Management’s website or in the office from October 3 through November 4. Comments can be directed back to the MPCA or to UMD Facilities Management. (There were 4 comments and revisions made adding clarification on the BMP’s). MPCA representative’s verbal comment was that the UMD program is excellent!

2006 Commitments – Reviewed the 2006 work break down of the storm water plan for 2006. More was done on the Education side. This plan provided for student internships. Jesse gave Candice a CD on Illicit Discharge.

Other Announcements -

Mahjoub noted the diesel tank within 20 feet of the storm drain near Darland Administration Building. He will e-mail John Kessler and copy Erik Larson regarding the situation.

Andy stated that the main focus on construction and post-construction BMP's is education of project managers. He got on the agenda for the construction meeting to discuss academic and operation guidelines. MPCA is looking at U-MN to focus very heavily on education.

Annual Meeting reports are due on June 30. Candice asked everyone to think about when they would like to hold the next Annual Meeting. It was suggested we meet in early April before Earth Week. Will decide on a definite date at the next meeting.

Candice asked for help in developing a good evaluation form for programs and presentations.

Erik had a copy of the UMD Draft-Wetland Inventory and he would like someone to review it in the next few days.

Andy – Reg. control programs and mechanisms. DEHS formalize it's policies and procedures.

Andy would like Vang and Erik to inspect catch basins. Erik told him there's no way they could inspect that many.

Erik reported that the weather station is up and running but is not on the website yet. He hopes it will be online within the next couple of weeks.

Erik has received two complaints. The first complaint was regarding orange water coming out of a pipe. He was told the water was high in iron and that it was a natural occurrence. The second complaint was dealing with portable toilets being tipped over. The group discussed the possibility of adding a BMP to deal with portable toilets.

There were four building site storm water permits in 2006; Parking lots 06, SpHC, steam project and LSBE. There has only been one complaint, by the SWCD and it was corrected.

Jesse would like to look at turf grass and forest cover in the future.

There will be a public workshop to provide information on conflict resolution starting October 30 (all day) and November 1 (a.m.) at the EPA Lab.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.