

**UMD SWPPP Steering Committee**  
**November 4, 2008 Darland 5<sup>th</sup> floor Administrative Conference Room**

**AGENDA:**

- A) Introductions  
Mindy Granley (UMD Sustainability Coordinator) was introduced to Tim Bates (Recreational Sports Outdoor Program), David Schimpf (Biology Faculty), Rich Axler (Natural Resources Research Institute), Zandy Zweibel (UMD Student Representative); others in attendance were Peggy Dahlberg (UMD Facilities Management Landscape Supervisor), Candice Richards (UMD Facilities Management Associate Administrator), Erik Larson (UMD Facilities Management Engineer), Mahjoub Labyad (UMD Environmental Health and Safety), and recorder Trish Winberg (UMD Facilities Management Customer Service)
  
- B) Agenda review
  - i) The SWPPP annual report was submitted in June.
  - ii) The committee reviewed the UMD April 2009 calendar for discussion on scheduling the next annual meeting. Most members were in agreement to schedule the meeting on or around April 16 or 17 at noon in the Library Rotunda. Candice will check availability. The proposed meeting time will align well with Earth Week schedules in the following week and may encourage attendance from Earth Week participants.
  
- C) Review Meeting Minutes: April 18, 2008 (Annual Meeting) minutes were distributed via email and approved.
  
- D) Education / Outreach activities report (Candice)
  - i) Annual Meeting - Friday April 18, 2008 noon – 1 + tour LSBE Rain Gardens
  
  - ii) UMD classroom / campus activities
    - (a) Conducted Education Technology classroom talks and tours
    - (b) Facilities Management Sponsored 5 Internships
    - (c) “Adding up To Zero” website
    - (d) Beautiful U Day clean up crews and projects
    - (e) UMD homepage publication
    - (f) Tracking form on Storm Water website is progressing slowly; Mindy Granley is working with Mary Hennessy (FM Info Tech) on sustainability-related information pages
  - iii) Other University of Minnesota
    - (a) LakeSuperiorStreams.org (Rich)
      - (a) “What’s New?” page
      - (b) Article in Storm Water magazine
      - (c) Joellyn Rock (UMD Art & Design) class used LSS website for class ideas
    - (b) MN Sea Grant – no report

- (c) Stormwater runoff BMPs for (paired) neighborhoods
    - (a) Mindy reported that the Lakeside Storm Water Reduction Program kicked off in September with a neighborhood meeting. Valerie Brady (UMD NRRRI CWE) is directing the storm water monitoring project. Attending neighbors' homes on Idlewild Street will be the sample test subjects for storm water treatment, control, and background research. The project is funded through a grant to install Best Management Practices (BMP's) for managing flooding, icing, water volume, and turbidity. Rich Axler reported that the project is being used as a national model to also track behavioral reactions to education. The monitoring project will be planned throughout winter, and Erik Larson will be involved in the design phase.
    - (b) Rich also reported that NRRRI is working with the City of Duluth to do water reroutes and embankment work at Amity Creek. Funding has been provided to track data and use in coordination with local news pieces.
  - (d) U MN Extension - Spring gardening seminar (Peg) – 75 people toured.
  - (e) U MN Stormwater Gathering Oct 9, 2008 – Candice presented UMD efforts at the Center for Water Resources Seminar in the Twin Cities. Candice has notes to share if anyone is interested. The purpose of the seminar was to update researchers on current storm water projects.
  - (f) U MNTC – Andy / Van Ahn – Erik Larson reported that their permit went out for review over the summer and no remarks have yet been received.
- iv) RSPT Report – (Mindy)
- (a) Movie trailers are still showing in theatres
  - (b) 7 businesses partnered at the \$100 level – future solicitation could be more assertive and offer incentives for higher level partnerships. BARR Engineering compiled the list of potential business partners; some businesses said they were already involved.
  - (c) Mindy hopes to see TV and radio spots continue.
  - (d) Candice suggested that efforts may be more successful if resources were combined.
- E) Illicit Discharge (Erik)
- i) Building inspections are nearing completion; so far only 2 probable storm/sanitary sewer connections – Ward Wells Field House and Washburn Hall – found so far. Erik is still reviewing student work.
  - ii) School of Medicine loading dock has an unsealed storm water manhole; Erik will put on R&R list. Mahjoub has concern for potential illicit discharge from specific vehicles using the dock.
- F) UMD Construction / Post-Construction Report (Erik)
- (a) Oregon Creek retention wall (under Research Lab Building) reconstruction plan was rejected because it did not meet national historic preservation standards. Working on options.

- (b) Storm sewer upgrades at Chester Park include filtration basins, grass swales, and underground tanks. The old Chester Park parking lot and lots in front of the building are being expanded.
- (c) UMN EHS allocated \$91,000 for upgrades to drains at Eric Clarke and Fire Hall ponds. Upgrades include concrete manholes and anti-vortex plates. Upgrades are scheduled to start this winter.

G) UMD Maintenance / Pollution Prevention Report (Erik)

- i) Geography intern conducted a campus tree study showing the acreage of tree coverage and the percentage of tree coverage on campus. Erik showed outlined topographic slides of tree coverage by zones.
- ii) Erik showed the Tree Protection, Planting, and Retention BMP draft and opened up the topic of for discussion. The goal of the BMP is to replace the tree canopy where feasible and useful. Peggy, Mindy, Rich, Tim, and David had comments and questions. David Schimpf will email Erik with leaf measurement details. Tim Bates suggested that goals seek to gain canopy rather than just look for no net loss.
  - (a) Peggy – planting young trees with more growth potential may be more beneficial than preserving older trees. Deciding to remove trees during projects sometimes depends on tree life expectancy.
  - (b) Tim – different tree species have different uptakes; one tree can take up several gallons of water in a short period of time.
  - (c) David – spruce trees reduce snow melt run off; broad leaf trees pump more water into the air during summer months.
  - (d) Rich suggested that Erik get additional information from tree experts.
  - (e) Erik asked for any input that would support the BMP; administration will need to approve the BMP.
- iii) Erik showed slides from an intern project on heavily used exterior loading docks on campus and at NRRRI. Bullet points of the presentation were on loading/unloading materials, spill procedures, maintenance activities, employee/contractor training, and loading dock design features. Working on user training for safe handling, spill control procedures, and where storm water runs. Examples of possible signs shown for NRRRI and Heller Hall.
  - (a) Rich will email Erik information on the linkage to each creek and their routes to Lake Superior to include with information.
- iv) Erik showed slides from an intern project on impervious surfaces on campus. Slides showed that 2 million square feet of impervious surface is untreated, and almost 1 million square feet of impervious surface is treated. Treatment types are:
  - (a) Ponds
  - (b) Sand/Soil filters
  - (c) Rain Gardens
  - (d) Underground Tanks
  - (e) Oil/Water Separators
  - (f) Rich would like information showing how the impervious surfaces have changed over time

H) Discussion intro: Steering Committee - Past Present & Future (Candice)

- i) Candice explained how the SWPPP committee has evolved since its inception; many of the committee's efforts and goals overlap with current sustainability objectives.
  - ii) Mindy presented sustainability, the objectives and framework of her position as sustainability coordinator, and the University's scope in achieving campus sustainability.
    - (a) Sustainability objectives to assess, communicate, and coordinate will be incorporated into the U's mission to provide sustainability outreach, education, and research.
  - iii) With support from John King; Candice and Mindy invited the SWPPP steering committee to discuss becoming part of the new advisory committee for sustainability.
    - (a) Mahjoub, Tim, and Rich expressed interest in sitting on the advisory committee
    - (b) The purpose of the advisory committee will be to track goal progression
- I) Committee structure discussion / Sustainability Committee (Mindy)
- i) Members discussed separate and combined committee structures. There were concerns about support for, commitment to, and status of the new committee and/or a combined committee. Mindy explained that:
    - (a) Support stems from the President's Climate Commitment, the Regents, Facilities Management and UMD
    - (b) Status may be achieved through appointments from Vice Chancellors (e.g.) of subcommittees and/or task forces
    - (c) Commitments need to be strong and consistent.
  - ii) The SWPPP committee recommended that the SWPPP Steering Committee remain separate from the new committee to assure regulatory requirements are met.
  - iii) It was suggested that the two committees alternate their quarterly meetings and work together on presentations and special events.
- J) Meeting Adjourned