

Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2009
FSU – Big Rapids

Education Committee Chair Cris DeWolf convened the meeting at 4:32 p.m. Those present were:

Cris DeWolf, Ed. Committee Chair
Bill Burmeister
Nancy Burmeister
Karen Bailey, St. Peter's School

Denise Mitten, FSU
Nicole Glenn, Camp Newaygo
Gary Noble, Executive Director
Terry Stilson, Program Coordinator

Agenda

No changes.

Approval of Minutes – Noble motioned to accept the October 6 minutes with N. Burmeister supporting the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business

Teacher Training

- **Budget** – Stilson distributed the final budget with actual costs. This year's workshop used \$6,333.79 of funding.
- **2008 participant responses** – Stilson reported sending emails to 2008 teacher workshop participants asking why they did not attend the 2009 event. She has received 6 responses to date:
 - 1 – nothing offered she hasn't previously taken
 - 1 – moved from Michigan
 - 1 – too busy to attend
 - 3 – didn't hear about workshop

New Business

May 4, 2010 Workshop

- **Budget and funding** – Stilson reported that funding for the 2008 and 2009 teacher workshops has been taken from a Newaygo FAFG grant but that grant will end on 12/31/09. The MRWA will be applying for more funding and the Board has asked that specific projects be named in this grant proposal. The workshop could be one of these projects.
 1. Noble added that he will be preparing a 3-year proposal for \$30,000 per year but won't know until April if it will be funded. He said we can assume we'll have the funding to complete the workshop.
- **Proposed Sessions** – The Committee brainstormed possibilities for sessions and thought more sessions of shorter duration may appeal to teachers so they can attend more sessions. The following sessions were suggested:
 1. MEECS – Glenn will facilitate
 2. Water monitoring on Pickerel Lake (chemistry testing) – Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck or Randy Cook may be able to facilitate
 3. GVSU boat trip
 4. Weather-oriented session – water cycle, climate change
 5. Invasive species
 6. Renewable energy – recycling

7. Stream restoration – B. Burmeister may be able to facilitate
8. Developing a rain garden project at schools
9. Dams – history, how they affect our watershed, maybe tour of Hardy Dam
10. Salmon in the Classroom
11. WMEAC – programs they may offer to facilitate
12. Educational resources via the internet – Stilson could facilitate using MRWA website of educational links
13. Wetland trail
14. Project WILD
15. Water monitoring – Fitzwilliams-Heck? May be able to combine with lake monitoring
16. Red cross – water safety
17. Planning boards – the politics of planning (maybe Citizen Planning program)
18. This Land is Your Land – land use curriculum developed by MSUE
19. **A folder will be put together by Bailey with resources available to teachers along with contact information. These folders will be distributed to workshop participants. Committee members will send her any information they have.**
20. **Facilitators will be asked to take a few minutes to present the Michigan benchmarks that their curriculum covers. This will be also inserted on the brochure flyer.**

- **Promotion**

1. DeWolf said he will distribute brochures at MOISD Science Fair (March)
2. Burmeisters are willing to make personal contacts with schools again this year
3. Stilson will email the brochure to previous participants
4. Promote the night-before activities
 - Glenn said Camp Newaygo will have a tour of pictures on their website that could be linked to MRWA website
 - Link to observatory also
5. Registration available on MRWA website (teachers will still need to send their \$25 registration fees)
6. DeWolf will apply for a grant to purchase planispheres to provide to teachers attending the night-before activities
7. DeWolf may be able to have a star lab dome to do a show

- **Timeline** – Stilson will draft the brochure and send via email for edits before the next Education Committee meeting.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6 at 4:30 pm at FSU.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Terry Stilson
 Program Coordinator