

**Muskegon River Watershed Assembly**  
**Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**May 24, 2010**  
**FSU – Big Rapids**

Education Committee Chair Cris DeWolf convened the meeting at 4:31 p.m. Those present were:

Cris DeWolf, Ed. Committee Chair  
Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck, FSU  
Denise Mitten, FSU

Bill & Nancy Burmeister  
Gary Noble, Executive Director  
Terry Stilson, Program Coordinator

**Agenda**

No changes given.

**Approval of Minutes** – Fitzwilliams-Heck motioned to accept the April 12, 2010 minutes with B. Burmeister supporting the motion. Motion passed.

**Old Business**

**Review “Get Wet & Wild” workshop 2010**

- N. Burmeister stated that she felt the workshop went extremely well.
- B. Burmeister added that, from the evaluations, the workshop was a positive event.
- Budget
  - Stilson stated that this was mainly an FYI. The total expenses were \$8,758.83.
- Review Workshop
  - Perhaps have no program the night before.
  - Could visit the observatory (north of Fremont) that evening – for people who wish to go.
  - Once a year workshop is enough.
  - Perhaps send a flyer in the fall to schools saying the workshop will be in the spring.
- Next Year’s workshop
  - Tuesday, May 3.
  - Perhaps have a video the night before for those interested.
  - No campfire/snacks will be planned.
  - Perhaps videotape some sessions or portions of the sessions for teachers to use in classroom.
- New focus and direction
  - River Days (Big Rapids) involvement?
    - Maybe Kids Day event
      - Live fish in a tank or area of the river (problem with collecting them)
        - Fitzwilliams-Heck has a collecting license
      - Could have a macroinvertebrate activity
    - Consensus was there is not enough time to plan an event for this year – maybe in 2011
  - To be discussed further at the next meeting (in September).
- Possible new members
  - Stephen Ross
  - Jean LaLonde

- Beth Storey
- MAISD
  - Stilson will be meeting with MAISD in June to discuss their involvement in our workshop.
- More thoughts about workshop
  - Rethink t-shirts (facilitators didn't wear them and some have their own organization's shirts)
  - Need definite deadline for cancelling and receiving registration fees – a week before
  - Perhaps have them send the fee for overnight stay with registration fee
  - Perhaps have different colored name tags for facilitators and staff
  - DeWolf will check in to obtaining presenter ribbons
  - Not as much funding was received from FACF so more funding is needed for the workshops
    - Maybe charge \$25 fee and not return it
    - National Science Foundation grants
    - Area businesses
    - MSTA
    - County foundations
      - Maybe ask each county for amount which equals the teachers who attended from their county this year times \$200
    - FACF monies could be used for match
    - If all else fails, MRWA Board may allocate funding
  - SB-CEUs will cost next year (\$25 fee plus \$1 per teacher)
  - Perhaps survey teacher participants and see if they used the information in their classrooms that they gleaned from the workshop.
  - Next year we should try to get the Muskegon Lake boat trip as a session.

### Other

**Sustainability Plan** – Noble stated that this summer a professional (consultant), Conservation Impact, will be guiding the MRWA Board and staff through sustainability planning.

- A retreat will be held for Board and staff
- Conservation Impact will be interviewing constituents and creating a focus group
  - To see how they view the MRWA
  - Outside commentary on how we're doing in our information and education (outreach)
  - 25 to 30 constituents will be interviewed
  - Focus group will have 6 to 12 people and meeting will be conducted via conference call
  - Conservation Impact has given guidelines to follow in choosing constituents and focus group
- Mitten added that maybe Noble could let Conservation Impact know how important the focus and direction of our education strategy is to the Education Committee.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 13 at 4:30 pm at FSU.

**N. Burmeister motioned to adjourn the meeting with Fitzwilliams-Heck's support. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Stilson, Program Coordinator