Muskegon River Watershed Assembly Education Committee Meeting Minutes February 25, 2014 FSU Johnson Hall, Room 322

Chair LaLonde convened the meeting at 4:15 p.m. Those participating were:

Jean LaLonde, Chair Bill Burmeister, FSU Nancy Burmeister, retired teacher Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck, FSU Vicki Sawicki, Mecosta Co. Drain Com. Erica Johnson, MAISD Christa Smalligan, Camp Newaygo Terry Stilson, Program Director

Agenda – no changes.

Minutes – no changes.

N. Burmeister motioned to accept the agenda and January 28 minutes as presented, with Fitzwilliams-Heck supporting the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business

Rain Barrel Workshop in Mecosta County – Stilson reported:

- Workshop is full and there is 22 people (barrels) on the waiting list.
- Participants need to pay the \$15 fee before the workshop.
- Conducting another workshop was discussed and it was thought we should do one perhaps obtaining barrels and facilitating it ourselves.
 - Don Henning is seeking a business to provide barrels.
 - o Fitzwilliams-Heck will check with a contact about barrels.
 - o Burmeisters may be able to store them.
- Setup will be at 4:30 tables/chairs will need to be moved and we will need tarps for the floor. Assistance unloading the barrels will also be needed.
 - LaLonde, Fitzwilliams-Heck and Stilson will be there for the setup. If anyone has tarps they can provide, please get them to one of these people.

Teacher Workshop discussion – Fitzwilliams-Heck reported:

- Aquatic WILD facilitator training will be conducted on Tuesday, April 29 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- Stilson will check with the City about using the Public Works meeting room.
- Things that will be learned:
 - How to deal with problem people
 - o What to do if a site has an issue
 - o Payment/registration issues
 - o Get acquainted with the curriculum guide
 - Trends and best practices of teaching students
- 30 maximum participants
- Fitzwilliams-Heck will check with the presenter to see if registration fees need to be collected by the MRWA or if they can be provided on the day of training.
 - Stilson thought that the MRWA could pay for committee members' registration fees as long as they plan to facilitate at teacher trainings for the MRWA.
- To keep the certification, two trainings need to be conducted within a certain time period.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck will publicize it to Ferris education students.
- Stilson will publish it to MRWA contacts.

PowerPoint Presentation – tabled until next meeting.

Fitzwilliams-Heck's students are working on presentations that the Committee can use.

Tree Planting

- Fitzwilliams-Heck has contacted Renae Kent from Riverview but hasn't heard from her.
- B. Burmeister asked the reason we were planting the trees erosion, shade? Maybe we should make a decision on the use.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck replied that we discussed reaching out and wanted to do something environmental this spring. Tree planting can be team building, reduce runoff, increase animal habitat, etc.
- LaLonde added that the discussion was about doing something for Earth Day and Arbor Day. She will check at the high school.
- Discussion about planting in the spring was given and it was thought that maybe the event should be in the fall.

New Business

Natural Shoreline workshop and project – Stilson reported:

- Contacted the Pickeral-Kimball Lake (Newaygo Co.) Association about completing a shoreline
 restoration project there. The contact said that their meeting is on Memorial Day and he could ask
 landowners if they would like to participate. She was thinking a summer workshop and fall planting.
 Education Committee can provide a workshop and MRWA will pay/provide a portion of the native
 plants.
- Stilson thought some of the workshop participants were reluctant to start their shoreline project
 because they really didn't know what type of design they should have. She discussed the possibility
 of having a landscape designer design some simple shoreline plans that could be adapted to
 shorelines.
- Discussion was made to have the landowners send pictures of their shorelines before and after and provide a prize for the best environmentally friendly shoreline.
- Smalligan said many of these home owners are only there during the summer so they may not want a fall planting.
- Stilson will meet with the association representative in April and discuss the fall 2014 or spring 2015 planting.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck added that the workshop could be done this summer and ask home owners to pay attention to their property. We could provide them with an observation list.
- Best time for the committee to complete the workshop would be a June Saturday.
- Stilson will provide a flyer/brochure of the workshop to the representative that he can distribute at the Memorial Day meeting.

Other

Education Activities – Stilson provided the group with a list of MRWA education activities that will be happening this spring.

- Fitzwilliams-Heck said she could provide students to assist at the MOISD water fair in May.
- Some assistance will be needed for the Twin Lake Water Fair.
- Stilson will keep people informed.

Ferris Liaison Report - Fitzwilliams-Heck reported:

- She has posted the Keep it Cool campaign documents.
- Outdoor Club has distributed Rain Barrel workshop flyers. They have a bulletin board and have many MRWA items on it.

MAEOE – Fitzwilliams-Heck reported:

- Working on a certification of environmental education for the state has to be submitted to the state by June.
- She distributed MAEOE information flyers.

Buckeye Leadership Workshop – Smalligan distributed brochures for the April 2-6 workshop in Ohio.

Camp Newaygo "Cabin Fever" – Smalligan reported that there will be a concert with local musicians at Camp Newaygo on Saturday, March 1, beginning at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting - the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19, at 4:15 pm.

B. Burmeister motioned to adjourn with Fitzwilliams-Heck's support. The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Stilson Program Director