

**Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2014
FSU Johnson Hall, Room 322**

Chair LaLonde convened the meeting at 4:12 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
Terry Stilson, Program Director

Agenda – Stilson added: “Rain Garden Fund” to New Business.

Minutes – no changes.

Fitzwilliams-Heck motioned to accept the agenda and February 25 minutes as presented, with N. Burmeister supporting the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business

Rain Barrel Workshop in Mecosta County –

- Stilson said she thought there should be some education element about why the MRWA is promoting rain barrels. **She will draft a tri-fold brochure and distribute it to committee members and get feedback.** Also a little about the organization could be discussed and distribute newsletters and inform participants that we are having a membership campaign – nothing lengthy.

Barrels for future workshops –

- Stilson reported that MRWA board member Don Henning has been working to try to find some barrels or funding to provide barrels for future workshops. The Board also designated the 2013 Match Day funding toward future rain barrel workshops in Mecosta County. Board member Doug Trembath may have some 30 gallon barrels for us from the City of Evart.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck said her contact is very hopeful to provide some barrels for us.
- **Since there are now 37 people on the waiting list for the next workshop, we will try to provide another workshop this spring. Scheduling will take place once we hear if we have any barrels (at the next Education Committee meeting).**

Teacher Training – April 29

- Fitzwilliams-Heck reported that it will be held in the Ferris Science Building, Room 138, from 9:00 to 4:00 pm. Everyone should bring a sack lunch. The facilitator can accommodate up to 30 participants. It will cost \$35 per participant and payment can be made at the door. **Fitzwilliams-Heck will find out who to write the check to.**
- Stilson said the MRWA could pay committee members’ fees as long as they facilitate future teacher workshop sessions. **Stilson will obtain parking passes for participants.**

Teacher Workshop discussion –

- **LaLonde will contact the two Big Rapids elementary principals about leading a session for teachers during May professional development.** Since time is limited, we would just provide them with information on what we could offer and ask if they would be interested in participating in an Aquatic WILD workshop day (maybe during the summer). **She will check on MOISD inservice sessions in August and whether that would be a possibility for a workshop.**
- **Johnson will check to see if any facilitators are needed during Muskegon’s Summer Institute.**

- **B. Burmeister asked that some brainstorming be done at the end of the Aquatic WILD training about the composition of a letter that can be sent to ISDs saying we are available to facilitate teacher training sessions for Aquatic WILD.**

Natural Shoreline booklet – Stilson reported that she has talked with a landscape architect about the possibility of making some shoreline plans that could be provided to Natural Shoreline Workshop participants to help them in planning their natural shorelines. The plans would cost over \$1400 plus the cost of printing. The MRWA could add some things like how to prepare the shoreline, etc. and make it into a simple booklet. She wanted to know if the Committee thought this would be a good investment.

- **Consensus of committee members was to go ahead with this.**
- **LaLonde asked that a rough draft be provided before the final drawings are made.**
- Fitzwilliams-Heck added that we could charge other people for these booklets.

New Business

Rain Garden Fund – Stilson explained that after closing the MOCC Rain Garden project, there remained some Wege match and Match Day funding plus there was some Wege match funding leftover from the Ferris Rain Garden. The Board approved combining these monies into one fund for personnel and other costs for garden maintenance plus the option to use it for a new rain garden. Fitzwilliams-Heck had asked some questions and the Board said they could be discussed at the next Education Committee meeting.

- Fitzwilliams-Heck said she thought there could be some guidelines for the funding and an education element be included. She wondered if we should advertise that this funding is available and what percentage should be used toward new projects.
- LaLonde stated that organizations that want a rain garden should contribute a portion of the cost. The Education Committee could decide on a case by case basis how much funding could be provided.

Other

MRWA Education Activities –

- **Stilson reported that she is in need of some facilitators for a Twin Lake Water Fair – either on May 15 or 22.**
 - **N. Burmeister and Sawicki said they may be able to facilitate.**
 - **Stilson will let everyone know what date the teacher chooses.**

Ferris Liaison Report –

- **Fitzwilliams-Heck reported that her students will be giving environmental presentations the last two weeks of April. The Ferris Outdoor Club will be monitoring Mitchell Creek and completing a litter cleanup. The Outdoor Club has also adopted the Ferris Nature Preserve.**

Next Meeting – the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6, **at 4:15 pm.**

B. Burmeister motioned to adjourn with Fitzwilliams-Heck’s support. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Stilson
Program Director