

**Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2014
FSU Johnson Hall, Room 322**

*****These minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting.*****

Chair LaLonde convened the meeting at 4:16 p.m. Those participating were:

Jean LaLonde, Chair

Bill Burmeister, FSU

Nancy Burmeister, retired teacher

Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck, FSU

Vicki Sawicki, USFS

Erica Johnson, MAISD

Terry Stilson, Program Director

Agenda – Stilson added: “Natural Shoreline Project” to New Business.

Minutes – no changes.

Fitzwilliams-Heck motioned to accept the agenda, as amended, and March 19 minutes, with N. Burmeister supporting the motion. Motion passed.

New Business

Sub-watershed Survey – LaLonde explained that the Education Committee was asked to develop a survey to determine if MRWA members would like to be more involved and to obtain sub-watershed champions.

- Fitzwilliams-Heck distributed and discussed her process for the survey.
- LaLonde responded that the survey should be done in tiers.
- Stilson distributed a draft survey taking questions from a recent upper watershed survey that had been done.
 - Committee suggested changes to the survey.
 - **Stilson will make the changes and distribute to the Committee for comment.**
- Fitzwilliams-Heck stated that the MRWA should start advertising that we will be doing this more and emphasize that we really want input. Afterwards, the results should be advertised.

Natural Shoreline Project – Stilson reported that she will be meeting with the head of the Pickerel-Kimball Lake Association (Newaygo County) to provide him with information about the proposed natural shoreline project. He then will take the information to the Association to see if they would be willing to have a workshop and project there. Stilson distributed a draft flyer for the Association and the Committee provided edits.

Old Business

Rain Barrel Workshop in Mecosta County –

- The Committee reviewed the March rain barrel workshop and thought it was a good effort.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck reported that she has 14 barrels, at \$10 each, which can be delivered. Burmeisters have 6 barrels that Greg Mund has delivered. Stilson has asked different businesses the prices of their barrels and have a range of \$15 to \$25 each.
- A meeting at Burmeisters to clean and prepare the barrels for the workshop will be needed. **The Burmeisters will determine when we can meet there.**

Aquatic WILD Training – April 29

- The Committee thought the training went well.
- Stilson thought if each member would choose one or two lessons to become “experts” on, then more material could be covered at a teacher training.

- Sawicki said she would like to do the “Migration Headache” at the Twin Lake Water Fair.
- LaLonde thought working on a warm-up activity (Aquatic WILD) to do with rain barrel workshop participants would be beneficial.

B. Burmeister thought the Education Committee should prioritize their activities. He sees the possibility of the group taking on too much.

Teacher Workshop discussion –

- **LaLonde stated that the requirements of professional development have changed so the Committee should revisit this in September.**
- **LaLonde will keep in touch with the MOISD.**
- Fitzwilliams-Heck distributed an Aquatic WILD proposal for next steps to be done concerning professional development. **She may pursue some sessions at Riverview Elementary.**

Natural Shoreline booklet – Stilson reported that the agreement has been signed and the designer will provide some draft plans for the next meeting.

Other

MRWA Education Activities –

- Stilson reported:
 - Twin Lake Water Fair – May 22
 - MOISD Water Fair – May 28
 - Tri County Water Fair – May 30
 - Voyage of Discovery trip – June 6-8
 - AIS Blitz – June 6-7

Ferris Liaison Report –

- Fitzwilliams-Heck reported:
 - Good classroom interviews about the watershed
 - Reviewed the Meeting of the Monitor survey
 - Botany survey at the Ferris Nature Preserve will be done with Sawicki

Next Meeting – the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 17, **at 4:15 pm.**

Fitzwilliams-Heck motioned to adjourn with N. Burmeister’s support. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Stilson
Program Director