

**Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2014
FSU Johnson Hall, Room 322**

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

Stilson convened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Those participating were:

Jean LaLonde, Chair
Bill Burmeister, FSU
Nancy Burmeister, retired teacher

Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck, FSU
Jessica Wagenmaker, Holton Schools
Terry Stilson, Program Director

Agenda and Minutes –

Fitzwilliams-Heck motioned to accept the agenda and May 6 meeting minutes with B. Burmeister supporting the motion. Motion passed.

New Business

Save the Date Flyer – distributed earlier. Suggested edits:

- Condense the bottom text box concerning the survey.
- Add a rain drop announcing “Rain Barrel Door Prize”.

The revised flyer will be distributed to the Board, then sent with the survey and envelope.

Volunteers who want to help with the mailing – Monday, June 30 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in Stilson’s office. (Terry won’t be there but Gabby will be working on it). **Goal to get it mailed by July 2.**

Prioritizing Education Committee activities –

- B. Burmeister said he is concerned that the Education Committee may be getting more than they can handle.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck suggested revisiting the Sustainability Plan but wait until the surveys are returned for responses.
- B. Burmeister added that if we have a sense of what we want to accomplish this year or a three year plan, it may be helpful.
- LaLonde stated that we need an evaluation rubric before the surveys come in.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck responded that maybe that will reveal itself when we get the surveys in.

A July 31 return will be added to the survey so we can report about this at the September public meeting.

Fitzwilliams-Heck thought the committee should figure ways to incorporate the Project WILD curriculum. **This will be discussed after the survey is returned.**

Old Business

Rain Barrel Workshop in Mecosta County –

- Committee members prepared 11 barrels on June 12.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck’s source has provided 18 more barrels.
- Remaining rain barrel preparation will be held on June 18 beginning at 3:00 pm at Burmeisters.
- **June 19 workshop – 5:30 pm at Paris Fish Hatchery**
 - **Committee members will be there by 5:00 pm**
 - **N. Burmeister and LaLonde will collect funds (Stilson will bring a bag and print receipts)**
 - **LaLonde will conduct the introductions, warmup and a Project WILD lesson**
 - **Stilson will discuss stormwater and why we encourage rain barrels**

- **Fitzwilliams-Heck will provide the rain barrel instructions (Stilson will send her the instructions)**
- **LaLonde will make a sign – maybe balloons.**
- **Wagenmaker said she would be a raindrop at the next rain barrel workshop**
- **Wagenmaker will make a pretzel barrel example. Burmeisters will get blue jelly beans to fill it. At the September public meeting, the person who guesses closest to the correct amount of beans in the barrel, will win a rain barrel.**

Natural Shoreline Workshop – Stilson reported discussing this with the Pickerel/Kimball Lake Association. They would like a late July workshop on a Saturday morning.

- Committee members were not available on Saturdays
- **Stilson will check to see if the Association could have a July 27 (Sunday) afternoon workshop from 1:00 to 4:30. If not, MRWA staff would need to conduct it on a Saturday morning.**
- Committee members reviewed the plant design from the landscape architect.
 - They liked the design.
 - A separate list of plants with height, color and season they bloom can be on another page to leave the design as simple as possible.
 - The booklet will also contain an introduction with some natural shoreline information and an ending with MRWA information. **Stilson will send a draft introduction/ending to the Committee but it will be a fast turnaround if we want them printed by the end of July in time for the workshop.**

Teacher Workshop discussion –

- Marketing is a huge element for a workshop.
- Perhaps having booths that teachers can circulate from one to another
- A progressive dinner at the booths
- Holton High School would be available and classrooms could be used for each of the sessions. Area schools will be invited from Muskegon and Newaygo Counties.
- Five or six sessions (“mini seminars”) – around 15 minutes each
- Holton honor students can be liaisons
- Thursday, February 19 from 4:30 to 7:30 with a snow day on February 26
- Connecting Common Core and Literacy could be a session or add it to each lesson – discussed later
- Wagenmaker will secure the school and caterer
- Forty maximum teachers
- Tables could be outside the room with the certain course on them; teachers would pick up and take that course with them into the session
- “Warm up your Winter with Water” will be the theme

Next Meeting – the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13, at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Stilson
Program Director