

Notes from the Stormwater Steering Committee March 2, 2006 Meeting
MPCA Board Room

Attendees: Randy Ellingboe, Ron Struss, Doug Snyder, Cliff Aichinger, Joel Schilling, Kellie DuBay, Greg Wilson, John Jaschke, Jay Riggs, Jason Moeckel, Paul Nelson, Dennis Larson, Paul Schwinghammer, Dan McLean, Mike Findorff, Nick Tiedeken, Don Jakes, Andrea Hendrickson, Judy Sventek, Glenn Byers, Steve Woods, Randy Neprash, Gary Oberts, Jack Frost, Brian Livingston, Steven Pedersen, Mark Schmitt, Gretchen Sabel

Check in on new Stormwater Steering Committee structure and schedule: Steve Pedersen introduced this topic, emphasizing that the Work Groups will be more empowered and self-directed, and that the full committee will become more of a report-out function. Gretchen Sabel then went through the proposed operation plan (see attached) which was first introduced in draft to the committee in November.

Meetings will be in the afternoon on the 3rd Thursday of every third month, may vary if needed to accommodate other big events. Meeting dates for the next two years:

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
March 2	February 15
May 18	May 17
August 17	August 16
November 16	November 15

Meetings will probably be held in the MPCA Board Room.

The Operations Group will meet with the Work Group heads monthly to track progress and trouble-shoot if needed. Meetings will be the first Tuesday of every month.

Communication between meetings will be through an emailed informal informational piece titled “Stormwater Headline News”; a draft was distributed to the committee for review. Dan McLean from MPCA is in charge of this. He will email it to all on the SSC email list on the Friday following the first Tuesday of each month.

A chair for the SSC was chosen – Steven Pedersen (nomination by Jaschke, second by Neprash – approval was unanimous). He will run the meetings and lead work of the group, watching the big picture, encouraging participation and recruiting as needed.

Work Group Reports:

Ron Struss outlined the work of the newly-reinvigorated **Education Work Group**. Membership now stands at 13 and brings in voices of stormwater education practitioners from across the state. The first meeting of this group will be in St. Cloud, date tentatively set for early April. Ron’s handout with members is appended to these meeting notes.

Brian Livingston updated the group on the work of the **Manual Work Group**. The manual is the most downloaded item on the agency's Internet site, though some of the old stormwater manual "Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas" is also popular. This shows a great demand for stormwater information. Attendance has been great at the training sessions, three more were added in the metro area. Not many have asked for a paper version of the manual, but some are willing to pay \$200 if needed. One city stated that many other cities may be willing if asked to have on hand for the general public at meetings. Five suggested changes have also been submitted. Overall, comments and surveys from the public meetings have been really positive. The scope of this workgroup has now changed from development of the manual to maintenance of the manual. Brian will circulate an email soliciting members due to this new focus and reduced time commitment.

The **Monitoring and Research Work Group** needs to become active now. Members are needed. Brian will circulate an email soliciting members. Work of this group will include review of a draft monitoring plan developed by MPCA and incorporate any additional research identified in the Manual and through other avenues. This group needs to begin working now at least for this initial review step. Other work may follow, to be based on the recommendation of this Work Group.

The Watershed Approach Work Group gave its report after the break. The **Industrial Work Group** presentation was made by Steve Pedersen. Now that EPA's Multi-site General Permit has been put out for comment, it is time to begin work on Minnesota's permit. A change to the Work Group structure has been recommended – MPCA will chair the committee, with assistance from two co-coordinators. One will be from the Minnesota Chamber and represent business interests, and the other will be sought from an environmental group to provide balance in the discussions. Like the Monitoring and Research group, this group is seeking members and will be included in Brian's email.

Watershed Approach Work Group:

This group has been working with the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, which in turn hire a contractor and subcontractor to examine regulatory barriers and opportunities for implementing a watershed approach to stormwater management.

Joel Schilling and Kellie DuBay of Tetra Tech Inc. presented findings of the work group the presentation and related documents are located at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/steeringcommittee/index.html#watershed>

The group found several options for developing a watershed focus – General Permit Development options; General Permit Coverage options, Co-permittee options and Sole Permittee options. Funds are being sought from EPA to take this work to the next level. The proposal is to be sent to EPA on March 7, 2006. Committee members were e-mailed to view the proposal and submit comments to Joel.