

SSC Committee Meeting September 20, 2007

Attendees: Steven Pedersen, Don Jakes, Anne Gelbmann, Cynthia Kahrman, Judy Sventek, Tim Worke, Renee Pardello, Shane Missaghi, Edwin Balcos, Steven Colvin, Mike Findorff, Lisa Frenette, John Chapman, Barb Peichel, Emily Franklin, Dave Weirens, Cliff Aichinger, Jay Riggs, Jim Hafner, Scott Anderson, Gary Oberts, Randy Neprash, Remi Stone, Peder Otterson, Brian Livingston, Jack Frost, Don Berger.

Chair Report: Steven did an overview of the agenda for the meeting. He then presented a Power point presentation based on a meeting that he and Anne Gelbmann had with Lisa Thorvig. The highlights were:

The Issues:

- Existing funding source may change
- New sources have not been identified
- Resources are not clearly defined or allocated
- Priorities are not clearly understood
- A lot of “uncoordinated” activities are occurring

Potential Solutions:

- New fees as a funding source
- Priority needs identified
- Resources more closely aligned with needs
- Collated assessment of Focus Group-acquired “public” perceptions and desires

Inputs to Resource Allocation:

- PCA Focus Group meetings
SSC input was provided through World Café process
- MEI Focus Group meetings
Land use & water quality
- SSC project inputs
Compliance project
Watershed project
Roadmap activity

Actions Needed:

What charge did the SSC receive from PCA management?

- Help the PCA Stormwater group plan for their 2010-2011 program needs
- Meet the 2008 timeframe for providing input
- Help identify program priorities and gaps
- Get involved in the funding source discussion

Where can the SSC add value to the PCA stormwater activity?

- Provide input during the Stormwater Focus Group program evaluation process
- Help delineate the best approaches available to the group
SSC involvement with the PCA evaluation team

- The integration of our work project outcomes into the evaluation process

What does PCA management feel is the role of the SSC in the PCA path forward on defining Stormwater responsibilities?

- Help define stormwater program gaps
 - Funding
 - Responsibilities
- Define Stormwater priorities; where and how best to carry out PCA's responsibilities
- Define the scope of the Stormwater issue

Discussion after the presentation: Cliff asked about the summary of the World Café discussions. Randy explained how he had compiled the information but making sense of the abundance of information should be left to a consultant to glean all of the information out of the discussion notes. Randy will send his spreadsheets of the information he has compiled to Anne who will in turn send them as an attachment to the SSC committee members and mail them with the meeting minutes.

Steve felt there are two important points of discussion for the group: A vision statement discussion is needed and to also discuss ways to interface activities that are starting with other groups and activities that may be in progress. Cliff felt that the information from the World Café discussions should be included into the tenets of his group, so it is important to have that information compiled in an understandable format.

Peder Otterson from DNR Waters: Passed around a handout from his group's September 14, 2007 meeting on the Shoreland Rule Update Project. He gave a brief history of the project, stating that the legislature in 2007 directed the DNR to commence rulemaking of an updated version of the statewide management standards for shoreland management by January 15, 2008. He reviewed their action plan. Steve asked if the SSC could offer support of any kind. Peder stated it was too preliminary at this point. At this point their primary audience is the local units of government. Steve suggested he talk with the MEI group.

Don Jakes: Spoke on the MPCA preliminary focus groups session report for stormwater and SSC involvement. One internal and three external focus groups have met for discussions and interviews for the purpose of gathering information. The stormwater program has had tremendous growth and expansion in the number and types of regulated facilities. Upper management at the MPCA has asked for an evaluation of the entire stormwater program with recommendations to be made by mid March of 2008. The recommendations will bring the discussions from various groups and the focus groups together for the final results. As the MPCA moves along with this process they will be coming to the SSC to obtain feedback. It is hoped there will be some conclusions by the end of this year. The focus groups are approximately 12 in number, each having 10-12 participants. Each group has a well trained facilitator. All groups are asked the same questions: (1) Vision statement of the MPCA-react to it. (2) What's working? What do you want us to keep doing? (3) What changes need to be made? (4) What else should we know? The major themes will be compiled and rated for importance. Gary Oberts asked to what extent SSC participation is wanted or needed? Don said that ideally he would like to see some attendance as observers of the process and focus groups from the SSC so that others from outside the MPCA can also hear what is being said around the state. Steve asked for 2-3 SSC members to volunteer to go the the focus group meetings as observers. Judy and Randy volunteered. Anyone else that has an interest should contact Anne Gelbmann.

Emily Franklin of the Minnesota Environmental Initiative (MEI) said her group is working on a 2 year project looking at growth pressure areas throughout the state and the effects on water resources. They are in the research phase at this point doing five facilitated focus groups in October in the metro area to discuss conservation of land/water in the face of the significant growth that is coming. MEI will share what is learned with the SSC. Their funding is coming from grants from the McKnight Foundation, MPCA and the DNR. They are also working with the LCCMR.

Jay Riggs – Construction Stormwater Compliance Work Group Report: Jay did a PowerPoint presentation for the group on the work they have accomplished. This work group has grown to 55 members. He stated that the group was formed because the MPCA came to the SSC asking for input on how to achieve better compliance on construction stormwater sites. The group has developed thirty-five recommendations for the MPCA. The causes of non-compliance have been prioritized and the lack of enforcement headed the list of causes. They have identified the scope of the problem, the causes of non-compliance, and have arrived at solutions and a final report. They have, during this process, worked with ten Joint Powers Associations. Other top non-compliance causes were lack of education, inadequate numbers of inspectors and enforcement officers. The group has also developed a set of recommendations for the SWPPP standards. Lisa Frenette, a member of the group, has made a request to the MPCA for a grant to develop a website that gives resources and education to builders and inspectors. She asked that the SSC send a letter of support for this grant and effort to the MPCA. Jay Riggs made the motion, it was seconded and passed.

Don Berger – Population and Impervious Cover Growth Projections: Presented a PowerPoint presentation on his findings of “communities at risk” using population growth projections and impervious cover projections. He is asking the SSC and other groups to begin a dialog on the subject, to search for answers to the fast pace of growing impervious cover issues in the state. He stated that growth and development is a reality – how do we guide it and protect the state’s resources. Ariel photography is showing the fast growing effects on the rivers and lakes. 148 communities are considered “at risk.” 49 communities are considered at a “severe risk” level. 86% of these communities are in just 9 counties and 93% of them are within 6 watershed districts. The information begs the question of how is this going to impact watersheds and communities. Randy suggested that the LCCMR and MEI groups work with Don. This information will be sent to the LID group in October as it will impact the future design of new communities. Cliff felt that a strong correlation needed to be drawn for individual cities, counties and watersheds in order to really relate the full impact of this information to their particular entity.

Work Group Reports:

Watershed-Based Approach-Gary Oberts/Cliff Aichinger:

The group’s advisory committee will have their next meeting in October. Steve Woods heads up this committee. They started out by looking at six minimum control methods. The big issue is what are the liabilities and legal requirements are in being involved with a permit. How can the autonomy for a city be protected from a watershed district? The group will be presenting recommendations and suggestions and final reports by the end of the year. The 8410 watershed rule is being looked over for possible revisions.

Manual - Judy Sventek:

Judy asked for an action item for the manual. After posting the manual with all of the revisions and changes and updates on the website and asking for comments, they have arrived at a finished product and will ask the MPCA to make the final changes to the online manual. She said one big change is in the tables and charts for phosphorus. A motion was made to accept the manual and all of the changes and to post it onto the web. The motion was seconded and passed.

Industrial - Cindi Kahrmann:

The group is continuing to work on the draft permit. They are also working on some community outreach materials and the permit application revisions. They are doing program planning for the system development on order for the permit to work in the data systems when ready.

Education - John Chapman: At the last meeting the group agreed to meet quarterly. They will be meeting in October and look at the gaps in education across the state.

LID –Anne Gelbmann: The group met August 16th. They are working on a “LID story” – developing a relationship between LID and other stormwater P2 activities and non-degradation, MS4 SWPPP’s, TMDLs, permits and planning and zoning efforts. They have approved their organizational format and the scope of their work. They voted on the top 10 LID barriers and at the next meeting will look at definitions and how to do more coordination with other organizations. There will be a mini LID tour on Monday in Washington County. The MPCA will have a booth at the American Association of Planners promoting LID and displaying the Manual. The Water Resource Conference is at the end of October this year.

Monitoring and Research - Brian Livingston:

The contracts with the U of M are moving forward.