

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ZUMBRO WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP: JANUARY 14, 2010

Lisa Eadens, Watershed Outreach Coordinator

Activities December 11, 2009 – January 14, 2010

1. Watershed Education and Outreach

- Media
- Newsletters: The January 2010 edition of The Zumbro Current is almost finished and will be distributed by the end of the month
- Website: Jennifer has been updating with immediate information until I'm able to obtain the program necessary to edit the website on the ZWP laptop; also considering re-designing the website using a new, web-based program

2. Grant, Donor and Membership Fundraising

- Current Grants:
 - McKnight Foundation grant of \$20,000 with the remaining \$10,000 as a grant match. We still have almost \$8,000 to go to reach this match.
 - MPCA Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) – Jen Dankers from the Wabasha SWCD put together interim results, which will be included in the January edition of The Zumbro Current. Jen and I are working on the Interim Report for the grant due on January 30th.

Name of Grant	Purpose	Objectives	Funding Source	Award Status	Date of Notification	Amount of Award	Grant Period
McKnight Foundation	Operational	1. Continue operations for the ZWP 2. Membership drive/outreach education	McKnight Foundation	Awarded	2/2009	\$30,000 (\$20K upfront)	5/2009-4/2010
2009 Surface Water Assessment Grant – Nitrogen and Bacteria Monitoring of the Zumbro River Watershed	Monitor data for state water quality assessments	1. Monitor nitrate-N and E. coli bacteria in class 2A cold-water streams 2. Monitor nitrate-N and E. coli bacteria in 3 class 2B streams 3. Enter data into STORET	MPCA	Awarded	1/14/2009	\$25,250	4/2009-6/2011
Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council – “Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Partnership”	Restore floodplains of SE MN, including the Lower Zumbro	1. Acquisition of fee title or permanent conservation easements 2. Island reconstruction 3. Water level drawdowns	LSOHC	Awarded \$1K – will focus on Root River and not Zumbro	12/2009	\$5,528K	FY2011
Minnesota Waters Conservation Partnership Grant	Realize Raingardens Rocheter: Shoreland Raingarden Project	1. Expand the Realize Raingardens Rochester program by doubling the number of cost share recipients and targeting the raingardens funded through this grant in shoreland areas.	MN Waters	Submitted	12/11/2009	\$5,000	2/2010-9/2010
Minnesota Waters Conservation Partnership Grant	Zumbro River Riparian Landowner Outreach	1. Create a database of rural shoreland owners within the watershed 2. Provide an information mailing, which will include an	MN Waters	Submitted	12/11/2009	\$5,000	2/2010-9/2010

	and Forum	invitation to attend a landowners forum 3. Conduct the forum, which will provide a "one-stop" connection to staff from resource agencies and conservation organizations 4. Develop a list of property owners that are interested in conservation programs or get them in the queue for the 2010 Clean Water Fund grant program.					
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○ Grant Ideas:

- Coordinated monitoring network. This could include an online map with information on where projects and monitoring are occurring throughout the watershed.
 - "Virtual" River Trip to show the interconnectedness of the watershed and where we are today. It could be composed of video and still shots that highlight good and bad practices and provide general information about the watershed. This could be used online, distributed on DVDs, etc.
 - Small Community Stormwater Management. Use the NEMO model, which focuses on teaching decision-makers. We could also write some money in for an engineer to do a feasibility study for each city.
 - Work with the City of Rochester to assess and inventory tributaries of the South Fork of the Zumbro to determine future priority areas.
 - There has been discussion with the MPCA and SWCDs in the Zumbro Watershed for the ZWP to be contracted by the MPCA to write the Zumbro TMDL Implementation Plan. In conjunction with writing this plan, the MPCA has some additional money to implement small projects. One idea for this additional money is to conduct a watershed-wide assessment of stream geomorphologic conditions so that project priorities could be set. This would include developing the appropriate tools, methodology and training for local staff to conduct the stream assessments over time in a manner that would provide consistent data throughout the watershed and appropriate data that could be used for modeling for proposed restoration or stabilization projects.
- Memberships: See the chart below for the fundraising progress report. In response to the year-end mailing, we attained 11 new members and a total of \$900. We are planning to send the business mailing in the coming two weeks.

	2009 Goal	2009 Actual	% of Goal
Overall	\$12,750.00	\$5,496.60	43%
# Paid Citizen Board Members	13	7	54%
Board Member	\$750.00	\$625.00	83%

Donations			
Total # of Memberships	187 members	76 members	41%
Membership Donations	\$10,000	\$4,790.00	48%
Benefit Events	\$2,000.00	\$81.60 (FFFF)	4%

3. Coordination with Technical Partners and Grant Funding Agencies

- PAC meetings: Held 1/14/10
- Interagency meetings:
 - December 11: Met with Justin Watkins (MPCA), Barb Huberty (City of Rochester), Glen Roberson (Goodhue SWCD), Jen Dankers (Wabasha SWCD), Dan Arndt (Steele SWCD), Skip Langer (Olmsted SWCD), Jim Hruska (Dodge SWCD) and Dean Schrandt (Dodge County)
 - December 15: Attended the Northland NEMO Working Group Meeting
 - December 16: Attended the BALMM meeting
 - December 16: Met with Megan Krantz-McGuire (Whitewater Watershed Project), Norm Senjem (MPCA), Sheila Craig (SE MN Wastewater Initiative) and Cynthia Hilmoe (MPCA) to discuss civic engagement in water issues
 - December 17: Met with Greg Munson (Cascade Meadow Science Center)
 - December 18: Education meeting with other agencies and organizations in Rochester
 - December 23: Met with Greg Munson to finalize ZWP/CMSC Proposal
 - January 12: Met with Cynthia Hilmoe from MPCA about civic engagement
 - January 14: Met with Justin Watkins with MPCA

4. Other information

- Committee meetings
 - January 13: Executive Committee Meeting