

## Report to the Board of Directors, Zumbro Watershed Partnership

### Jennifer Ronnenberg: Activity summary for fiscal year 2008

My report consists of activity summaries for the time period of Oct. 2007 to December 2008. This is approximately one fiscal year, and the time period of the McKnight Foundation grant funding. I worked in the three main categories listed below. Each category has a chart of what my work goals were, and what I was able to accomplish over the past year. In addition to the charts, I have added more detailed summary information for some of the tasks within the three categories.

#### 1. Watershed Education and Outreach

This category was meant to promote the ZWP in a variety of ways. My tasks were to present the ZWP and promote memberships to businesses, community groups and other organizations; produce media press releases and newsletters; maintain the ZWP website and distribute outreach materials at public events.

	Presentations	Press Releases	Board meetings	Newsletters	Website
<b>Goal</b>	36	Monthly	Attend quarterly, report monthly	4 quarterly newsletters	Maintain monthly
<b>Accomplished</b>	13	10 press releases and 9 newspaper articles	Attended 11, reported at 12	4 quarterly newsletters	Maintained monthly

**Presentations:** Below is a list of the organizations and businesses I meet with to present the ZWP

#### Organizations

Sustainable Farmers Association	2-Apr-08
Lake Zumbro Improvement Association	13-May-08
Timber Ridge Ct. Neighborhood Assoc.	5-Aug-08
Golden Hill Education Center	1-Oct-08
Golden Hill Student Presentation	30-Oct-08
Manorwood Lake Neighborhood Assoc.	12-Nov-07

#### Businesses

Legislative Sub-Committee	6-Nov-07
McNeilus Industries	4-Jan-08
Whittings Nursery	4-Jan-08
MN Public Radio	12-Jan-08
MLT	22-Jan-08
Think Bank Community Foundation	5-Feb-08
McGhie & Betts	29-Sep-08

**Outreach/Education:** The ZWP attended and/or hosted 15 public events. These events were well attended by the public and gave us the opportunity to talk to visitors and distribute outreach materials.

<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date of Event</u>	<u>Lead Organizer</u>
Rochester Area Builders Home Show	8-Feb-08	Roch. Area Builders
AgriNews Farm Show	19-Mar-08	AgriNews
Wabasha County Feedlot Open House	26-Mar-08	Wabasha County
Backyard Conservation Workshop	26-Apr-08	ZWP, Olm. SWCD, Quarry Hill
Family Fun Night	29-Apr-08	Roch. Child Care R&R
Kutzky Park Neighborhood As. Stream Walk	21-Jun-08	Kutzky Park NA
Sustainable Farmers As. Flame Weeding Demo	24-Jun-08	SFA, ZWP
Breakfast on the Farm	28-Jun-08	Rochesterfest
Camp Victory Festival and Canoe Race	28-Jun-08	Camp Victory
Mustangs Concert Benefit at Goonies	3-Jul-08	ZWP, Goonies
Strip-till and Technology Demonstration Day	17-Jul-08	ZWP
Olmsted County Fair	28-Jul-08	Olmsted County
Fall Foliage Fun Float	4-Oct-08	ZWP
Think Green Fair	18-Oct-08	Sustainability ECCO

To help get the word out about these and other ZWP information, the following media press releases, newspaper articles and newsletters were printed:

<u>Media Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>
The ZWP Receives McKnight Foundation Grant Award	27-Dec-07	Press release
Announcing the Zumbro River Watershed Management Plan	27-Dec-07	Press release
The Zumbro Current, Volume 1, Issue 2	30-Dec-08	Newsletter
Zumbro River Watershed: Looking for a few good directors	12-Jan-08	PB News Article
Zumbro Watershed Partnership Offers Rain Garden Advice	31-Jan-08	Press release
Zumbro Watershed Partnership Celebrates its Third Year	27-Feb-08	Press release
Improving Water Quality is Everyone's Business, Group Says	29-Feb-08	PB Online Article
What people do affects water	3-Mar-08	PB News Article
ZWP Offers Nitrate Testing for Rural Well Owners at AgriNews Farm Show	3-Mar-08	Press release
Water quality issues focus of booth at Farm Show	13-Mar-08	AgriNews Article
The Zumbro Current, Volume 2, Issue 1	31-Mar-08	Newsletter
Now is the Time to Volunteer for Water Quality	30-Apr-08	Press release
Support Clean Water at a Night of Rock-n-Roll with the Mustangs	16-Jun-08	Press release
Concert a benefit for watershed	26-Jun-08	PB News Article
The Zumbro Current, Volume 2, Issue 2	30-Jun-08	Newsletter
Stop Out to the 2008 Strip-Till and Tech Demonstration Day on July 17th	1-Jul-08	Press release
Interest in precision agriculture growing	24-Jul-08	AgriNews Article
Raining Rye	27-Aug-08	PB News Article
Come See Lake Zumbro in Full Color at the ZWP's 5th Annual Fall Foliage Fun Float Event	19-Sep-08	Press release
Program touts the use of rain barrels	22-Sep-08	PB News Article
The Zumbro Current, Volume 2, Issue 3	30-Sep-08	Newsletter
Recycled Materials Become a Rain Barrel Fundraiser for Partner Project	31-Oct-08	Press release
Recycled Materials Become a Rain Barrel Fundraiser for Partner Project	21-Dec-08	Chamber Blog
Think Spring (rain barrel program)	02-Jan-09	PB News Article

## 2. Memberships, Fundraising and Grants

The purpose of this category was to secure funding through grant writing and membership drive fundraising. Membership drive included the development of a fiscal year fundraising plan as well as the retention and recruitment of members.

	Grants	Fundraising Plan	Membership Drive	Reporting
<b>Goal</b>	2 proposals	Develop 2008 plan	Conduct the 2008 membership drive to achieve 200 members and \$5,000 in raised funds.	Report on membership drive results
<b>Accomplished</b>	4 proposals	Completed fundraising plan 12/07	Membership mailings completed 3/08 & 11/08. Business mailing completed in 8/08, resulting in 81 total members and \$9,116.40 raised	Reports generated monthly

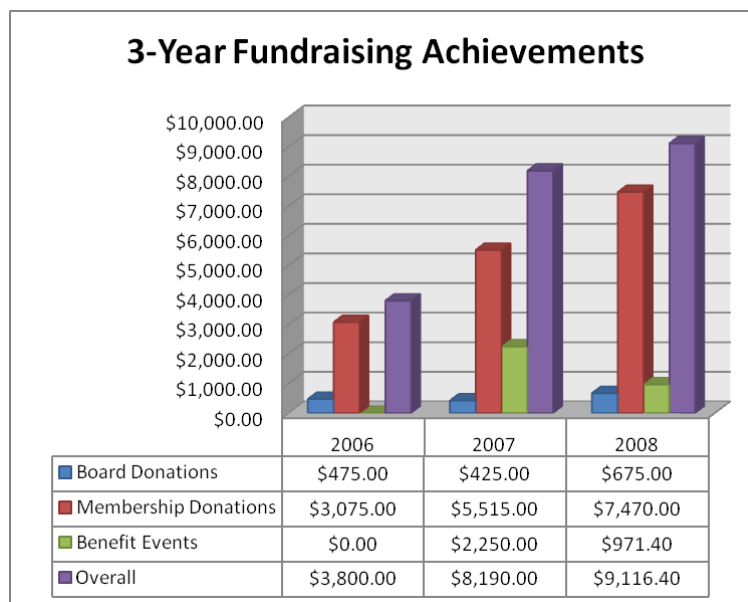
**Grants:** Below is a summary chart of the four grant proposals submitted in 2008 and the status to date.

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	Final proposal submitted 12/8/08	Feb-09	requested \$40,000	3/2009-2/2010
Section 319 (DER) Developmental, Education and Research Projects - Quantify Sediment Sources for the Zumbro River Watershed	Sediment study and stormwater education	1. Survey and map existing sediment retention projects, 2. Perform effectiveness study 3. Survey lakeshore and streambank 4. Demonstration of BMP's 5. Education for small community stormwater management	MPCA	Not awarded, notice received 12/22/08	12/22/2008	requested \$235,000 with \$238,000 in-kind	6/2009-6/2012
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	Proposal submitted 11/4/08	2/2/2009	requested \$40,300	4/2009-6/2011
2009 Clean Water Legacy - Reducing E. coli Bacteria in the Zumbro Watersheds with RMS Planning	Reduction of E.coli bacteria	1. Create 4 RMS level plans, one in each county 2. Implement projects from planning process 3. Reinstate tillage survey in 6 counties 4. Hire a facilitator to write plans 5. Effectiveness monitoring for E. coli	BWSR	Proposal submitted w/Olmsted SWCD 11/7/08	2/1/2009	requested \$175,500	3/2009-2011

**Membership drive/fundraising report:** A fundraising plan was approved by the ZWP for fiscal year 2008. Below is a summary of the goals and achievements for the year.

### 2008 Fundraising & Membership Final Report

	<u>2008 Goal</u>	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>% of Goal</u>
Overall Fundraising	\$10,000.00	\$9,116.40	91%
Active Citizen Bd Members	13 members	12 members	92%
Board Member Donations	\$675.00	\$675.00	100%
Total # of Memberships	200 members	81 members	41%
Membership Donations	\$7,250.00	\$7,470.00	103%
Benefit Events	\$2,075.00	\$971.40	47%



**Committees:** Three working committees were formed in 2008: the Executive Committee, Human Resources Committee and Membership/Fundraising Committee. I developed roles descriptions, assisted with tasks and facilitated meetings for all the committees throughout the year.

Committee	Meetings Facilitated	Accomplishments
Executive	9 total: Feb 8, April 18, May 2, June 12, July 21, Sept 3, 9, 30, Nov 5	Developed draft business plan and draft agreement with Cascade Meadow Science Center
Membership & Fundraising	9 total: Jan 14, 16, Feb 22, April 17, May 15, June 26, July 14, Sept 16, Dec 18	Membership drive mailing, flyer invitations for annual meeting, benefit event concert, t-shirts, logo decals and pens, photo contest for calendar, Fall Foliage Fun Float
Human Resources	6 total: April 16, July 30, Aug 26, Oct 9, 16, 25	Developed draft Board of Directors Manual and hosted the ZWP Board Retreat on Oct. 25th

### 3. Technical Partners and Grant Funding Agencies

Coordination with technical partners and grant funding agencies was the goal of this category. To maintain and enhance existing partnerships and seek new opportunities, my tasks included obtaining signatures to the ZWP Memorandum of Understanding, facilitating the Partner Advisory Committee meetings, and attending partner meetings.

	MOU	PAC meetings	Partner meetings	Grant progress reports	TMDL	SWCD
Goal	12	4 quarterly	Ongoing	2 reports to McKnight	Ongoing stakeholder	Report quarterly
Accomplished	5	4 completed	Ongoing	1 report completed, final report due 1/31/09	Ongoing	Reported in 2/08 and 5/08

**Partners:** I attended numerous partner meetings, coordinated an information forum in May for the PAC group and monitored activities in the demonstration sites established with the CPI grant. A few other notable activities throughout the year include:

- Partners with active MOU signatures include: Olmsted SWCD, Dodge SWCD, Goodhue SWCD, Hiawatha Valley RC&D, and LZIF.
- Data collection (as per contract with Dodge SWCD) of nitrate levels in the bio-filter demonstration project continued this year. Results show an average reduction of 10.5 mg/L nitrate for the time period between 11/1/07 to 9/30/08. This is an average of 48% less nitrate reaching surface water ditches and streams. The average value before filtering was 20.1 mg/L and 9.6 mg/L after filtering. Drinking water standards are set at 10 mg/L or less.
- Completion of stream bank stabilization project (as per contract with Olmsted SWCD) on Bear Creek in Chester Woods Park. Ongoing planning for rain garden project at Quarry Hill Nature Center, scheduled for spring of 2009. Delays in construction were due to the City of Rochester storm sewer project planned for construction in the same location.
- Referral of 12 new names to MPCA for Citizen Stream Monitoring Program
- Turbidity and Nutrient TMDL studies conducted by MPCA and sub-contracted to Barr Engineering, Inc. completed a second year of field data collection. A comprehensive TMDL study document is due June 2009.