

**Watershed Action Volunteers**

**March 17th, 2021**

**5:30-7pm**

**Online meeting:**

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83426870822>

**Meeting ID: 834 2687 0822 One tap mobile +13126266799, 83426870822# US (Chicago)**

**Agenda:**

1. Introductions

2. Minnesota Water Stewards Capstone Projects

Project potentials

Graduated Steward team-up and assistance

3. 2021 Programs:

Preview of White Bear Center for the Arts programming

Continued from 2020: Rainbarrel, Jr Watershed Explorer

2021 standard and feasible programs:

Native plant swap, neighborhood tour, Jr Watershed Explorer, fieldwork volunteer days, Leaf Pack macroinvertebrates, picture posts

2021 wish list:

Public and school raingarden brush-ups, AIS detection, Birch Lake sand-iron filter, Adopt-a-Drain promo in East Goose subwatershed, MS4 strategies (salt, pet waste, illicit discharge, adopt-a-drain, BMP’s), and watershed “culture crafter”/demonstration of water-friendly behaviors

4. Other ideas, recap, and questions

5. Advising:

Feedback for WAV webpage, documents, VLAWMO operations, and Nick

Meeting Minutes:

Introductions:

*“If you want to go fast, travel alone. If you want to go far, travel together.”*

*–African Proverb*

MN Water Stewards Capstone Projects:

Capstone projects are in their planning phases, consulting with community partners to pinpoint project potentials and scope. As of this meeting date, the current options include:

**Sierra:** North Oaks options

* + Mary Hill bio-swale: Renovation, education
  + Hockey rink basin install: Design potentials, materials hauling, volunteer/labor recruitment, education
  + Mystery basin renovation: Design potentials, materials hauling, volunteer/labor recruitment, education

**Gary:** White Bear Lake/WB Schools

County Road F raingardens, school raingardens, programming and education connecting homeowners (curb-cuts) and residents (schools: Lakeaires, VH Elementary, Central Middle) to maintenance and familiarity of green infrastructure. Connection to East Goose Lake efforts.

2020 carry-overs:

Projects that started in 2020 and are being carried over into 2021.

* Rainbarrel program: Leftover rainbarrels from 2020 to giveaway, online workshop presentation in May/June, demo install (guest invite – Gloria volunteers).
* Jr Watershed Explorer booklet – Put survey back online, gather more feedback before adding new segments to the booklet. Connect with North oaks homeschool network, enlist a team to help promote:
  + School newsletters/parent-teacher networks
  + Scout troops, cub scouts
  + Library flyer/other locations flyers
  + VLAWMO social media
  + Nextdoor.com outreach

2021 standard and feasible programs:

Planning projects that have been done in previous years and projects that are feasible for 2021 efforts:

* Native plant swap – Ed and Ceci. Jumping worms transferring?

Inclusion of seedlings and giving away/sharing?

Check with DNR, Dawn

Possible sharing of knowledge – teach-in, training opp.

* Neighborhood tour: Meet at central location, 5-6 tour sites.
  + - * + Planning ideas:

Follow on a caravan route, chat social distance on site. Meet at start, middle and/or end?

Cover the basics on site selection: Raingarden, lawn, prairie, groundcover, etc.

Possibility to add public green infrastructure or watershed significant sites.

Map and interview in a packet, concise times outlined to meet and connect with homeowners.

Idea: volunteers there at certain sites to interpret?

Tickets, signage/indicators to mark tour sites, expand to public projects. Shorten timeframe.

Follow-up before June to plan – separate meeting June.

Loop in Gloria for planning.

Also an opportunity to promote the Jr Watershed Explorer book

* Fieldwork volunteer days
  + Possible weekend event leadership: Jackie, Susan, Ed, involving more families and younger people.
    - Plant ID, shoe brushes.
  + Ask Dawn about U students joining on a weekend?
* Leaf Pack macroinvertebrates
  + Gary as a possible leader – Oakmede, Whitaker Pond. Ceci and Ed at Kohler flume or Co Rd F, Susan on Deep and Charley channels.
  + Rock pack – order for 2021, implement in Pleasant and Deep channels
  + Homeschool connection at North Oaks – high school age
  + Picture posts:
* Tamarack post has a map error on website
  + Brush-up posts help: Susan, Gloria
  + Opportunities without a post? – East Goose Lake algae blooms
    - Susan to send link for new picture geotag method

2021 wish list:

Public and school raingarden brush-ups – update only, new volunteers welcome, potential Gary capstone project

AIS detection – update only, update only, new volunteers welcome

Birch Lake sand-iron filter – investigate BLID involvement? New volunteers welcome

Adopt-a-Drain promo in East Goose subwatershed – update only, potential Gary capstone project.

MS4 strategies (salt, pet waste, illicit discharge, adopt-a-drain, BMP’s), and watershed “culture crafter”/demonstration of water-friendly behaviors **–** Consult with Ceci

Trash pick-up events