



## **Watershed Action Volunteers**

**October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**6:30-8pm**

**Online meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87969247589?pwd=WjFhTXd0MUFlleEF5NWozMWcwMXNVdz09>  
Meeting ID: 879 6924 7589 Passcode: 865370

### **Agenda:**

1. Phil introduction
2. 2021 WAV changes
  - Recruiting 2 new Master Water Stewards for 2021
  - Foregoing a formal CAC in lieu of WAV/TEC structure
  - New Community Blue and Cost-share program synthesis
3. 2020 Review
  - Workshops and activities
  - Junior Watershed Explorer
4. 2021 Programming
  - Education and outreach plan
  - WAV fieldwork selection: invasive species, adopt-a-raingarden, etc.
  - Workshop, tour, webinar selection
5. Open feedback to VLAWMO, fielding questions, project development, etc.

# Assembly Minutes:

**WAV Attendees:** Ceci Shapland, Ed Shapland, Katherine Doll Kanne, Susan Miller, Mick Jost

**VLAWMO attendees:** Nick Voss, VLAWMO Education and Outreach, Phil Belfiori, VLAWMO Admin

## 1. 2021 WAV changes:

- **MN Water Stewards:**
  - No discussion or questions on this item.
- **CAC:**
  - WAV members asked about how the general WAV functions will continue lines of communication in VLAWMO operations and meetings. Nick explained that WAV outlets will be preserved and prioritized within TEC and BOD meeting agendas, and once each year a WAV member will be invited to present to the Board of Directors for an annual report to the BOD. This annual report serves as a simple overview of WAV activities, focus, future goals, and any feedback or recommendations to VLAWMO as a whole. Katherine Doll Kanne volunteered to present at the December, 2020 VLAWMO Board meeting for a WAV report to BOD.
- **Community Blue:**
  - WAV members (Ed, Cecci) asked about funding as it pertains to allocations for Minnesota Water Stewards, custom salt and de-icer education program grants, and an adjustment to focus on soil health. WAV members discussed how Community Blue Watershed explorer program, tours, compliment what Community Blue's been able to do in terms of involvement. 2021 changes to Cost-share and Community Blue programs will be re-evaluated and assessed at the end of 2021, and changes will be made as necessary.

## 2. 2020 Review

- Discussion on 2020's webinars, tours, and workshops.
  - Neighborhood tour:
    - Participants not doing the whole tour was hard and even confusing on residents showcasing their gardens, but overall trying the tour was seen as better than doing nothing. Interface with a few residents was great, which made valuable connections and questions were answered through the process, and suggestions made about installations.
    - Brainstorming for the future recommended to do it for a shorter amount of time in the future. This would tell host site residents that they don't have to stay home for the duration of a spaced out version. A shorter time consolidates arrangements and helps the focus of the event. This would be more polite for people sharing their space, perhaps even creating designated time slots. There's a need to make commitments and help facilitate commitments to connect meaningful interactions. There was some disappointment from residents who went through trouble to clear paths. Next year we'll make a decision on the format depending on pandemic. It would help to have signs at each host site to indicate where to go and exactly what to look at. We hope to foster comfort in residents giving tours to their sites. Some host sites felt rewarded and felt safe when someone came to visit.
  - Webinars/workshops:
    - More than 50% of the people who received a rainbarrel as part of the program wanted to talk about rainbarrel set-up when picking up rainbarrels. Would like to do the workshop again if funds are available and allocated. There was some trouble with people coming to pick up

the rainbarrels, leaving VLAWMO and Katherine to decide what to do with them. There are 5 remaining – we will ask the allocated receivers based on the registration list again in March, then after that ask the TEC if they should roll over or try again. For future workshops, will share more next time about winterizing and cleaning them out. We had attendance issues with people signing up and not being on the call, perhaps we should do a reduced price rainbarrel. It's thought that it's still good to keep free registration to be flexible for people, still ok to give away a rainbarrel, which gets outreach and advertising. Hopefully being able to do more of a workshop, volunteer their house for in-person install demo. Some folks don't feel like they have the tools to do gutter modifications, or aren't confident in doing the modification. What if the watershed org bought and rented these tools?

- The Junior Watershed Explorer workbook was created by Ceci and Ed Shapland with support from VLAWMO's Community Blue grant program. It had newspaper coverage, promo assistance with Tamarack Nature Center, and 108 web page views (blog) and 48 page views (schools/students) on the VLAWMO website – as of 9/29/20.
  - Jr Watershed explorer – timing was tough for reviews as school started and considering the pandemic. Will solicit feedback through Melanie at Tamarack Nature Center for thoughts or things Tamarack saw on their end in social media outreach.
  - When the t-shirt prizes are all given away, the program will transition to badges and certificates.
  - Survey Review: Survey responses from Junior Watershed Explorer participant

**Response one:**

What parts of the workbook did your child like?

"Always fun for adult to learn while exploring with a child, and I did learn. This Workbook was more detailed than I expected. Very visually appealing with the photos, colorful hand drawn graphics, and the diverse Superheroes. Granddaughter had been asking questions "what is under the street?" and "What is that opening?" (storm drain). So the interest was there and the workbook was available at right time for her. She did not have Watershed in her vocabulary, now she does. Activity pages-

Pg.4-Does not really understand maps yet, but she was interested in counting the 12 lakes and checking off the ones she has been to. Watershed boundary interesting to me, as well as learning there are 500 wetlands in the VLAWMO watershed area.

Pg.6-She loved the animal find graphic. We printed more copies so she could find them again.

Pg.7-She loves Dot-to-Dot at this age, so page was very appropriate.

Pg.8-She loved the wildlife photo checklist.

Pg.9-She loved coloring fish in 3yr old style. She has seen all three fish in lakes, so she could relate.

Pg.10-Loves Bingo-great checklist activity outside. Wanted to go see the rain garden.

Pg.12-Where does runoff go? Good question for all of us.

Pg.13-Storm water runoff calculations advanced for 3yr old, but she wanted to know what it was about. We talked about so many, many water jugs of water dripping from the roof and going to the storm drain.

Pg.14-She could identify storm drain photo. She has already cleared acorns from the street to prevent them from going down the drain.

Pg.15-Loved the Trace the Pollution Maze

Pg.17-Loved Draw a Picture of Lake in general, for a preschool 3 1/2yr old, she was really able to enjoy 10 of the pages, they held her interest, and she has requested to go back to some of the pages.

Even the advanced pages had something to offer her. We are pleased the workbook was available to us.”

What recommendations do you have for the workbook?

“My experience with our preschool granddaughter was a very good one. Can't think of any changes that would improve. Thank you for the additional resources.”

What other activities or content would you recommend?

“From a preschool point of view, there are plenty of facts and activities. Maybe an older child would be interested in finding out about how to proceed to the next level of water stewards.”

Are there any parts of the workbook that are still confusing?

“From a preschool approach, nothing was confusing, pg 11 and pg 13 were just advanced beyond her.”

**Response two:**

What parts of the workbook did your child like?

Working outside and frogs

What recommendations do you have for the workbook?

Make sure kid-friendly bathrooms are on your maps

What other activities or content would you recommend?

Bird things!

Are there any parts of the workbook that are still confusing?

Things to cut out

### 3. 2021 Overview

- Discussion of WAV fieldwork activities. During the meeting we discussed the following tasks. Some were claimed and some are seeking new volunteers or won't be pursued.
  - Adopt-a-Raingarden: Volunteers needed
  - Birch Lake 4<sup>th</sup> and Otter sand-iron filter maintenance: Volunteers needed
  - Invasive species control: Garlic mustard, Buckthorn: Covered: Buckthorn/ Garlic mustard event with a broad invasive species/multi focus and weekend event.
  - Spring native plant swap: Covered
  - Macroinvertebrate LeafPack monitoring: Covered, new volunteers helpful
  - AIS monitoring: Partially covered, new volunteers helpful for specific lakes

- Cost-share project photography and documentation: Available
- Trash pick-up event: Covered, Spring
- Scenic photography: Partially covered, available
- Shoreline tea time: Covered, tentative

#### 4. Questions, feedback, next steps,

- Katherine Doll Kanne expressed interest in promoting aquatic safe herbicide to residents who are undertaking shoreline or bank restorations, or invasive species removals.
- Mick Jost provided an update on the Fox Meadow raingarden in White Bear Township. The raingarden is experiencing a large load of sedimentation that requires excavating the raingarden inlet.
- Susan Miller expressed a thought that there is general difficulty in getting younger people involved with volunteering efforts. Would like to see more young people out enjoying water, recreating.
- Susan Miller expressed a switch in her Leaf Pack volunteering efforts, focusing on the North Oaks Deep and Charley Lake channels and foregoing work at the Oakmede flume on Lambert Creek.