

September 15, 2022 LMGC Meeting
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Minneapolis, MN

Kate called the meeting to order at 1:09 and welcomed members.

Announcements:

- Thank you received from Arb for donation to Arboretum Foundation.
- Andrea Bassett, thanks for wonderful popup gardens! So fun, Donation Garden and the Secret Gardens, thanks Andrea for organizing this, along with Chichi Steiner.
- Cindy Pratt, thanks for her selling beloved hosts for club members...happy new homes for members, \$1,200 from Cindy's host!
- Special thanks to Nancy Gulberg and her work to on the Photo Gallery on the LMGC website, popup garden visits as well as the Food for Thought Flower Show are now all online.
- Monday Sept 19 join members for the 9-11:30 AM morning social gathering at Depot Garden, bring your own coffee mug.
- Sept 22 Arboretum Grass Collection Open House 35yr anniversary with Mary Meyer.
- Sept 28 J McLaughlin sale event for the entire weekend to benefit LMGC.
- Oct 6 10:30-1:30 Three Rivers Highland Hills seed collection event with Heidi Heiland. Watch for further email directions.
- Our Oct Meeting will feature Becky Rom, Director of Saving the Boundary Waters.

Heidi Heiland introduced Abby Moore who introduced us to the MWMO, the importance of WATER and our conservation and knowledge for what we can do to preserve and conserve water.

Guest Speaker: Abby Moore, Training and Community Learning Specialist, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, talked to the club *Introduction to the MWMO and Urban Stormwater Management*. Abby explained her role and outreach work and how the MWMO works with local governments and community members to protect the Mississippi River. She teaches groups that have the most impact on water quality (snow plow drivers, etc) MWMO is its own special purpose unit of government. It is one of 3 dozen watershed organizations in the Twin Cities metro. Budget comes from tax revenue, but is a nonregulatory body. Protect and improve water quality is their mission. 40 sq miles in urban area, totally developed. Monitoring, research, planning, projects, grants, and education are the 6 areas of MWMO work. 70-100% impervious surface now creates a very challenging issue to manage the 55% water runoff. Clean Water Act has impacted the river and it is now much cleaner. We turn towards the river instead of away. Increase in wildlife, eagles, beavers! Now nonpoint source pollution is the issue and what MWMO focuses on. Concerns: flows, sediment, nutrients, bacteria, chloride (from road salt), oil and gas and heavy metals. Control methods: slow flow, reduce runoff and filter pollutants. Efficient ways to do this: get involved in transportation projects. Westminster Presbyterian Church holding tanks in parking garage to manage roof

runoff. Prospect Park Neighborhood sustainable Towerside Stormwater Park new renovation project, huge raingarden. Hall's Island project on Mississippi River to re-create this island MWMO worked with Minneapolis Park Board to create an island of native vegetation for wildlife habitat..but not people.

Personal application, what we can do: replace lawn grass, make raingardens, capture rainwater on your site and prevent runoff, collect rain water and use on site. Do a local competition for your neighborhood to encourage impact. Cleaning up pet waste so it does not go into the river, use yard waste on site. Reduce salt use. Participate in community efforts to minimize runoff.

Abby answered questions and then led a tour of the facility and surrounding plantings and adjacent riverfront development that provides a learning space for the public.

Next meeting: Oct 20, 2022; Wayzata Community Room, Becky Rom, National Chair on Protecting the Boundary Waters will speak on Protecting our Most Beautiful Places.

Minutes submitted by Mary Meyer.