



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers
FROM: Gael Zembal
DATE: December 11, 2018
RE: Education & Outreach Coordinators Report for November 2018 Board Meeting

Program Updates

Education

The first visit to Poplar Bridge was successful—students made connections to their class materials using the sandbox. We will bring the sandbox to a new class of 5th graders at Poplar Bridge elementary school at the end of December. Gael met with a teacher at Success Academy in Bloomington to discuss a new classroom visit.

Outreach

The first Salt Solutions workshop occurred in November and staff have received reports of attendees already making changes to the salt education at their place of worship/non-profit organization. Staff presented the watershed sandbox at the annual MAWD Conference and Trade Show in Alexandria.

Miscellaneous

Gael has finished the classes required for her graduate school degree and will be moving into the capstone project phase for the next two semesters. The past four classes have increased my knowledge about the history of environmental education and the initiatives green infrastructure in the metro area. They have also given me more experience with environmental organizations in the metro area.

Conference summaries

Minnesota Naturalists Association: Gael attended sessions about improving social media outreach, increasing the inclusivity of education programs, and MN bee identification. There were many opportunities for improving existing partnerships and creating new ones.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts: Gael attended sessions about the MN Army Corps of Engineers and a program called Paddle to the Sea, from the International Water Institute.

Volunteers

Gael staffed a booth at the Edina Service Fair, which is geared towards high schoolers. We will be honoring volunteers at our annual State of the Waters event in December, including the Volunteer of the Year.

Upcoming Events

Jan 8 Salt Solutions: Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point, 6:30-8:30