



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers
FROM: Gael Zembal
DATE: June 10, 2020
RE: Master Water Stewards program pause

Background and Purpose

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has participated in Freshwater Society's Master Water Stewards (MWS) program since its metro-wide rollout in 2015. Since then, we have had 22 people complete the coursework portion of the program. Only about half of these people have successfully completed a capstone project, which represents the other portion of the program needed for successful completion and certification as a Master Water Steward.

With only a 50% completion rate, staff have decided to halt accepting any new stewards for the 2020/2021 program period in order to re-evaluate the program. Outlined below are the goals and preliminary action steps that staff would take during the program hiatus.

Goals

- Assess the impacts of participating in the MWS program
- Assess the benefits to the stewards and the District of past participation in the program
- Assess goals of current stewards, and how to best support them moving forward
- Adjust as needed to help District and stewards achieve desired goals and outcomes
- Support all stewards in finishing their capstone projects
- Assess benefits and impacts of continued participation in the MWS program

Action Steps

- Work with stewards to figure out what kind of capstone suits them best
 - Help them through the steps to completion of capstone
- Redefine or expand the definition of what qualifies as a capstone project
- Formalize what kind of support we can and cannot give to stewards.
- Gather input from other watershed districts on how their capstone projects have fared
 - Where did they find success
 - What procedures do they have to ensure successful capstones
- Interview all stewards (including those that dropped) to find out what worked and what didn't about the capstone process, our interactions with them, and the program support in general

- Create policies and procedures to prevent this in the future. These policies will be created and workshopped with the help of a group of stewards, Citizen Advisory Committee members, and staff.