



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers
FROM: Gael Zembal
DATE: August 10, 2020
RE: Education & Outreach Coordinator's Report for August 2020 Board Meeting

Program Updates

Adult Education

The Writing Nature Nearby webinar had about 20 people tune in. Amber Stoner, the presenter made journals that we mailed out to the first 20 people to RSVP. We also ended out mailing out another 5 afterwards to those that requested them.

We will be hosting a pilot raingarden maintenance program at the beginning of September. The purpose of this is to eventually provide a maintenance class for Cost Share Grantees, as well as for our partners at the City of Bloomington, who requested a class like this for their curbcut raingarden program participants. We will be hosting it at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, so that we can also begin to include and teach the non-profit project partners as they prepare to take over maintenance of their raingardens in a few years. As the program develops, we will host more and open them up to more people, while staying within the recommendations for social distancing.

K12 Education

The Normandale Hills Elementary raingarden project will likely be moved to spring, as planning for fall hybrid learning is taking up most of the teachers' time.

Megan and I, with the input of 2 CAC members, have filmed a few more educational videos for teachers to use in the fall in their classrooms (virtual or otherwise). These will be posted on the District's YouTube channel.

Outreach

Megan, Erica, and I continue to work on lake fact sheets. The District's engineer has begun to review them for accuracy and presentation.

Miscellaneous

Program and Outreach Tracking

Megan and I are working on tracking our reach, despite the limitations of COVID on programming. This includes tracking the number of clicks and opens on our various website blog posts, newsletter articles, and social media posts. We will be sharing this information

with our cities as well, so they can use that in their MS4 tracking. We are organizing this tracking both by topic (including groundwater, AIS, Adopt a Drain, water quality and others) as well as by general audience type (including adult, K-12, and family). This tracking information will be presented to the Board near the end of the year.

Meetings

All-staff meetings to check in and track progress, twice weekly

Jul 15	Met with Lawns to Legumes grantee
Jul 16	Unconscious Bias training webinar
Jul 16	Test run for Writing in Nature webinar
Jul 20	Checked in with Erica and Megan about E/O initiatives
Jul 22	Debriefed Writing Nature webinar with presenter
Jul 22	Met with Gregg Thompson about raingarden maintenance class
Jul 29	MN Climate adaptation webinar
Jul 30	Culturally relevant outreach group meeting
Jul 31	Met with CAC members to discuss educational videos
Aug 3	Met with Erica and Megan to discuss outreach initiatives
Aug 4-5	Attended salt symposium
Aug 6	Filmed educational videos with Megan
Aug 7	Checked in with Erica about Normandale Hills raingarden project
Aug 13	Filmed educational videos with Megan
Aug 14	Meeting with City of Edina on outreach
Aug 21	Megan's last day

Volunteers

Citizen Advisory Committee

Due to the timing of the Board and CAC meetings in July, I was unable to summarize the CAC meeting before my report was due. Here is the summary, and minutes are posted on the website here: ninemilecreek.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-July-8-Nine-Mile-Creek-CAC-Meeting-Minutes.pdf

CAC members discussed ways to continue to reach our audiences and maintain social distancing. Many great ideas were discussed, including more topics for educational videos. A couple members volunteered to be on a working group to help staff write and produce these videos. Staff also shared updates on projects and requested additional assistance in monitoring the new non-profit raingardens as they establish.

A few CAC members also attended the Road Salt Symposium. They will be writing up a summary on a few key points they took away from the Symposium and will also be reporting back to the full CAC at their next meeting on September 24.

Master Water Stewards

A Master Water Steward capstone project has been approved and will be completed by the end of the year. With this latest approval, all current Stewards for the 2020/21 cohort have either completed their projects or are about to finish.

Upcoming Events

- Aug 27 [Cost Share Grant Info Session](#) | 6:30-8 PM | Microsoft Teams webinar
- Sep 9 Pilot raingarden maintenance seminar | Oak Grove Church, invite only
- Sep 18 Photo Contest Deadline!**
- Sep 24 CAC meeting | Teams meeting | 6-8 PM