



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point
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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers

FROM: Lauren Foley

DATE: December 11, 2019

RE: Permit & Water Resources Coordinator Report

Updates

- Finalizing needed documents for new cost share grant application
 - Seeking CAC input on questions before end of December
- Preparing new webpage for cost share grant application
- See biodegradable netting in erosion blanket below

Continuing Activities

- Using inspection prioritization protocols to guide which sites are inspected
- Review and send permits as approved, including conditional and administrative approvals
- Intake and process materials from conditionally approved permits
- Improving and correcting content of guidance documents

Upcoming Activities

- Create necessary emergency response materials to meet OSHA requirements needed with purchase of AED

Biodegradable Erosion Blanket

- With direction from the board, I've conducted research on requiring biodegradable netting where erosion blanket is used for stabilizing a construction site that has an NMCWD permit. Research sources included:
 - UMN Erosion and Certification Management Program
 - Metro WD regulatory working group members
 - MnDOT
 - Barr erosion expert
 - Construction SWPPP inspector
- Research showed:
 - Costs are equalizing between biodegradable- and poly-netting blanket
 - Biodegradable netting is widely available on the market

- We'll want to consider communicating the new requirement for biodegradable netting before contractors make purchases of products for new projects; and contractors do not all follow similar purchasing schedules
- This requirement will become a component of my erosion control inspections
- Proposal
 - Communicate the new requirement for biodegradable netting in erosion blanket to permit-applicants and potential permit-applicants for a set period of time in order to give sufficient warning
 - This communication could take the form of a single-page flyer we could attach to emails, give out, and link to online
 - Communication's main content could be in the form of FAQs including, but not limited to, the following:
 - *What changes are upcoming as of MM/DD/YYYY?* Projects permitted by Nine Mile Creek Watershed District that use erosion blanket must use erosion blanket with biodegradable netting, as opposed to plastic/poly or photodegradable netting
 - *Why is the District making this change?*
 - Prices for biodegradable ("natural") netting blanket are decreasing
 - Erosion control practices should not last forever. Plastic netting rarely breaks down.
 - Plastic netting can be harmful to wildlife
 - *I have a project that started before MM/DD/YYYY. Am I required to use biodegradable netting?* No, though its use is encouraged.
 - *I am doing a project in the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District but it did not require a permit. Am I required to use biodegradable netting erosion blanket?* No, though its use is encouraged.
 - *I wasn't going to use erosion blanket for my project. What should I know?* This requirement is only for the use of erosion blanket.
 - *How do I find biodegradable netting erosion blanket?* Ask your erosion control sales representative for biodegradable or natural netting in your erosion blanket.
 - *Anything else I should know?* Biodegradable erosion blanket is often called "natural" erosion blanket.
- Request
 - Seeking guidance from the Managers of the length of time we should promote this change before it is enforced, and any feedback Managers have about the plan or communication's content