



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers
FROM: Gael Zembal
DATE: December 10, 2019
RE: Education & Outreach Coordinators Report for December 2019 Board Meeting

Program Updates

Education

I presented at the Vernon Terrace Senior Community in November. I also presented the watershed sandbox at the International Spanish Language Academy with volunteers.

We will be presenting a short informational presentation on oversalting to Edina Public Schools staff in January.

Outreach

Erica and I have been working on the Annual Communication and will have it ready for distribution by the end of the year.

I have been working on creating street signs for places where roads cross 9 Mile Creek. A few cities have approved them, and I am working to get all the appropriate permits for a tentative install in the spring.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Historically, natural resources fields and programs have catered only to white, middle class people. People of color, the differently abled, and other minoritized communities have been excluded from full participation in the outdoors. Recently, many organizations, both private and public, have begun work to improve the diversity of their staff and workplaces, and the inclusivity of their programs.

By working to increase the diversity of people at an organization and the inclusivity of programs, the organization's initiatives and quality of service are enhanced. This work of increasing diversity and inclusivity is an iterative process that will continue on into the future.

I have met with several organizations, including watershed districts, city governments, and environmental organizations to learn about their efforts to improve diversity and inclusion. Staff would like Board direction as to if and how they would like us to proceed with beginning to make these changes to the District.

Professional development

Along with other District staff, I attended the MAWD Annual Conference and Trade Show. I participated in a panel discussion about managing an effective CAC.

I am also beginning my two-year term as the Treasurer-elect to the Board of the Minnesota Naturalists' Association (MNA). There I will manage the budget, incomes, and expenditures for MNA. This experience will help enhance my skills for the NMCWD, especially in terms of budgeting and CAC administration.

Meetings

December 4	Met with Edina Water Resource Coordinator
December 9	Met with CAC member to discuss meeting presentation
December 17	Attended recap meeting of the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative

Volunteers

The CAC will meet on December 11th. To date, 2 CAC members have chosen not to be reappointed in 2020.

Upcoming Events

Early January tbd	Lake Smetana Community Meeting 12-1 PM Cigna, Eden Prairie
January 28, 2020	Smart Salting Parking Lot & Sidewalks 9AM-2PM Discovery Point