

**To:** Shingle Creek/West Mississippi WMO Commissioners

**From:** Ed Matthiesen, P.E.  
Diane Spector

**Date:** August 9, 2021

**Subject:** Education and Outreach Update

**Recommended  
Commission Action**

Each Commission should adopt the revised WMWA Education and Outreach Plan.

The West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) met on August 9, with the two primary topics of discussion: final edits to the revised Education and Outreach Plan, and education and outreach items in the new NPDES General Permit.

***Education and Outreach Plan.*** WMWA adopted its first Education and Outreach Plan in 2010 and updated it in 2015. Each revision reflected the changing scope and focus of WMWA as it matured and as cities' needs changed. In your agenda packet is the proposed revised Education and Outreach Plan, that now focuses on four key activities for WMWA: facilitating sharing of information and materials; developing and disseminating coordinated messaging; actively providing education and outreach via Watershed PREP; and searching and attempting to acquire alternate sources of funding to supplement Commission contributions.

The following is an overview of the major revisions in the proposed 2021 Plan:

- Added an equity statement affirming the group's commitment to environmental justice for all and outreach to historically underrepresented groups.
- Revised the general educational goals for non-single family property owners and managers to focus solely on providing information and guidance on appropriate BMPs.
- Removed educational goals for developers as cities were seen as being the most appropriate points of contact with these stakeholders.
- Removed educational goals for training city staff, as those are the responsibility of the cities.
- Removed educational goals for agricultural property owners and operators as Hennepin County staff have taken on that role acting as the county Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Added a key educational goal for all the stakeholders to "understand the relationship between climate and water quality and water quantity."
- Revised the plan to replace references to the Hennepin County website with the WMWA website.
- Eliminated Measuring and Monitoring Public Awareness as a major task. One of WMWA's first activities was sponsoring a professional opinion poll in the four watersheds regarding knowledge and behaviors. WMWA does not expect to repeat that poll due to cost but will build measuring and evaluating into individual activities.
- Strengthened the Communication and Information Sharing activity to incorporate the website and social media.

- Eliminate the Develop and Coordinate Regional or Countywide Activates task. Early on WMWA had sponsored a series of workshops for broader participation but found it to be an inefficient use of time and resources. The group will focus on spreading information about existing activities sponsored by other groups.

***NPDES Education and Outreach.***

Each of the four WMOs has authorized \$1,000 of their WMWA special projects budget to be allocated to updating and printing materials specifically to meet the education and outreach requirements of the new NPDES General Permit. The WMWA steering committee discussed general messaging, and small groups will take on rewriting certain brochures/flyers. Once the group agrees on text a graphic designer will update the design with a common theme. Written materials to be updated include:

Pdfs of these items can be found at: <http://www.westmetrowateralliance.org/city-resources.html>

- Commercial Snow and Ice Brochure
- Residential Snow and Ice Brochure
- Salt Envelop Stuffer
- Pet Waste and Water Pollution Flier EP

Not on the WMWA website is:

- Water Softeners and the Environment (from the City of Eden Prairie)

***Next Meeting.***

The next WMWA meeting will be held on September 14, 2021. It may be in-person or virtual; that has yet to be determined.

**To:** Elm Creek WMO Commissioners  
**From:** Ross Mullen, P.E.  
**Date:** August 6, 2021  
**Subject:** Three Rivers Park Reserve District Hassen Dog Park Stairs

**Recommended  
Commission Action**

Information.

### **General Updates**

Three Rivers Park District is considering constructing a 15' long by 3' wide helical pile supported staircase to provide access to the Crow River in the Crow-Hassan off-leash dog park. The stairs will provide a safe access over an existing foot path that is steep and is covered in tree roots. A photograph of the foot path over the bank is shown below as well as the proposed Glulam stairs. The construction of these stairs will reduce erosion near the Crow River caused by foot traffic over the bank, which is limiting the growth of vegetation that reinforces the bank resulting in significant erosion. Elm Creek watershed staff visited the site of the proposed stairs on July 1, 2021.

Under Elm Creek WMC's rules, construction of the proposed stairs in the sand bar area would be classified as a "*land disturbing activity*" adjacent to the Crow River, and therefore would trigger watershed rules D, E, I and possibly F. Based on the limited site design, I recommend to the Commission that the rules be waived due to the limited impact as explained below.

### **Rules D and E**

The proposed alteration would require a negligible amount of site disturbance and includes no new impervious surfaces. Therefore, construction of BMP's to meet the Commission's rate controls, water quality controls, and volume controls is not applicable. Similarly, erosion and sediment controls for the plan are not necessary as construction/placement of these erosion control devices will create more disturbance than the project itself. The proposed helical piles will ensure that existing root wads remain in-place resulting in reduced erosion.

### **Rule F**

Staff have discussed the placement of riprap around the stairs to locally reduce the velocity and limit scour around the stairs. Because the existing foot path has resulted in erosion of the site, the placement of a small amount of riprap to restore the bank is not considered floodplain fill (as it is not reducing the conveyance of the Crow River).

### **Rule I**

Pursuant to Rule I.5.g.i, an unimproved access strip through the buffer less than 20 feet wide, is allowed for recreational access to the watercourse.



Photograph of Proposed Stair Location Over Existing Foot Path in Crow-Hassan Dog Park

