

To: Shingle Creek/West Mississippi/Elm Creek WMO Commissioners
From: Diane Spector
Date: May 9, 2023
Subject: Education and Outreach Update

**Recommended
Commission Action**

For information.

The West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) met on May 9 for its regular monthly meeting.

Education and Outreach Coordinator

Some of the WMWA representatives assisted Hennepin County in the interview process for the shared Education and Outreach Coordinator. An offer has been extended and accepted, and the new coordinator plans to start June 5. The first month or so will be mainly learning and networking, but we will have the new person attend one of the Commission meetings in the next few months.

Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI)

The grant supporting development of the various chloride management tools by the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) ran out at the end of 2022, and that specific work is complete. The representatives of the 11 Hennepin County watersheds and the several cities and agencies that participated were interested in continuing to meet to share information and further roll out the Low Salt No Salt campaign. The WMWA group agreed that facilitating additional meetings, perhaps quarterly, would be an appropriate task for the new Education and Outreach Coordinator. The Steering Committee will plan for one to two meetings prior to the snow and ice season.

Watershed PREP

Jessica, the PREP educator, is winding down classroom lessons for the spring semester, with several schools scheduled for the last few weeks of the school year. She has also worked with some middle schools to offer the Watershed Game (see [The Watershed Game | Minnesota Sea Grant \(umn.edu\)](https://www.umn.edu/sea-grant/watershed-game)), a fun and hands-on large-format board game about pollution prevention, best management practices, plans, and policies to decrease water pollution while balancing financial resources. She will also be attending several outreach events this summer, so if there is an event or festival with tabling or hands-on opportunities, contact Amy at JASS to find about the educators' availability (amy@jass.biz).

Some of the MPRB naturalists based at the North Mississippi Regional Park Kroening Nature Center observed one of Jessica's classroom lessons and are interested in learning more about how they can integrate learning about watersheds into the programming at Kroening.