**2019 Education and Outreach – MASTER LIST**

1. **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

**Audience:** General Public, Urban and Rural Landowners, Youth

**Program Goals:**

1. Educate the public about basic water ecology, watershed management, and the work of EMWREP partners.
2. Share information about local water issues, including nonpoint source water pollution, groundwater conservation, and aquatic invasive species.
3. Build partnerships with state and local government, non-profit organizations, and community groups.
4. Engage citizen volunteers to help conduct education and participate in stewardship projects.
5. Motivate urban and rural landowners to adopt behaviors that protect water resources.
6. Train and assist urban and rural residents to complete projects on their land that reduce runoff pollution, conserve groundwater, and help to restore natural hydrology.

**Activities planned for 2019**

1. Conduct Blue Thumb workshops and family events
   1. Planting for clean water workshops (5)
      1. Wyoming Area Public Library - Thursday, April 4th, 6-7:30pm
      2. Cottage Grove City Hall - Thursday, April 11th, 6-7:30pm
      3. Hugo City Hall (wetland focus) - Thursday, April 25th, 6-7:30pm
      4. Oakdale Discovery Center (wetland focus) - Thursday, May 23rd, 6-7:30pm
      5. Sally Manzara Nature Center – Lake Elmo (wetland focus) - Thursday, May 16th, 6-7:30pm
      6. March 2019 update: All workshops are scheduled and promotions are underway
   2. Outdoor events (6) – June/July
      1. Family-friendly wetland hikes (2)
         1. Schuneman Marsh Wildlife Preserve – Grant
            1. Thursday, May 16, 6-7:30pm
         2. Tamarack Nature Preserve – Woodbury
            1. Thursday, May 30th, 6 – 7:30
      2. Family-friendly nature events (2)
         1. Edgewater Park, Colby Lake – Woodbury, June 26, 6:30-7:30pm
         2. The Lakes Senior Living, Long Lake – Stillwater, July 10, 6-7pm
         3. Highlands Park - Cottage Grove, July 17, 6:30-7:30pm
      3. March 2019 update: All events are scheduled and promotions are underway.
   3. March 2019 update: A flyer with workshops and events was included in the WCD newsletter, mailed to 5500 homes. Additional promotions are happening through Facebook advertising and articles in city newsletters.
2. Raingarden and BMP maintenance support
   1. Maintenance reminder calendar
      1. March 2019 update:
         1. Lauren Haydon has created a virtual BMP maintenance calendar that can be added to a Google or Outlook calendar. Landowners with raingardens and native plantings will be able to download this calendar to receive monthly reminders when common maintenance activities should happen (ie. cleaning inlets or weeding). [www.mnwcd.org/maintenance-guide](http://www.mnwcd.org/maintenance-guide)
         2. We have created the following resources for raingarden maintenance:
            1. [Raingarden maintenance check-list](https://mnwcd.squarespace.com/s/Raingardenmaintenancechecklist.pdf)
            2. [Maintenance guide book - detailed](https://mnwcd.squarespace.com/s/OM_Raingarden.pdf)
            3. [Raingarden maintenance brochure](https://mnwcd.squarespace.com/s/raingardens-maintenance-2015-small-x8k8.pdf)
            4. [Most common raingarden weeds](https://mnwcd.squarespace.com/s/Most-Common-Raingarden-Weeds.pdf)
            5. [MN Extension - Is this plant a weed?](https://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/weed/)
   2. EMWREP will work with EOR to plan a raingarden maintenance training for Marine on St. Croix
   3. Adopt-a-Raingarden
      1. Continue to promote the program in Stillwater, especially in the Oak Glen neighborhood
      2. Add 10-12 raingardens in Oak Park Heights to the website for people to adopt.
         1. Angie will get list of landowners from Mike Isensee and will send a letter.
      3. \*\* March 2019 update: Currently about 50 of the 120 available raingardens in Stillwater have been adopted. Cameron has met with the volunteers and they have instructions and materials. Most don’t want signs for their gardens.
      4. Work with Lily Lake Assoc. and Sustainable Stillwater to plan a spring clean-up event, similar to last year.
         1. \*\* March 2019 update: Clean-up event will be held May 4, 9am-noon
         2. Two sites for volunteers to meet: Washington and Staples Parks
         3. Ask city to pick up the compost bags after the event
         4. We need to buy new, better-quality, compost bags
   4. Maybe: Reach out to cost-share recipients in CLFLWD and ask them how their projects are doing.
   5. Planning ahead: EMWREP will send a survey to BMP project participants in 2020 (previous surveys were sent in 2010 and 2015)

1. Volunteer engagement
   1. Utilize Master Water Stewards (MWS), Master Gardeners, and AIS Detectors for education support at workshops and community events
      1. March 3 update: Master Water Stewards
         1. Eight stewards certified in Nov. 2018 are now volunteering.
         2. Three new stewards are in-training
         3. An additional “mini” session will be held this fall. In-person trainings will be on Monday, Sept. 16, 5:30-8:30pm and Saturday, Oct. 5, 9am-3pm.
         4. EMWREP will continue to provide on-going training for newly certified Master Water Stewards
      2. March 3 update: AIS Detectors: There are currently 9 trained AIS Detectors in Washington County. In March, postcards were mailed to homeowners on Long (Stillwater, Lily, Square, and Big Marine Lakes to recruit additional volunteers. In-person trainings will be held in May and June.
   2. Continue to work with local lake associations.
      1. Plan 1-2 networking events
      2. Continue sending e-newsletter
   3. Maybe: Organize a networking event for CACs from area watershed districts
2. Media and communications
   1. Continue sending articles to local newspapers
   2. Continue to deliver information through mailings and city, county, watershed and WCD newsletters
      1. Angie, Lauren, Cameron will help to develop the BCWD newsletter
      2. Angie will help Mike to write an article for MSCWMO city newsletters
      3. Angie will help Mike to write an article for City of Bayport newsletter explaining why the city is no longer mowing the buffer along Perro Creek.
      4. Angie will work with Forest Lake and Wyoming to create utility bill inserts
      5. Angie will promote the “Score your Shore” program in an upcoming news article. The article will also be shared with lake associations to deliver to their members
      6. EMWREP staff will coordinate with Jessica Lindemyer to develop the CMSCWD newsletter
3. Outreach to agricultural and rural landowners
   1. Conduct interviews and send survey to agricultural landowners. Use results to guide future outreach efforts.
      1. \*\*March 2019 update: Angie Hong conducted interviews with 12 farmers in the Lower St. Croix watershed. A survey was sent to 150 farmers in Washington County and 55 in Chisago County (CLFLWD portion). We have received 61 responses so far.
   2. Farmer workshop – Feb. 2, Scandia
      1. Goals: Build relationships with local farmers; gather input for “Lower St. Croix One Watershed, One Plan”; engage farmers and rural landowners in clean water projects
      2. Partners: Washington, Chisago, Isanti SWCDs; NRCS; MN Ag Water Quality Certification program
      3. \*\*Feb 2019 update: We had 33 farmers at the Feb. 2. Jen Kader is transcribing and summarizing input from small group conversations.
   3. Additional outreach planned:
      1. Mary Jo Youngbauer will reach out to farmers who indicated an interest in conservation plans
      2. WCD will map the parcels of people who responded to the survey and look for overlap with priority locations for grant and TMDL/WRAPS work
      3. Maybe: Collaborate with MN Land Trust and a financial advisor to offer an “Estate Planning” workshop.
4. Finish MS4 Toolkit & begin using new materials
   1. MPCA has provided $50,000 in funding to create a new on-line toolkit. So far we have catalogued existing materials and conducted a survey and focus group to assess new educational materials needed.
   2. We will be working with contractors to create $30,000 in new materials, such a videos, photography, and print materials. Many will be translated into Spanish. Somali and Hmong.
5. Implement [Adopt-a-Drain](https://www.adopt-a-drain.org/) in in EMWREP cities - focus on key neighborhoods
6. Angie will coordinate with Hamline University and EMWREP partners to develop a plan for implementing this program locally.
7. Potential pilot communities include:
   * Forest Lake: Streets identified as Tier 1 and 2 in street sweeping study
     + Jessica is working with Forest Lake city staff to design an educational wrap that will be on the new street sweeper. It could say “Adopt-a-Drain” too.
   * Stillwater: Lily Lake neighborhoods
   * Cottage Grove: pair with storm drain stenciling efforts
8. March 2019 update: Website is live – [www.adopt-a-drain.org](http://www.adopt-a-drain.org)
9. Student and youth education
   1. Lauren will conduct groundwater and watershed education in partnership with Washington County and City of Woodbury
   2. Angie will coordinate with SWWD and Carpenter Nature Center to develop school programming for 2020
   3. Angie and Lauren will provide education support for special events and youth activities, including Children’s Water Festival and Cottage Grove Safety Camp
10. **OUTREACH SUPPORT FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

**Audience:** General Public, Urban and Rural Landowners

**Program Goals:**

1. Publicize partner programs and projects.
2. Promote BMP (Best Management Practices) and stewardship grant programs
3. Engage community members and other stakeholders to help meet water quality goals identified through local water plans, TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) studies, WRAP (Water Restoration and Protection) strategies, and other regulatory programs.
4. Engage public and private land owners to complete activities funded through watershed CIP, and state and federal grants.

**Activities planned for 2019**

**BCWD**

1. Lauren will coordinate with BCWD CAC on new homeowner packet she is developing. The CAC would like to deliver packets to new homeowners on Long Lake.
2. BCWD CAC has the following events planned that need support from EMWREP:
   1. Sept 14 – Brown’s Creek Park event
   2. Buckthorn pull on Long Lk – late October
   3. \*\* Feb. 2019 update: EMWREP has joined Community Thread and will attend a volunteer management training on Feb. 20. Affiliates can promote volunteer opportunities through the organization’s website and email list.

**CLFLWD**

1. Maybe: Send mailing and door-knock shoreline landowners identified as priority locations in the Forest Lake subwatershed analysis
   1. Share the “Score your Shore tool”
   2. This could be a way to gauge interest for shoreline projects to be completed in 2020

**CMSCWD**

1. Direct mailing to “6 lakes TMDL” properties with direct drainage
   1. Goal: Inform landowners about the project. Request site visits to identify potential projects for future grant funding.
2. Direct outreach to property owners who are riparian to or in the direct-drainage of St. Croix River and lakes in CMSCWD (excluding 6 lakes TMDL)
   1. Ag landowners: Send survey to property owners in CMSCWD that have not already received it
   2. Non-ag landowners: Promote site visits and BMP cost-share projects
      * EMWREP staff will adjust the size of the mailing list as needed
3. Schedule a follow-up gathering with Goose Lake landowners
   1. Share projects completed since 2014 and any water quality trends

**MSCWMO**

1. Send targeted mailing to landowners on St. Croix bluffland to promote site visits and identify potential projects
   * EMWREP will coordinate with St. Croix River Association on this

**RWMWD**

* Outreach to neighborhoods for Oakdale, Woodbury events
* Outreach regarding Carver Lk projects

**SWWD**

1. Work with SWWD staff to reach out to bluffland owners in Newport.
   * Meeting – May 7, 6-7:30pm

**VBWD**

* Outreach to neighborhoods for Oakdale, Lake Elmo events

1. **PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS FOR BUSINESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Audience:** Water resource professionals, municipal staff, consultants and contractors, local elected and appointed officials, business owners, realtors, lawn care providers, winter maintenance providers

**Program Goals:**

1. Provide technical training to help EMWREP cities meet MS4 Permit requirements and reduce stormwater pollution.
2. Work in partnership with University of Minnesota to provide high-quality professional education at a local level.
3. Provide local decision makers (city councils, planning commissions, watershed boards, county commissioners, etc.) with information and training needed to implement policies, programs, and practices that protect and restore water resources.
4. Offer professional trainings for area business owners, realtors, lawn care providers, and winter maintenance contractors to share information about local water issues and encourage business practices that protect surface and groundwater resources.

**Activities planned for 2019**

1. Continue working with realtors
   1. Host 1-2 workshops
   2. Send “Thank You” notes to realtors in CLFLWD area who attended workshops in 2017 and 2018
2. Host 2-3 turf and winter maintenance workshops
   1. Partner with Fortin Consulting to provide professional training for city and county crews
   2. Explore the possibility of a workshop for homeowners
3. Coordinate with University of MN on certification program for builders and developers
   1. Work with CLFLWD staff and lake associations to maintain a list of trained or certified professionals for local residents to hire