

University of Minnesota Extension

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To: Watershed Administrators and Education Coordinators
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Carver Water Management Organization
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District
tbd Bassett Creek, Elm Creek, Shingle Creek, and West Mississippi

From: John Bilotta, Minnesota Northland NEMO Program Leader
Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Sea Grant

Over the past several months, the professional education staff from your organization have met with me to identify the priority needs of NEMO programming of your watershed: *nonpoint education for municipal officials*. Together we have designed a NEMO program plan for 2014 for four specific watersheds that have overlapping municipal boundaries. The plan calls for a series of specific workshops spread out throughout the year specifically designed to meet the unique needs and high priorities identified by various watershed and municipal stormwater plans and expressed as needs by local leaders. The specifics of this plan are included as a separate document.

NEMO - *Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials* provides educational and skill building programming to elected and appointed officials and community leaders that increases their knowledge about the connection of land use and management decisions to water quality and natural resources. NEMO provides non-regulatory, researched-based education that emphasizes **natural resources based planning**, application of **low impact best management practices (BMPs)**, and **adoption or revision of policies** that collectively supportive community desires and needs to maintain and improve clean water resources and minimize impact.

At this time I would ask that you review the NEMO program plan and request your continued financial support to the program as you have done in years past. This year we have chosen to use the Extension Service Agreements as a way to expedite this contract work rather than working through Minnesota BWSR as we have done with you in years past. Also, I will also be seeking the support of a few additional smaller watershed units within the same region in the coming weeks (Basset Creek, Elm Creek, Shingle Creek, and West Mississippi) however we will proceed with this plan regardless.

Thank you to you and your organizations for partnering with us for these high priority NEMO programs.

Minnesota Northland NEMO Program

2014 WEST METRO REGION WATERSHEDS NEMO PLAN

The NEMO program in partnership with watershed organizations in the west metro region will design and deliver specific workshops and programs that will provide educational and skill building programming to elected and appointed officials and community leaders that increases their knowledge about the connection of land use and management decisions to water quality and natural resources. NEMO will provide non-regulatory, researched-based education that emphasizes natural resources based planning, application of low impact best management practices (BMPs), and adoption or revision of policies that collectively supportive community desires and needs to maintain and improve clean water resources and minimize impact.



WEST METRO WATERSHED PARTNERS INCLUDED IN THIS NEMO WORK PLAN:

- *Minnehaha Creek Watershed District*
- *Nine Mile Creek Watershed District*
- *Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District*
- *Carver Water Management Organization*
- *(not confirmed) Elm Creek, West Mississippi, Shingle Creek, Bassett Creek*

NEMO will work in partnership with watershed education staff and other key individuals to provide the following specific programs in 2014.

NEMO PROGRAM PRIORITIES & DELIVERABLES

1. (2) NEMO 101 workshops – Linking Land Use to Clean Water Target: May

Workshops will focus on introductory land use and land management principals and how they influence water quality and quantity, nonpoint source pollution, tools in the toolbox for both protection & restoration, rules & requirements 101, the role of local municipal leaders, resources including technical, financial, training, and education. Workshops may include a capstone or attractive keynote presentation. (2) locations will be considered: Edina (east, May 7th or 8th) and Minnetonka (west, May 13th).

2. NEMO Workshop-on-the-water Target: Mid July

A NEMO workshop on Lake Minnetonka that focuses on bringing elected and appointed officials and community leaders out on a representative water resource to build their knowledge and provide skills that will assist them in making informed decisions for water resource protection & restoration. This is a very effective NEMO delivery method that has been used several times focused on training on-the-water for leaders. Although the program occurs on Lake Minnetonka, all cities within the participating watersheds will be invited and the content will be applicable to local community lakes and streams. *(Potential target dates include July 21-24, 23, & 28)*

3. NEMO Workshop: Lessons Across the Landscape Target: September

This NEMO workshop will continue building knowledge and increasing skills through an interactive, bus-tour program that will focus on bringing local leaders to project, issue, and opportunity locations where content will focus on planning, practices, and policy tools and resources used for addressing water issues in the community. Locations to be determined but will include example and representative situations within the partner watersheds where lessons learned will be valuable to any and all communities and leaders who participate.

4. Additional Deliverables & Support

The NEMO Program (Minnesota Extension & Sea Grant) will also provide additional programs, resources, and support for these workshops, for the local leaders and participants, and for the watershed organizations and municipal staff. Some of these additional deliverables will include:

- **2014 Clean Water Summit** – A day-long conference at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum focusing on green infrastructure plans, practices and policies for clean water (i.e. Low Impact Development). The 2014 CWS theme and content is already being constructed; it will focus on the economics and cost-benefits of LID.
- Program support to the partner watershed education professionals (i.e. education coordinators) providing consultation, co-delivery support, and resources for individual city NEMO presentations, workshops, and resources. Assist in the design, delivery, and evaluation efforts of other water-related education efforts specifically focused on local leaders.
- Provide resources and tools for increasing knowledge and skills of local leaders such as the Watershed Game and support of the NEMO education collaboration network and website.

Brief Background:

Minnesota Extension and Sea Grant NEMO Program leaders have been working with staff from these watersheds for several months now to identify specific needs and effective programs. Collectively, we have developed this regional approach to address the education needs for the watershed, the cities, and their elected and appointed leaders. We believe this approach will result in stronger programming, address priority needs many have addressed, bring multiple resources to the region, and provide for cross-pollination of ideas, effective strategies, and successes.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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