A little bit about me

• District Administrator of a watershed district
  • LGU – protect, restore and manage water resources
• Started working on salt since 2008!
Protect, Manage and Restore

And Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is right next door
Roads Practitioners

Focus: Cities, Counties, MNDOT
What about property owners?
Homeowners!

Help keep Nine Mile Creek on a low salt diet.

All around the Twin Cities our lakes and creeks are becoming too salty from the de-icing of our driveways and sidewalks in the winter. In the land of 10,000 freshwater lakes, the water quality on Nine Mile Creek is important to us all.

- Presentations
- Brochures
- Newsletter
Parking and Sidewalks Trainings
Winter Parking Lot and Sidewalk Maintenance

Claire Bleser
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
January 4th
Back to the drawing board
School focused parking lot and sidewalk training
Winter Best Management Practices
Schools!
Realtor Workshop

• Communication
• Take the opportunity to ask questions
• Connections
Parking Lot and Sidewalks Training

• Deepen conversations
INTERVIEWs with private applicators
Liability

“You tend to kind of make some decisions to cover your butt, rather than what’s right at the moment.”
“When you look at what's going on, it's not healthy for our environment. And I think that people, if I were to make a suggestion it would be, it's not the businesses, it's not the salt contractors, it's the people that work there that need to be educated”
“They want it. They expect it [...] the clients don't care how much they put down as long as they don't get sued.”

“Literally, the truck will be leaving their parking lot and they will call and say they need more. And I'll be like, ‘no, just wait.’ And they're like, ‘no, we want another.’ And they don't want just a little, they want a whole truckload.”
Financial motivations

On salt reduction:

“Not only do you have the environmental savings, but you will save money”

“We’re always looking for reductions because it saves us money and it just cuts down on dead zone in the water and all that stuff.”

On the bottom line:

“[Salt application] is actually a very profitable portion of it. It's a double-edged sword.”

“We're kind of torn between either going and doing it and making the money, or telling the client like, ‘hey, it's 15 degrees below zero, more salt isn't going to do anything.’”
MNLA Northern Green

TARGET AUDIENCE:

15% of attendants identified as snow and ice management

From Amy Bakkum, MN Green Corps
What do you wish the public understood better?

- How salt works
- How to walk and drive safely in winter weather
- The environmental impacts of salt (Infrastructure, water quality, etc)
- What to expect of winter maintenance

Used with permission from Amy Bakkum, MN Green Corps
How Salt Works

Conversations revolved around situations where salt does not work effectively yet clients demand more salt

• “They tell me to put salt and sand down. I don’t want to put salt and sand down”
• “Clients need to listen to their contractors’ advice”

Used with permission from Amy Bakkum, MN Green Corps
How to walk and drive safely in winter weather

Conversations revolved around personal responsibility including wearing proper footwear and slowing down on the road.

- “I’m from Canada. We require winter tires on December 1st. It’s like seatbelts, it’s going to save your life. You can educate but can you enforce behavior changes? We need to legislate and regulate”

Used with permission from Amy Bakkum, MN Green Corps
The environmental impacts of salt (Infrastructure, water quality, etc)

Conversations focused on water quality, in particular the negative impacts to fish populations and concerns about drinking water. (Lack of conversation around sod replacement and damage to sidewalks)

- “I want to see legislation for anything BUT salt”
- “More landscapers should be doing less grass and more natives”

Used with permission from Amy Bakkum, MN Green Corps
What to expect of winter maintenance

Conversations covered a wide range of topics, though most centered around “realistic” expectations of winter maintenance. When prompted with the survey question, some gave quick answers:

“Application rates!”
“How the contract works!”

Others spoke about the overly high standards they feel are currently in place.

“Bare pavement is impossible.”

Used with permission from Amy Bakkum, MN Green Corps
The Results

- How Salt Works: 20
- How to Walk and Drive Safely in Winter Weather: 92
- The Environmental Impacts of Salt: 68
- What to Expect of Winter Maintenance: 84

Used with permission from Amy Bakkum, MN Green Corps
The importance of bringing property managers in!

Build your network
RPBCWD and NMCWD require certification when triggering stormwater rules
Lessons learned

• Listen
• Engage in conversation
• Learn industry standards
• Keep the conversation going
• Create, adjust try again
• FOOD!
Next Trainings are...

• [https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/smart-salting-training-calendar](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/smart-salting-training-calendar)  • Online August 26 and 28th
Questions?