

Stormwater Comprehensive Workgroup Notes – 4/19/05

In Attendance:

1. Jolee Belzung – City of Ankeny
2. Allen Bradley – University of Iowa
3. Bill Ehm – IDNR
4. Patti Cale-Finnegan - IDNR
5. Joe Griffin - IDNR
6. Mark Masteller - IDOT
7. Tina Mowry – Growing Green Communities
8. Wayne Petersen - NRCS
9. Deb Ryun – Conservation Districts of Iowa
10. Pat Sauer – IAMU
11. Deb Schiel-Larson – City of Johnston
12. Flora Schmidt – Home Builders Assoc. of Iowa
13. Jennifer Welch - URBAN

Introductions:

Pat Sauer – we have some new faces: Patti Cale-Finnegan, IDNR (State Revolving Fund); Jolee Belzung, City of Ankeny (Representing APWA); Deb Schiel-Larson, City of Johnston and Tina Mowry (Growing Green Communities). Tina – GGC’s purpose is to build coalitions at the city level. Currently we’re working on the Hwy 65/5 group, Watershed University, illegal dumping, development & SW management. We’ve been around since July 2004.

Iowa Stormwater Conference 2005 Update:

The conference was a 1 & ½ day event. IDNR, Jeff Vonk & Jim Gulliford, among many others, spoke. Broad approach to SW management, to accommodate many groups’ needs. Joe Deal (Chicago Mayor’s Office, Green Roof Project) and other great speakers, such as Dwayne Stenlund, the Jay Leno of Erosion & Sediment Control.

Where do we want to go with this next year?

Comments, Questions & Discussion on SW Conference:

Bill Ehm – content was great. Mike Isensee very good (talked about digital inspections & arrangement with soil & water conservation districts).

Tina – was it only focused on stormwater management? Pat – the term “stormwater” is all encompassing – it could be urban water quality too. Not limited to urban environments though. Tina – the e-factor workshop pulled in a different audience, wish they could have gotten info from the conference. Elected officials at e-factor only wanted to sit for 35-45 minutes at a time so we made it short.

Pat - do we want separate sessions for separate groups? Home builders, Engineers, Landscapers, etc. – maybe they could all sponsor a session. Also, regional groups and meetings. Very few builders were at the conference, unfortunately.

Flora Schmidt – timing was lousy for developers and builders. We met with Grassley and EPA, told them we needed more education so the EPA gave us a choice of two dates – it all happened so quickly and it turned out to be in conflict with SW conference. Pat – we'll try to hold the conference during the first week of February next year.

Deb Ryun – has 9 regions, do they all get the same info at these workshops? Flora Schmidt-We're getting one message from DNR (we'll work with you) and a different one from the EPA (we'll fine you). Joe Griffin - you'll always get different info between those two groups.

Tina - Keep conceptual and regulation info separate – audiences more receptive.

Bill – SUDAS update was focused on technical rather than conceptual.

Jennifer Welch – break down into more events targeted specifically to each group.

Patti – is SW conference more for networking rather than education?

Pat – we'll explore further, regional meetings, having certain organizations sponsor meetings.

Wayne Petersen (to Flora) – how many people attended Cedar Rapids & West Des Moines Workshops? Flora -125+ people.

Tina – we're working with other groups who are also putting on seminars (for the same group we want – the architects) to see if we can all participate in same seminar. Not so many meetings being given by different groups. Get cities to encourage groups to attend.

Deb Schiel-Larson (to Pat) – pull together groups in a meeting but provide different tracks. The conference was excellent. Networking is a big thing at meetings like that, there's much more than just the content. Disappointed that HBA had separate meeting.

Flora - Des Moines HBA wants to keep working with builders and developers. Better chance of getting HBA if you do regional workshops.

Regions to consider are – Sioux City, Iowa City, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids...others. Pat - we have a hard time pulling in Sioux City. Sounds like east coast, great lakes, central area, Des Moines, Ames, quad cities, Waterloo/Cedar Falls are hot sites.

Pat – we need to network on knowing what other groups are doing so we don't replicate meetings. Scott – how do we coordinate all these efforts?

Deb Ryun – at some of the meetings I attend they give CDs with all info, really makes a difference. Tina agrees – need to get this info available after the meetings. Put on website. Pat – people need to send me their presentations ahead of time so we can print handouts. Or we could sell the proceedings and/or mail out, but need to include postage charge in workshop charge. Copy right issues handled by PDF?

State Revolving Fund:

Patti Cale-Finnegan – this is for stormwater management funding – low interest loan fund (see SRF handout) used to be only for wastewater. In 2002 state legislature passed law to use for non-point source programs. 4 new programs created – 1 most applicable is the general non-point source plan (handed out brochures) specific for urban sw management plans. MS4 cities go thru traditional clean water SRF. Non-MS4 cities - apply to DNR, take to local participating lender, we put money in bank at 3%. We've eliminated all those federal requirements to get the loan.

Pat – so this is applicable to any non-MS4 entity also? Patti - yes. Application is on our website, www.iowasrf.com. Other non-point source programs are for Ag, Livestock, On-site Septic Programs. We have \$146 million in the fund. Scott is using SRF for sewer separation. Pat – have private groups used the fund? Patti – yes, there's a museum in Okoboji doing permeable paving for parking lot. It's the lender's responsibility to approve the final loan.

Patty – also consider a concept called Sponsorship – if a city is doing a traditional waste water or stormwater loan, a non-profit can attach a project. Storm Lake is an example. If city is willing to sponsor a project, the non-profit can benefit from the use of the city's interest so the NP's interest is at zero %. At this point the project needs to be linked with city sponsorship, but may change in future if a city is doing something, non-profit may be able to use zero interest. Has to be a written agreement between city and non-profit – must be a partnership that comes to us (at this point).

Home Builders Association Update:

Flora – Handouts from EPA (talks about their meetings – Chuck was going to speak on this but not here). We were in DC last week to lobby that EPA regulations are detrimental to our industry because of the fines – we need notice and opportunity to repair situation – not worth the fines that are being given. If violations severe, then yes, fines will fit, but not for the little things – oversights. We're hearing one thing from DNR and completely different message from EPA (“Keep a clean site and we're less likely to visit”).

Discussion on EPA Inspections:

Joe Griffin – we agree with EPA to keep a clean site and less likely to visit. HBA can anticipate after DNR works with an entity long enough and compliance has not been met, DNR will also do fines (not as big as EPA, though).

Flora – still frustrating that we seem to be in compliance with city and DNR but then EPA comes in and fines. Fees associated with our industry (building permits, etc.) will continue to go up to fund these inspections.

Deb Schiel-Larson – difference between residential and commercial – we’re actively asking developers/builders what is reasonable, but not getting an answer (for those less than an acre). We need to find a fair middle ground. 50 lots, different developers, have sketch to show minimum expectations.

Flora (to Deb) – talk to the Des Moines Developer’s Council (25 developers). Deb - we’re asking developers as they come in for permits and not getting answers.

Joe – are cities creating standards to hold the developers to? Tina - seems none of the cities are willing to do this. Is there coordination between cities – the Model Ordinance was supposed to assist in this. Cities afraid of getting sued by developers for being arbitrary and capricious.

Jennifer – MN is an example of using standard DNR forms. In Iowa the DNR doesn’t use the same form in every area – can we come up with a standard form? Joe – we’re discussing this. Pat - can we help come up with one for the cities to use? We need it for the smaller sites, that’s critical. We’ll give these forms to Flora – we’ll work with you to put these forms together.

Mark Masteller (to Deb Schiel-Larson) - don’t give open-ended question to developers – give specifics, tell them what you expect them to do.

Pat – We need for two levels. 1 for individual lots, 2 for larger sites

Pat (to Joe) - can we look at a draft? Joe will get her the forms they use now. Why couldn’t all DNR use same form? Joe, that’s just the way it is. Pat – then let’s get together with cities and reps from home builders and developers, then send to EPA, region 7, and have them comment on. Flora and Joe don’t think this will deter EPA from doing inspections. Pat will send draft of standard inspection form to Flora, Jolee, Deb, Mark (everyone except Wayne).

SUDAS Update:

Mark – Erosion & Sediment control is trudging on, little left to finalize (on the design side) then we’ll get into specifications. Water quality side (Jennifer putting together design standards), not as far along as E&S, looking at how to put system in place to

manage volumes of water, design guidelines). Water quality is more difficult than E&S (Wayne).

Flora – what are SUDAS standards for? Mark – all municipalities when they build and also private developers. Cities will adopt standards as their own so it's a statewide standard. But developer is going to have to comply with them too. SW quality part of SUDAS impacts developers – need to address these. Pat - we're working on developing a Model Ordinance for this now. All this is part of the clean water act. Not mandatory for cities to adopt, but why wouldn't they want to do SUDAS standards and specs? We could use some representation from developers (that's the purpose of the district level review). Flora – I want to help get a voice at the table on the policy group or at the sub-committee level. Technical level is too technical – which portion relates directly to us? Joe - these are not regulations that home builders have to abide by necessarily, but if they put in a silt fence, it has to be to SUDAS standards. Flora - so we only need to look at certain parts? Wayne – what you need should come from designers and planners.

Pat - we have SUDAS training, your membership needs to know what that's about. These standards will change the way you do things. Based on storm water events. Should be to Flora's benefit to downsize the structure. Cities will pass an ordinance for SW quality.

IDNR Update:

Bill Ehm – site demonstration dollars = \$248 thousand. Money is now in Kansas City, we need to apply for it. We will use it for education, survey work, SW demo sites (mostly). SRF would work as a match also, but that's a ways down the road (after survey work). 319 grant proposals were due on Friday (April 15th) - \$425 thousand requested from 5 applications that were for urban only. 1 Ag app requested \$1.2 million. Funds would be available in 2006. However, the Soil & Water Conservation District may fund projects immediately in July/Aug. to get things going. There are multiple fund sources – if it's a good project, we'll figure out how to fund it, may not be 319 right away. Bill visited with Jim Cable who's working on the E&S and stream bank manual – he needs a new assistant, but by end of month most edits should be made. Need photos, please send if have some for him to use.

Model Ordinances Update:

Pat – Construction Site Erosion & Sediment Control Model Ordinance is done and on the website (www.iamu.org / Stormwater / Stormwater Ordinances). Now we're working on the Illicit Discharge Ordinance. Stormwater Quality - Post Construction Conservation Sub-Division – to work on this summer. Pat (to Flora) – find someone to comment on this. Tina - **Jamie Meyers**, owner of Regency Homes may do this. Or **Rick Tollefson**. They are very familiar with conservation design.

Future Events:

2 SWPPP workshops – IAMU on April 25th and Bettendorf on May 24th. Workshop on May 9th at IAMU, “Estimating Sediment Yield & SWPPP Effectiveness at Construction Sites,” also, in the morning of May 9th will be Stormwater Management in Dane County – given by Jeremy Balousek. May 3rd is RUSLE II – speaker to come to IAMU and we’ll see if this is something we want to use as a tool in Iowa. Int’l E&S Assoc., Great Rivers Chapter out of KC is organizing their annual meeting in eastern Iowa, Iowa City / Coralville area in October. Tina - any crossover with Landscape Architects on Oct. 21st? Focus is SW Quality, KC is E&S, some LID component. Mike Kvach to do workshop in Fall on porous pavement. June 17th Loriman has workshop and one in October. Note that we need to know content and timing of these Lorimar workshops (Chuck Becker is involved in these). We should have someone at these workshops to report back.

Pat - Illicit Discharge training - we’ll be organizing a workshop this summer. MS4 cities need to do watershed assessments, we’re working on something to present. Wayne - May 6th, bus tour for low impact development from Spirit lake to St. Paul, comes back that night. Wayne says we can take people from here or can drive self. Contact Wayne. Tina will look into having a bus from this area too, if need be.