

Iowa Stormwater Comprehensive Workgroup

Meeting Minutes 10/4/05

Opening-Introductions Alan -IDNR (New Member), Bill Ehm-DNR, Jennifer Welch-URBAN, Doug Adamson-Landscape Architects, Al Bradley-University of Iowa, Larry Stevens-SUDAS, Flora Schmidt-Homebuilders Association, Mike McMillin-McAninch, Steve Jones-Civil Engineering Iowa State-Stacie Jones, Joe Griffin-IDNR, Jolee Belzung-City of Ankeny, Tina Mowry-Growing Green Communities. Deb Ryun-CDI.

Training Opportunities-(**Pat Sauer**) Urban watershed Conference-Annual meeting for ASLA & APA; Porous Asphalt & Pavement Workshop in Cedar Rapids; International erosion control annual Meeting October 12-14 Iowa City; Stormwater Conference February 7, 2006 (**Jolee**) 2 hour APWA audio program on Porous Pavement (October 20); Possible regional training in November & December Erosion and Sediment Control

Discussion on SWPPP Checkoff for Sediment Yield-(**Mike**) Educational training needed for "Compliance" Chapter 161A pt. 64 (**Bill**) Goes into more detail about "land disturbing activity"-may be required to submit a affidavit to Soil & Water Conservation for them to set allowable soil loss limits. (5 tons per acre.) This says that you are compliant with the rules for sediment control in the county. National Guidelines and state requirements GP-2-goal of 80% reduction. Goal of 0 runoff according to EPA (**Steve**) what are the standards then? EPA Standards are too high (zero sediment leaving the site) (**Pat**) Contracts being made that pass SWPPP responsibility to Homebuilders-not being educated well enough about what all that stands for and what they are getting into when they sign contracts.

IDNR Stake holders Meeting: (**Bill**) Discussed issues of DNR with post construction erosion. General overall approval that compliance visits are good. Confusion regarding SUDAS and the development and design standards. People prefer that stormwater fees be spent within stormwater program even with in the DNR. (**Tina**) How much money has been swept before? (**Bill**) \$450.00 in previous years, this year about \$250,000. (**Pat**) Is there any way to allocate that money to go back into education? (**Bill**) Money is going to other funds-would have to convince legislature to use the fees for educational purposes. (**Tina**) where would money go if it wasn't swept? (**Bill**) Standard way of funding those programs. Try to keep amount of money down (By continuing to spend it) so that it won't get swept.

SUDAS Update: (**Larry**) Design Manual (common urban improvement) Has stormwater quality section (stormwater Quantity) New section with be added (by Steve) about Stormwater QUALITY. Also working on section about construction standards and erosion control manual. More simple then other packets on this sort of information. Scheduled to be completed next year. SUDAS is governed

by non-profit organization-6 committees State wide-300 volunteer engineers working with the SUDAS program. SUDAS booklets are the state standards for Construction erosion control and stormwater standards. (Not mandatory program) Has been adopted by many cities as their standards. Menu design. The cities can create their plan depending upon what is working best for what they have.

Storm water Quality/Post Construction(Steve) Minimum standards apply to all rainfall events. Taking the focus from what happens only during large storms to looking more at what happens during small storms. 11 minimum standards (erosion sediment control; watershed; all inclusive.)

Developers can lower their extra costs by focusing on where they are working. Look at if that city can function well with less impervious surfaces. Can have open System (make large “ditches” in grass areas to let the water absorb) or closed (water runs into pipes and out of the system). Traditional approach deals only with the 5 year storm where as this comprehensive (uniform stormwater design) approach deals with the entire spectrum of all storms from .10 of an inch to a flood. Some discussion on how these rules will be applied to the city. These are recommended design guidelines to help the cities reach stormwater management requirements. Notes bottom of Stormwater Phase II sheet “What is Required” SUDAS Standards help to have consistency during projects since the standards are already placed out.

MEP Maximum Extent Practicable. **(Steve)** Define it by non-structural (development layout) and structural practices (storage infiltration and vegetative practices). Focus largely on 80% reduction of suspended solids goal. Designed to get rid of water not take care of sediment. **(Flora)** Will SUDAS standards be more strict then EPA requirements? **(Steve)** No they are not higher. **(Jolee)** SUDAS is just a list of practices more then requirements. It doesn't say you “have” to do this but SUDAS is a toolbox to help you pick what you use for your situation. **(Mike)** Feels that they are putting SUDAS as a NECESSITY. You say it's a choice but you can't choose to not use SUDAS. Feels it takes out the ability for the engineer to use judgment.

Continued discussion about SUDAS program and its Benefits/setbacks when used by the cities.

(Bill) EPA wants Specifics as far as certain standards to be made up by the cities. SUDAS gives cities/Communities the chance to have consistency as far as standards are concerned to make things easier on the builders and engineers.

Mike, Steve and Bill continue to discuss the 5000 square feet impervious rule in SUDAS.

(Allen) Do standards only kick in when you do pass the 1 acre mark.

SUDAS will kick in even if the space they are using is not going to be made into an impervious area. Revert back to the EPA standards. EPA & DNR still has right to come in and make sure that the thresholds are actually helping with stormwater quality. Will be having cities monitor watersheds.

(Tina) State is not putting any emphasis on agriculture. **(Bill)** Livestock is more often MORE restricted than developers.

(Pat) Regarding Stormwater-As a group what do you see as a need in terms of education, resources and support?

(Stacie) Eliminate Finger pointing as to whose problem it is.

(Tina) Understand that it has to be a process we are patient with because we are trying to make massive change and it's more than just to one group...it's affecting everyone. It's a struggle to make people get a changed perception.

Closing points: (Pat) It's important to address the way that it affects each person/group.

(Jolee) What are some restrictions for the use of the land for someone who is hoping to create a conservation district and what goes into maintenance. Some suggestions are given-Tina has information she will forward to Jolee...Doug suggests having costs added to the land cost.

Stacie discusses ISWEP program.