



Great Rivers chapter



INTERNATIONAL EROSION CONTROL ASSOCIATION

A Newsletter For Members and Friends of the Great Rivers Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association

Fall 2009

NEWSLETTER

13th Annual Conference & Expo on October 27-29

The Great Rivers Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association invites you to come and attend our annual conference and expo!

We are excited to present an outstanding program filled with learning opportunities that will give you the knowledge and expertise you need in an ever-changing industry.

Come see all of the great benefits IECA has to offer. With the increased pressure for stormwater & construction site compliance, you cannot afford to miss this event!

Conference Highlights:

- Certified Inspector of Sediment & Erosion Control Training & Exam
- Informative Sessions Covering Topics Such As:
 - Erosion & Sediment Control for Linear Projects
 - Post-Construction BMPs
 - Stormwater Quality Monitoring
- Vendor's Expo Hall

The conference will be held at the Lenexa Conference Center, 11184 Lackman Road, Lenexa, KS. The Great Rivers Chapter is excited to have this unique and beautiful facility as the site of the Annual Conference! (see bottom of page)

Parking

Parking is available at the Lenexa Conference Center for no charge.

Accommodations

Our host Hotel is Candlewood Suites, 15490 S. Rogers Road, Olathe, KS 66062. Phone number is 913-768-8888. When making your hotel reservations, you must indicate you are attending the International Erosion Control Conference. Our Conference rate is \$64.99 for a suite. There is no room reservation deadline for this conference, but there are a limited number of rooms priced at this rate, so don't delay!



For more information on the specific agenda you can visit our website.

Networking Evenings are planned this year. It's a perfect opportunity to join together with your conference colleagues for some great food & good times! (maps provided at the conference)

Tuesday Night:

Oklahoma Joe's BBQ

Wednesday Night:

Granite City Brewery

If you need a registration form you can find one on page 5 of this newsletter or in the conference flyer on the Great Rivers Chapter website.

www.greatriversieca.org

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President's Message



Tom Wells
Chapter President

***“it astonishes
me how much a
group of
volunteers can
accomplish in a
few short
hours...”***

Over the past several years of my career a definite pattern has formed to the extent that I don't even notice it anymore. For example in the late winter season as we begin wild temperature swings and strange weather phenomena (12" snow one day...and an inch of rain the next), I "just know" what that means- getting geared up for the spring thaw and everything that it includes. It's like that with every season and our fall season is no exception.

It is almost as though when the first kick-off of the new football season and the first plate of mediocre overpriced chicken wings hit my table, my internal alarm clock goes off and I start worrying about and preparing for the end of fall season shut down. As an inspector and, I guess more, as a professional, there is little that is more frustrating to me than doing work that could have been avoided and spending money that should have never been spent. This is a very important time of the year for me. This is the time to make sure that all disturbed portions of the ground that aren't being actively disturbed get seeded and stabilized. I also have to be that much more vigilant on getting any and all repairs completed as soon as possible, since the closer we get to October and November the chances of the ground getting wet and staying wet or freezing and preventing any further work starts to increase greatly. It may seem a little premature as the grass is still green and the leaves, for the most part, haven't even began to change...but I assure you that the next 8 weeks will pass in the blink of an eye. Then we have to have the annual conversation with clients and contractors about the importance of winter preparation in August and September. Just as the clients or contractors don't want to pay for inspections through the winter, guess what? - I don't want to do inspections during the winter! As fun as it may sound walking through the country side (or job site) in two foot of drifted snow, I can assure you that it's not! But that can be largely avoided by following a few simple tips.

- Don't push the time envelope - What time or money you save by rushing to finish or start work before December, I assure you it will be lost in inspection and maintenance costs for the following 4 months.
- Do listen – We all have our specialties and that should be taken seriously. I will never tell a contractor how to manage a site, nor would I tell a client the best way to finance a project. That being said, if you as a client or contractor, are told that something needs to be addressed...well it's not just for good fun (usually) and should be taken seriously – remember this is what we do, this is why you pay us!

Ok, ok, I will back away from the ledge now, think calming thoughts...hmmm. On a much lighter note, I guess since this is a chapter newsletter, I guess I should get off my soap box and discuss something that is a little more chapter specific, but I do appreciate you listening. As many of you are aware and for those of you who are not we recently had our Board of Directors/Chapter meeting. As usual this was an amazing event. Every year it astonishes me how much a group of volunteers can accomplish in a few short hours. This meeting always acts as a way to recharge my chapter batteries. It is easy to get run down in the everyday life of balancing work and home and all our other responsibilities. But this meeting forces us to sit down once a year away from everything else and just focus on the chapter and what needs to be done.

I wanted to take this opportunity to truly thank all the board members and chapter members that were able to attend. This is a large time and travel commitment to make and it is appreciated. For those that were not able to attend, it is definitely understandable. Participation in the chapter is promoted but we all work full time jobs, so if you're not doing work to pay the bills then it's not going to help anybody. That being said, I would strongly encourage all of you to try and attend future chapter meetings and conference events. Just like with everything else in life, you are going to get out of this chapter what you put into it.

Tom Wells, CPESC, CISEC
IECA Great Rivers Chapter President

Researcher's Corner:

QDOR™* as an Erosion Control Industry Quality Assurance Program

A new program has been developed by the Erosion Control Technology Council (ECTC) to assist engineers, specifiers and government agencies in the proper selection, specification and use of rolled erosion control products. QDOR™ stands for "Quality Data Oversight and Review. Products bearing the QDOR™ seal have been manufactured and tested according to industry standards much like the Underwriters Laboratory© (UL) label applied to many quality electrical appliances. By certifying that a product is "Performance Verified" under the QDOR™ program, the product performance data has been conducted, submitted and reviewed according to under the protocol established in the QDOR™ Guidance Manual.

For government agencies, this program offers a highly effective screening process for rolled erosion control products and the QDOR™ product listing can be used to develop Approved Product Lists (APL). For private sector engineers, QDOR™ provides all the pertinent performance data to enable accurate design and product comparisons. For contractors, QDOR™ helps ensure the product purchased and received will meet their quality expectations.

QDOR™ has been designed to assist regulatory officials, designers, engineers and contractors with a uniform system by which to select, specify, and use quality rolled erosion control products. The data presented is based upon index testing from AASHTO-NTPEP program and large scale performance data, specifically ASTM D 6459 and ASTM D 6460. The QDOR™ program will continue to evolve as the state of the practice evolves. Approved QDOR™ products are listed on the QDOR website and updated three times per year after each review session. A complete manual is available online.

Soybeans as Stormwater Tools?

Midwestern stormwater professionals may be proud to know that the Port of Seattle research project found modified soybean hull media to perform best when compared to commercially available leaf compost systems, zeolite/perlite mixtures and polyamine sponges. According to the study, after pH adjustment (buffering), effluent filtered through soybean hulls removed 80 to 90 percent of zinc over all influent concentrations tested. A side effect, however, was that without buffering, the new pH levels of the effluent were now toxic to water fleas. After buffering, survival was 100%!

Look out ethanol and biodiesel....soybean stormwater filtration may be the wave of the future!

For the complete text of the research report:

<http://www.parametrix.com/profile/pdf/StormConmediatest%20paper1.pdf>

For Government Regulators: To implement this in your regulations, include language that requires the use of QDOR™ verified products in your agencies specifications for rolled erosion control products. To utilize QDOR™ for developing your approved or qualified products list it is recommended that you refer to the QDOR™ website for a list of products in compliance with the program. Products are monitored and added or removed in accordance with the rules of the program.

For Engineers & Specifiers: Engineers and specifiers can require that the products supplied for their projects are QDOR™ verified in specifications or contract bids.

For Inspectors: When you are on the project, look for the QDOR™ mark on the product, packaging or insert materials. If you have any questions about the status of a product on your job site, view the complete list at www.qdor.org under the "listed products" section.

For questions about the QDOR™ program contact Laurie Honnigford at (651)554-1895 or laurie@ectc.org.

*Adapted from www.ectc.org and submitted by Rebecca Knauten

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The Sediments Stops Here

Taking Filter Media to Task by Rebecca Kauten, MPP, CPESC-IT

In the world of stormwater and pollutant reduction, a quick search through a buyer's guide or web-search will bring up any number of products and distributors ready to supply the latest and greatest in pollutant removal. While even the best of salesmen (or women) can pitch you the wonders of their wares, it's important to note not only what problems you are trying to address – and whether or not they do the job effectively, but also whether or not the “magic bullet” you buy doesn't end up creating an even bigger headache for you down the road.

In the case of filtering media, many products are now on the scene. Rather than wax poetic on brands and products, the goal here is to give some keen insight to make better purchasing decisions. Regardless of what product gets chosen, in the long run, the goal is better water quality. As you sit to develop your holiday wish list, also typically known as a new fiscal year budget by some, keep the following suggestions in mind:

What pollutants are you working to treat?

Do you know you have an impairment issue with a stream, lake, or river? If so, has a cause for impairment been identified? This information is usually available through state natural resource agencies, or by contacting the EPA in regards to water assessments done for sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. For the sake of discussion, let's consider sediment and microbes – namely bacteria as potential pollutants.

- For sediment, many hydrodynamic separation system products are on the market today. These mainly address large-particle solids, as well as gross pollutants. While maintenance can often become the unintended additional cost, such catchments, for the most part, perform well for trapping sand and heavy sediments. However, the suspended clay particles remain in the effluent and often require an additional means of filtration. As a result, more of a “treatment train” is often recommended where the large particles, trash and debris are captured first, then fine sediments are filtered out to a defined micron size, and now we are seeing water-borne pollutants such as pathogens and microbes being addressed by a third phase in the treatment cycle.

- Extensive research at the University of New Hampshire, University of Wisconsin and other noted water quality research centers to determine performance levels of hydrodynamic separation systems. We're now starting to see new research emerge regarding the performance of the anti-microbial systems too.

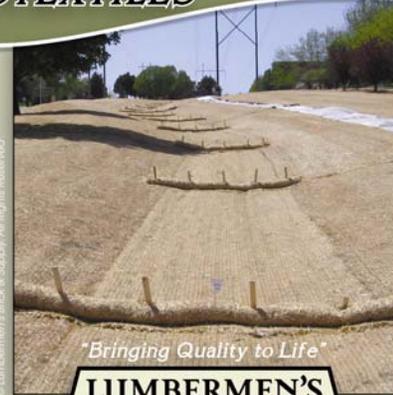
Has the product been tested in the field or is its performance based on lab results?

Any good salesperson will no-doubt include a white paper or fact sheet with charts and testimony from the non-biased researcher who has documented the performance of his or her product. While the data does lend credibility to the product and its use, it is important to note whether or not the results were generated under controlled conditions in a lab setting or gathered through field implementation.

- By conducting lab testing, very precise measurements may be generated. However, the data is also subject to false positives due to the fact that external variables are not always taken into account. In basic terms, what works in the lab may not necessarily work in the field. And if lab testing was done, its important to note exactly which external variables were taken into account, if any at all.

- For example, the Port of Seattle tested four filtration media for metals removal and reduction of effluent toxicity on *Ceriodaphnia dubia*, or water fleas commonly found in local water resources. While the testing was by definition a true lab-based analysis, the focus of the test was highly specified. The results indicated which media produced the best results.

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Filter Media continued from page 4

What the study did not identify, however, was how well the final product would stand up in a field application. Nor was the long-term maintenance of the product or ultimate disposal taken into account.

- In addition to lab versus field-testing, consider whether or not the analysis used grab samples (one-time sampling) or aggregated event mean concentrations (EMC). The EMC value is more likely to reflect a “real world” prediction or statistical reference. Grab samples, while effective in generating basic data, typically lack the rigor necessary to generate a high level of confidence in the data.

Does the effluent need yet another form of treatment before re-introduction to the water body?

So your filter media salesman tells you his product will eliminate 99% of all microbial activity and reduce hydrocarbons, heavy metals and remove all suspended solids above .4 microns. Has he also indicated what effluent pH levels have become, or if the water is now anoxic? Or if nutrient loading is a primary concern for a local impaired stream, will microbial filtration serve as a solution? These are all important questions to ask prior to purchase.

- Alterations to water pH may require effluent to be buffered before discharging to a surface water body without toxic results. Again, this may likely serve as an added cost not originally factored into the estimate. Some form of re-oxygenation may also be necessary as not to cause stress to aquatic life at the discharge point. Depending on which products may be used, nutrient concentrations may suddenly become an unintended consequence due to buildup of organic matter within filtration systems. And if the filtration systems are not designed to manage nutrients, the water may take these high concentrations as it leaves the system – leading to a new problem to be solved.
- Should such treatment be necessary, the purchaser might consider taking the entire system “offline” and allowing for treatment prior to reintroduction with the water resource. Just as treatment facilities test effluent at the discharge point, the same might likely be necessary at the point of contact with the filtered runoff.

Alternatives to filtration media. With so many products on the market, I hearken back to the “keep it simple, stupid” mantra. Rather than work to filter out every pollutant under the sun at the final point of contact with our runoff, pre-treatment, good housekeeping and proactive management might likely keep the need for purchasing a “black box” filtration system to a minimum. In addition, natural systems such as bioretention, sand filters and rock chambers have also given weight to reducing the cost (and need) for intensive runoff treatment systems. All however, do come with maintenance requirements.

Any filtration system, whether it is a naturalized system, a high-tech lab and field tested black box, or the drain in one’s bathroom sink or shower; does need to be cleaned out now and then and checked for performance. We can all dream of having the “set it and forget it” list of storm-water management products, but until then the list we have to go from is really the best we’ve got. The key is making sound purchasing decisions and ensuring the product or practice put in place is addressing an identified problem or cause for concern. A little homework can then go a long way.

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Estimated distribution dates for E-Newsletter: 09/15/2009 and 12/15/2009

Ad material should be sent in electronic format as a .jpg file, Microsoft Word or Publisher file to Sara Drake at sdrake@carter-waters.com. Payment is due prior to the ad running. If you have any questions please contact Sara at 816-872-3318, ext. 2296

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We're on the web!
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Professional Development and Your Career

If you hadn't heard, top recommendations in the job market today are to join a professional organization to advance your career. And, while many don't follow that advice, those that do often fail to participate. These affiliations should be more than just a line on your resume!

Professional organizations are a great way for those just getting started in their careers to make connections in their industry. Industry organizations and professional groups are a goldmine of the job search and career advancement universe.

Check out the benefits. Look at the membership directory, which may prove valuable to your work. Attend events that enable like-minded professionals to connect in person. Read the professional publications—they include the top trends and thoughts of leaders in your field.

Be Active. Many organizations (including this one!) are run by just a small handful of people, many (most) of whom also juggle a full time job. This means that they're thrilled by any assistance, particularly from a motivated professional. Consider volunteering for a task that will build your experience (writing an article for a newsletter, organizing an event, designing a new feature on the website, taking photos, etc.), then put this on your resume as experience in your field. If you can't commit to an ongoing task, volunteer for a position in which you'll meet the most members, - manage a database, work the registration table at a big event, or make phone calls. If you want to volunteer contact a board member within the organization - they will put you to work.

Leverage the Role. It's perfectly acceptable – encouraged, in fact – to list volunteer work on your resume. Hiring managers look for meaningful volunteer experience and a true connection to your line of work when making decisions. Don't be shy about touting what you've done with an influential group in your field.

Based on an article by Tory Johnson, CBS, Good Morning America

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