

Name: Anne Gelbmann (note taker); Roger Karn (facilitator); Don Jakes (presenter); Brian Livingston (themer); Pat Carey (host)

Date: September 19, 2007

Time: 9:00-11:00

Location: Duluth Regional Office

Attendees:

Rick Gitar: Fond Du Lac, Water Regulatory Specialist

John Foschi, Proctor-City Administrator

Jon Bergstrand, MnDot

Jack Salmek, MnDot

, Barr Engineering

Jim Prusak, City of Cloquet, Director of Public Works

Dan Breneman, Natural Resources Research Institute-U of M Duluth

Rich Axler, NRRI-U of M Duluth

Erik Larson, U of M Duluth, Facilities management

Tom Rider, Lutsen Ski Area

Mindy Granley, DNR, MN Lake Superior Coastal Program

Matt Hemmila, St. Louis County, Geotechnical engineer

1. React to this vision statement about stormwater management. It is apparent from the statement it will take all of our efforts to accomplish.
 - Well stated
 - Must be in line with clean water act-similar to federal act
 - It's in terms of a goal
 - High quality and reasonable volume are subjective-there isn't a definition
 - Flooding is an issue-mother nature doesn't allow that. Trying to instill within the development community to design systems that help the situation-we can't prevent every problem, especially huge rainfalls. Trying to develop a practice within community that handle day to day rain events.
 - It's great- but it's like world peace-goals are never going to fit-want action oriented statements in mission.
 - All sorts of beneficial uses of rain water
 - Will our stormwater be tested in the future?
 - Testing may lead to more enforcement issues.
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2. As you consider stormwater management in Minnesota, what is going well that you wouldn't want to change/lose?
 - Amount of publicity that stormwater is getting-more than 5 years ago. RSBT has something to do with that-more at state fair (Eco Experience)-more information. Education is major focus of the permit and is going well.
 - Site management-programs for certification are good-invests them in the process and caring about the SWPPP.

- Inspecting at the soil and water district is good-more interface-more communication
 - JPA with Cook County-linking stormwater ordinance to NPDES and contractors. You can see change on the site-improved environmental protection-local relationships are stronger.
 - Bill Lane, Cook County-has county ordinance that mirrors state program-they understand local conditions and can raise awareness. Move toward more local control.
 - Need the PCA (hammer) for enforcement and the county for assistance.
 - Partnership in the last 5 years-Regional Stormwater Protection Team-brings UofM, counties,cities, private sectors to the table-sharing technical expertise-good start but right at the beginning.
 - Counties have authority to enforce (?) (10 yrs ago) (ask Don J.)
 - Construction projects-contractors are trying to do the right thing-mental attitude has turned from a strong resistance to a change-may cost more money if the mud gets off the job. They need guidance, but the attitude is there. Education and incentives are part of that. Financial incentives if you do the right thing, penalties if you don't.
 - PCA has done a good job on the web site-permit application is user friendly. New permit-highlight what has changed and what we have to do differently.
 - Developers need to be educated-when they need to get involved in stormwater management plans. Cities are managing the developers-need them to understand up front.
 - Improvements in the permitting process-more understanding of notice of transfers.
 - It's the money-someone has to pay-need local pilot projects to evaluate if it works. If we can prove that more money at the beginning is better and it will improve things in the long run.
 - Lots of government regulations-hard to keep up with it all-many problems Cloquet face are related to development-are real problems that cost lots of money. Municipalities are in a survival mode-no people and money. Wish city would have done stormwater management five years ago-can see it will save problems in the end. Small communities need to get into it now. Need to change attitude of contractors and developers through education.
3. What currently is not working the way you would like or what issues/opportunities do you see?
- Issues with developers/contractors-more education-change attitudes
 - Good information leads to better planning. Capture the science and link it to economics, infrastructure. General public is probably clueless. Good nucleus, but we have a long way to go.
 - Now-dealing with one acre sites, but there are lots of one acre sites. Big contractors go to certification because they have to, but no one is looking at small contractors. Could PCA put together a trailer and go to job sites and do training

- on site? We aren't reaching people in the trenches who are doing the work. Need to do more free training where they don't have to spend money on hotels, food, etc. You'll reach the smaller contractors. Lots of little people...
- Need to have someone at PCA go through permits and look for uniformity. Permits don't line up now. Caught in battle between MS4 and owner. MS4 permit and construction need to match. How far you are away from an outstanding resource waterbody.
 - Civil engineers have the mindset of get the water out of town-there is no training for engineers to do more infiltration-more environmentally friendly stormwater projects.
 - There is no funding to enforce-don't have stormwater utility funds to finance stormwater projects. Council wants development, but doesn't want to increase fees.
 - MnDot has been hit by the hammer-contractors will do anything if they are paid to do it.
 - Road salt workshop was good-funded by federal money. Not a lot of state dollars going to training.
 - Lots of stormwater stuff is based on development-need to put long skinny series of ponds due to shape of development.
 - Need incentives for LID/conservation design/smart growth. American Institute of Architects did charette last year. Architects came up with innovative ways to not do cookie cutter. Plan cut impervious surface in half-more residential homes. Someone needs to get that plan to the right developers-set up as case study and promote in the region.
 - First priority in St. Louis County is public safety-they need to build a road-standards dictate. Increased impervious surface because the road needed to be widened. County and the contractor are on the hook-they don't want violation. The county is not motivated to call the PCA as a result. County tries to work with contractor to get the same result as they would if they called the PCA.
 - Enforcement about something that isn't going well. Feels PCA is dropping the ball with enforcement-neighbors are complaining to planning commission about projects that were approved by the PCA-discharging to trout stream. System wasn't built to specs or wasn't maintained, etc. Can't always get comments from PCA on permit that was approved.
 - Who looks at the plan after the construction permit is issued? State is pushing responsibility on to the locals for plan review. State doesn't look at plans.
 - Cloquet won't issue building permit until developer comes back with permit number-city doesn't have any way to track if they got a state permit. Hydros need to review to determine if plan will even work.
 - Developers won't spend any more money unless they are forced to.
 - Need uniform design standards and regulations. Similar to smoking ban-people will go to other cities to smoke-need level playing field.
 - 7 day turnaround is good & fast for permits. SWPPP's should be designed by someone who is certified to design SWPPP's.
 - More flexibility as we get more data and research. Enforcement & flexibility at the same time.

- Are standards and protocols applicable? Look at different regions (NE, SE) based on geology.
- All stormwater should be of natural , indiginous quality.
- Residential subdivision permits can be transferred from lot to lot. Responsibility can be transferred. It's part of the federal NPDES permit. It's transferred at point of ownership.
- Tribes are subject to Phase 2-never had information from Phase 1-have extra catch-up. PCA doesn't talk about authority on reservations-tribes have authority. Contractors assume they are subject to PCA programs or they think there is nothing they need to follow. Need to coordinate between tribes and the MPCA. EPA has database where all permits are listed-PCA needs similar database.
- Local engineering companies copy SWPPP's from other states, etc. That's a problem, but city staff may not have time to review. Should be penalty for perjuring.
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4. What didn't we ask you that you want to tell us? (What one thing to leave us with?)