



EC Times

www.pnwieca.org

Winter 2009

EC Times is distributed to all chapter members for the purpose of providing a regional network to exchange information relating to erosion control. All members are encouraged to submit ideas and experience through case studies and pictures that can be shared throughout the region as well as nationally and internationally.

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International Erosion Control
Association



Chapter member Hari Esmail mans his booth



Chapter member Alex Zimmerman

2009 Erosion & Sediment Control Conference a Huge Success

It was standing room only in the training area as almost 200 attendees and exhibitors listened to presentations about new city regulations and solutions for erosion and sediment control problems.

The expo hall attracted the attendees for a hands on feel of many of the products that they were learning about.

“2nd Annual, Great event, sold out again, 150 registrants, (wide range of regulators, practitioners, professionals, contractors, suppliers, etc.) 16 tradeshow booths, 16 presentations on advanced topics building on last years’ fundamentals, afternoon demonstrations of BMPs. Conference attendees had great feedback and we look forward to seeing everyone next year. The Conference was co-hosted by Cites of Surrey and Langley and the PNWIECA!”

James Kay
PNWIECA Board Member
Conference contributor

Conference organizers were Dani Miller-City of Langley, Trent Hatfield-City of Surrey, James Kay-Aplin Martin, Ashley Iserhoff-Aplin Martin and Russ Paton-Western Seed and Erosion.

Pacific NW Chapter Hold Board Election

A record number of ballots were returned in August electing the new Board of Directors for the Chapter. The Board elected officers during a teleconference meeting in September. The new board is:

***Dan Macias
James Kay
Becky Gauthier
Carol Davis
Stephen Fowler
Sam Lamont
Jolyn Hollingsworth
Tim Kitchen***

***President
President Elect
Secretary
Treasurer
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Alternate***

Message from the President State of the Chapter Report

I am happy to report the newly reorganized Board of Directors is enthusiastic to get our chapter on track and better than ever. We have begun by making decisions that will help move us in the “right” direction for this next season.

Over the past few years we have focused on regional trainings that have been effective and valuable for our members, but at the cost of the Chapter annual conference. Now, the new board believes its time to bring back the Chapter conference/tradeshaw and keep some of the regional training seminars. The chapter conference will still provide an outstanding training opportunity plus allow members from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia to network and to learn the latest from our suppliers.

During this meeting we would like to add two annual awards as part of the conference. The first is the PNWIECA Scholarship and the

second is the PNWIECA Outstanding Erosion Control Contractor of the Year.

The PNWIECA Scholarship

The PNWIECA Scholarship will be available to encourage future industry leaders and to help deserving individuals further their EC careers. Students and PNWIECA member employees are eligible for the Scholarship. Details of the scholarship are yet to be determined, but if you know of a deserving person or employee that can benefit from this please send their nominations to the PNWIECA Board of Directors for review.

PNWIECA Outstanding Erosion Control Contractor

Rarely do we take the time to acknowledge when someone does it right, but now you have an opportunity. This year we would like to establish a new annual award to recognize those contractors that go above and beyond with the “PNWIECA Outstanding Erosion Control Contractor of the Year” award. We would like to extend an invitation to all suppliers, engineers, landscape architects, consultants and agency/compliance personnel

to nominate a contractor you notice doing an Outstanding Job on controlling erosion and sediment on projects. All contractors and sub-contractors are eligible for this award.

Simply provide a description of the project, photos if possible and the reason why this contractor should be nominated and the Board of Directors will choose the Outstanding Erosion Control Contractor of the Year.

We would like all nominations to be sent in as soon as possible for consideration for our next regional conference which is currently being scheduled for this next spring. Location and

date are yet to be determined, but please send your nominations in by February 1, 2010 for consideration at this next conference.

Thank you for electing us as your new Board of Directors and we hope you will be happy with the direction the chapter is heading. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Dan Macias
PNWIECA President

Sandpoint byway erosion control draws EPA's scrutiny, complaint

Becky Kramer of the Spokesman Review October 16, 2009

The Idaho Transportation Department is again in trouble with the federal regulators over faulty erosion controls at a U.S. Highway 95 construction project.

An inspector with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency visited the Sandpoint Byway Project in January, after receiving complaints about the work. Kristine Karlson said she found numerous storm water violations at the byway project, a \$95 million detour around Sandpoint's historic downtown. The 2.1-mile byway crosses Sand Creek and follows the creek's eastern edge.

The EPA announced Thursday that it had filed a complaint against the Idaho Transportation Department and its main contractor, Parsons RCI Inc. of Sumner, Wash., seeking \$65,000 in fines.

In 2006, the ITD and another contractor agreed to pay \$895,000 in fines over a Highway 95 improvement project that sent torrents of mud into Mica Creek and fouled a bay in Lake Coeur d'Alene. Downstream homeowners filed a separate lawsuit over clogged water systems and docks mired in mud. As part of the settlement, ITD officials agreed to additional training in storm water management.

ITD spokeswoman Barbara Babic said that after the January inspection, her agency and the contractor immediately corrected the problems at the Sandpoint byway construction site.

"Since then, we've received many compliments from the public about what a clean and well-run operation it is," she said.

Babic characterized problems at the site as mostly paperwork related. "At no time were there any issues or immediate concerns regarding imminent impacts to the water quality within Sand Creek or (Lake Pend Oreille)," department officials said in a statement.

But Karlson said she was concerned about the amount of bare ground without erosion controls. The potential existed for the same type of mud flows in the earlier project.

"My first concern was the creek," said Karlson, a storm water enforcement coordinator. "The soils in the northern counties are pretty unstable, as we found out in the Mica Bay Project."

Ed Kowalski, EPA's director of the Office of Compliance and Enforcement in Seattle, chastised the ITD for repeated storm water problems.

"Over the past five years, ITD and its contractors have paid over \$1 million in penalties for violations of the Clean Water Act," he said in a statement. "Their environmental management program needs to be upgraded so they can avoid future penalties."

The ITD and Parsons RCI have 30 days to respond to the complaint.

U.S. Navy agrees to consider more cleanup options at Kitsap County Superfund Site

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(Seattle, Wash. – November 23, 2009) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has required the U.S. Navy to consider more rigorous cleanup options for residential and shoreline property near the Jackson Park Housing Complex in Bremerton, Washington. The Navy is currently in the initial stages of a Superfund cleanup at the 232-acre property.

"We believe that in an area where people live and play, and the Suquamish Tribe has substantial interests, more removal options must be evaluated," said Lori Cohen, acting Director of EPA's Superfund cleanup program in Seattle. "With this agreement in place, we're satisfied with the Navy's commitment to consider more removal alternatives for the subsurface munitions at the site."

The Navy's study is designed to evaluate a range of cleanup options for discarded military munitions remaining within the Jackson Park Housing Complex Superfund Site. The site became contaminated as a result of loss and mishandling of military munitions primarily during and after World Wars I and II. Based on the Remedial Investigation completed thus far, it is likely that some munitions still exist in the subsurface area. The Navy is currently relying on education and signage to protect local residents, the public and the Suquamish Tribe.

The former Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Puget Sound operated on the site from 1904 to 1959, prior to the development of the housing complex in the early 1970's. The site was listed on the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) in 1994 due to contamination from past disposal practices from NAD Puget Sound operations. The listing required the Navy to begin the cleanup by studying the site and preparing cleanup plans, including site assessments and feasibility studies.

According to EPA officials, the original feasibility study submitted by the Navy did not meet federal Superfund requirements for considering the full and appropriate range of cleanup alternatives. EPA maintained that since both housing complex residents and the public have easy access to the area, the Navy must consider investigating a broader range of upland and intertidal area cleanup alternatives, including more munitions removal.

This disagreement led to a formal dispute resolution process that was recently concluded with the Navy agreeing to look at a broader range of alternatives. They have also submitted a revised plan, which is currently under review by EPA. As a result of the formal dispute, EPA assessed \$45,000 in stipulated penalties.

For more about the Jackson Park Housing Complex Superfund site:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/Cleanup.nsf/sites/jacksonpark>

Note: If a link above doesn't work, please copy and paste the URL into a browser.