

## James Kay

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**From:** Becky Gauthier [BGauthier@profileproducts.com]  
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**To:** Becky Gauthier  
**Subject:** Pacific NW Chapter IECA Winter Newsletter



# EC

# Times

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International Erosion Control Association

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[www.pnwieca.org](http://www.pnwieca.org)

Winter 2011

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.

## Erosion & Sediment Control Metro Vancouver Conference III

November 17 & 18- Delta, BC

Over 100 attendees and exhibitors swarmed the Town & Country Inn in Delta, BC for the third annual Erosion & Sediment Control Conference.

Training concentrated around Guidelines, Bylaws and BMPs. Effective ESC Design and Implementation.

A HUGE thanks to Dani, Trent, Russ, Wayne and James for another great conference! Alex, Jennifer, David, Heather, James, great presentations. We couldn't do it without the unwavering support of our sponsors. THANK YOU! And to the 100+ delegates who braved the elements and joined us, feedback has been great, thank you so much for coming.

Sponsoring the event were the City of Surrey, Township of Langley and the Pacific NW Chapter IECA.

**Winter Connection 2010**



The Chapter held the first Winter Connection Event December 15-16 2010 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, WA.

Training centered on Working Smarter not Harder with Alex Zimmerman as the key instructor. John Evans presented Geo-grid Reinforced Soil to Rebuild Slides in the Pacific Northwest Forests. The Cook Boys of Sunmark Environmental gave exceptional presentations about Hydraulically Applied Biotic Soil Amendments – Terry Cook and Vegetated Bag Walls – Robin Cook and Kurt Chirbas of Profile Products talked about Specifying Performance Based Products. Carl Menconi wrapped it up with Picking BMPs to Get the Job Done; a functional approach to BMP selection.

Sue Clarke gave a CESSWI (Certified Erosion Sediment and Stormwater Inspector) tutorial and test. Pierre Bordenave and Alex Zimmerman co-taught a CPESC (Certified Professional Erosion Sediment Control) tutorial. Sue Clarke proxies testing for both groups.

Although only 48 people attended a good time was had by all. The Exhibitors Reception was an event to remember since there was food and beverage for 80. Chapter member Robert Fischbach was heard saying that it was the best food he'd ever had in over 40 years of Conference Attendance.

**A huge THANK YOU to our sponsors: Profile Products, Fiber Marketing International, Rainier Fiber and Hydro Straw.**



## Election Results

Chapter elections were held in November, 2010. Running for re-election was Carol Davis of Briar Group, Inc. Russ Paton of Western Seed and Erosion also threw his hat in. There was a "Write In" space for an Oregon rep. Your new Board of Directors is:

President:	James Kay	Aplin-Martin Consultants, Ltd.	British Columbia
President Elect:	Alex Zimmerman	CSI Geosynthetics	Washington
Treasurer:	Carol Davis	Briar Group, Inc.	Washington
Secretary:	Becky Gauthier	Profile Products	Washington
Board:	Sam Lamont	Alaska DOT & PF	Alaska
	Jolyn Hollingsworth	Front-Tier Seed Co.	Idaho
	Robin Cook	Sunmark Environmental	Oregon
	Dan Macias	Global Momentum Group	Idaho
	Russ Paton	Western Seed & Erosion	British Columbia

## Alaska Training

CISEC Training is being planned for March or April of 2011. It will be held in Fairbanks and Anchorage at DOT facilities. And be open to other agencies and the rest of the industry We are close to setting the dates. The Alaska contact is:

Sam Lamont  
Environmental Liaison  
Alaska DOT & PF  
Northern Region Construction  
907-451-5066  
[sam.lamont@alaska.gov](mailto:sam.lamont@alaska.gov)

Remember you must be pre-approved by CISEC, Inc. to take the test. Please visit [www.cisecinc.org](http://www.cisecinc.org) for further information.

## In The News

### Cause of Locke Island erosion is questioned

By Annette Cary, Herald staff writer

A common theory on why Locke Island on the Hanford Reach is eroding doesn't appear to hold water.

The 150-acre island on the Columbia River beneath the White Bluffs lost as much as 120 feet of its east bank during the 10 years that ended in 2006.

It's believed to have continued to erode since then, but detailed measurements have not been kept, according to researchers.

The island, which is closed to the public, is prized for its salmon spawning habitat and for its American Indian heritage. It was used for thousands of years by Indians as a fishing spot, grazing area and village.

Locke Island's difficulties began when the east bank of the river adjacent to it began to collapse. Throughout 20 years, landslides caused the channel between the bluffs and the island to narrow. On the other side of the river is the Hanford nuclear reservation.

Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., has been investigating the affect of the changed channel for the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation, a consortium of universities that uses Department of Energy money to study methods of environmental cleanup at Hanford and other nuclear weapons sites.

"The generally accepted explanation for the increased erosion has been that the narrowing of the channel forced the water flowing through it to speed up significantly and the stronger current wore away the side of the island more rapidly," Grace Loy, a Vanderbilt earth and environmental sciences student, said in a statement.

"We were skeptical of this explanation and our analysis suggests that it isn't what happened," she said.

Professor David Furbish and students used a laboratory stream table to build a small model of the island and the landslide and then recorded what happened when water was sent down the stream table and past the island with and without the landslide.

A video camera was used to record the ride of green beads dropped into the water at the top of the stream table. The images were analyzed by computer to map the velocity of the currents at different locations.

Instead of more water rushing through the narrow channel at high speeds after the landslide narrowed it, the model showed that more water went around the island in the larger channel to its west -- the Hanford side of the river.

"The current in both channels increases slightly compared to what it was before the landslide," Loy said.

However, results are preliminary. Some aspects of the stream-table study cannot be scaled up to the size of the Columbia River and Locke Island.

Furbish will add to information with the completion of computer simulations in the next six months to estimate how the flow behaves in the Columbia River.

But he also has another hypothesis: The changed shoreline along the White Bluffs side of the river has caused the river channel to bend into the island in an L-shape.

Water flow in a bend is far more complicated than in a river channel, he said.

The problem of the landslides near Locke Island already has been addressed. The landslide area at the river shore does not appear to have grown since 1998 when ponds on the bluff above the river were drained. But researchers' further study of water flow could suggest solutions to stop the erosion.

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Read more: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2010/12/20/1298277/cause-of-locke-island-erosion.html#ixzz1ArdKwp2R>

## New method to control Mount St. Helens sediment

By ANDRE STEPANKOWSKY

<http://www.tdn.com>

**LONGVIEW, Wash.** Despite a breakdown and a shortage of big winter storms so far, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it's already learning lessons from its experimental sediment-control structures on the Toutle River.

"We can't say how effective they are at this point," said Tim Kuhn, Cowlitz-Toutle project coordinator for the corps' Portland District. "But we are where we want to be at this point to collect data. We've learned a lot already."

Last week, the corps hired a contract helicopter to dump 1,300 tons of rock into the north fork of the Toutle River to stop it from cutting a channel under the corps' "cross valley structure." The CVS, as it's called, is a long labyrinth of pilings and weirs the corps built last summer and fall to slow the river's current and force it to deposit sediment washing downstream from Mount St. Helens.

The erosion started in the early December rainstorms. Had it been allowed to continue, it would confine the river to a narrow channel and defeat the purpose of the corral-like structure - to spread the river out and force it to deposit silt, according to the corps.

So here's lesson one: If the corps is to build more weirs in its ongoing effort to control volcanic silt, it will have to use more rock to protect them, Kuhn said.

Lesson learned: The river flows freely through the CVS, so salmon and steelhead shouldn't have any difficulty swimming through, Kuhn said.

In addition to the CVS, the corps last year built 14 "island-creating structures," which are horseshoe-shaped weirs that will create eddies expected to cause sediment to accumulate on their downstream sides, just like islands form in rivers below a

log jam. The corps already learned something about them, too: They should have been spaced differently to improve their sediment-trapping performance, Kuhn said.

The island-creating and CVS projects are in the vicinity of the old Camp Baker, a Weyerhaeuser Co. logging camp destroyed by the eruption of Mount St. Helens on May 18, 1980.

The weirs are considered experimental. If they work, the corps might build more and bigger structures as a long-term strategy to prevent the Toutle from washing millions of tons of volcanic silt into the Cowlitz River. Unchecked, the silt buildup could increase the risk of flooding along the Cowlitz.

Now that the erosion problem on the CVS has been repaired, "we're in a position to be getting the full breath of information we want" from the project, Kuhn said.

He acknowledged that so far no major storms have hit the Toutle watershed, so the corps has yet to see how effective the structures will perform when they're swamped by large volumes of silt, logs and other debris. But it's only midwinter, and "spring can be a pretty dramatic time" weather-wise, Kuhn added.

"A big (storm) event would be nice. We could see how the system holds up."

The structures cost \$3.5 million, which the corps paid for with federal economic stimulus funds. It spent another \$400,000 last week on the erosion-control work.

The corps is looking for a low cost alternative to raising the 125-foot sediment-retaining dam it built on the Toutle's north fork in the mid 1980. The dam has trapped 100 million cubic yards - a stack 9 miles high on a football field - but its trapping efficiency has diminished, allowing silt to pass downstream. Raising it would cost hundreds of millions of dollars and cause great fish-passage problems.

Geologists predict the Toutle will continue washing large amount of volcanic silt downstream for several decades to come.

**Information from: The Daily News, <http://www.tdn.com>**

Read more: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2011/01/10/1320780/new-method-to-control-mount-st.html#storylink=mirelated#ixzz1ArdoTynK>