



The Urban Review

Sediment & Erosion Control Information Newsletter

Stormwater Expo Coming Soon

The 8th Annual Central Ohio Stormwater and Erosion Control Expo will be held on March 11, 2010 at the Longaberger Alumni House on the OSU Campus in Columbus. This special event is hosted by the soil and water conservation districts of central Ohio, MORPC Greenways, and Heart of Ohio RC&D and has been developed to interest engineers and designers, storm water managers, developers and municipal planners. The focus will be using green infrastructure in urban retrofits for improved water quality. These programs are designed for those who want to know more about incorporating green infrastructure design concepts into their projects.

The keynote speaker will be Mr. Christopher Estes, RLA, ASLA, President of Estes Design, Inc. an environmental design and consulting firm based in North Carolina that specializes in low impact development, storm water quality, and environmental regulatory services. Chris has been a speaker on the local, state, national and international levels. His most recent projects include combining Best Management Practices such as bio-retention and pervious concrete to achieve water quality goals. Chris' current research is on storm water infiltration rates into clay soils; he will present case studies from the North Carolina Piedmont area.

Harry Kallipolitis, Storm Water Coordinator for the Ohio EPA, will provide a brief over-

view of what the Ohio EPA looks for when reviewing storm water management plans that incorporate green infrastructure into unique or alternative Best Management Practices (BMPs). Harry will be able to field your questions about alternative plans and green infrastructure ideas during a question and answer period.

Stephanie Suter, Chair of the Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative (CORGI), and Habitat Conservationist for Franklin Soil and Water will present details of their latest project in Westerville. This collaborative research effort between CORGI, Franklin Soil and Water, Westerville, and OSU will involve 18 homeowners in one neighborhood. Outfall monitoring has already begun.

Mr. Jeff Koehn, PE, LEED AP of ME Companies will discuss the many green infrastructure BMPs that have been installed at the Cincinnati Zoo to better manage storm water volume and quality. He will also speak about the new permeable paving project recently installed in Westerville with the cooperation of the Ohio EPA.

There are still opportunities to exhibit or sponsor at the Expo. For more information, contact Martha Gilson or Dave Reutter at Franklin Soil and Water by calling 614-486-9613. Be sure to check our web site for updates on speakers and agendas and to register at www.franklinswcd.org. CEUs will be available for attendees who request them.

Big Darby Town Center Plan

A key recommendation of the Big Darby Accord, adopted in November 2006, is the development of a detailed master plan for the Town Center area on West Broad Street. The Accord envisions a highly desirable mixed-use area that includes a full range of residential, retail, office and public uses including parks and open space.

Inside This Issue	
Big Darby Town Center Master Plan	2
Upcoming Events	2
Diversify Your Portfolio	3
EPA Information Request	3
BMP Review: Soil Stabilization	4

The Big Darby Accord Town Center Master Plan is a multi-jurisdictional planning effort among Franklin County, Columbus, Brown Township and Prairie Township.

This plan will provide detailed development recommendations intended to protect water quality and other natural resources in the planning area.

Continued on page 2

Timeline:

- ✦ Big Darby Accord Watershed Master Plan was adopted in 2006 by Franklin County, Columbus, Hilliard, Brown Township, Pleasant Township, Prairie Township and Washington Township.
- ✦ Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel was created in 2007 to hear all development cases occurring in the Franklin County portion of the Big Darby watershed.
- ✦ RFP for the Darby Town Center went out in November 2007; proposals were due in early 2008.
- Franklin County adopted Stream Setback Regulations in April 2008.
- Open Space Advisory Council was created in 2008 to provide guidance to the Big Darby Accord partner jurisdictions on open space acquisition, funding and other conservation efforts.
- Big Darby Accord Revenue Generation Agreement signed in April 2009 by Franklin County, Columbus, Hilliard, Brown Township and Prairie Township.
- Big Darby Accord Town Center Participation Agreement signed in April 2009 by Franklin County, Columbus, Brown Township and Prairie Township.
- Big Darby Accord Town Center Master Plan Consultant Agreement with Urban Design Associates was signed on October 13, 2009 by Franklin County.

Consultant Team:

- Urban Design Associates – Pittsburg, PA
- Design Workshop – Aspen, CO
- AES – Brodhead, WI
- STV Inc. – Pittsburg, PA
- Walter Kulash – Little Switzerland, NC
- Robert Charles Lesser & Co. – Bethesda, MD
- Bricker & Eckler LLP – Columbus, OH

The planning process for the Big Darby Town Center Master Plan will include the following phases: (1) Understanding, (2) Exploring, and (3) Deciding. These phases will be organized around working trips by the consultant teams. There will be four public meetings throughout the planning process, which should be completed in approximately nine months.



Public meeting group discussion on Oct. 28, 2009

The first phase began in October:

- October 27, 2009 – Big Darby Town Center Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting – First meeting of stakeholders.
 - October 28, 2009 – Big Darby Town Center Master Plan Focus Groups – One hour focus group meetings that were centered on the following topics: Transportation, Environmental, Developers/Landowners, Utilities/Infrastructure, Engineers/Design Firms and Leadership. Each focus group had an average attendance of 12 to 24 people participating.
 - October 28, 2009 – Big Darby Town Master Public Meeting #1 – approximately 40 to 50 people attended the meeting.
- The consultant will be back in town to meet with the Advisory Committee in early December and will be here for a week-long design charrette in late January.

Upcoming Workshops and Events

All those wishing to sit for the CPESC, CESSWI or CPSWQ exams will have the opportunity on **December 10** in Richfield, OH. Before sitting for the exams, you must be pre-approved by CESSWI or CPESC, Inc. For application details, contact them at info@cesswi.org or at info@cpesc.org. The registration deadline is December 4.

Save the Date! The Central Ohio Stormwater and Erosion Control Expo is coming March 11, 2010. Registration will begin in December to attend this annual event. Visit the Franklin Soil and Water website at franklinswcd.org for details.

Meet with NRCS, Franklin Soil and Water and FSA to discuss government programs available to developers and other land owners to earn money now for implementing green infrastructure practices. Brown bag lunch in early February.

Diversify Your Portfolio, Add Conservation To The Mix

Does your company own farmland that you are holding for future development? If so, you may be eligible to earn cash for installing your green infrastructure now. YES – you can get paid to plant your stream setback areas, floodplains and wet areas by using U. S. Department of Agriculture’s conservation programs on your land! District Conservationist Mary Ann Core says streamside land and wet areas in crop fields are perfect for USDA’s Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). “Why not earn up to \$236 per acre per year and grow grasses or trees instead of grain on these marginal crop lands and environmentally sensitive areas?” Core said. “You will also help to improve water quality and get paid now for the open space requirements you will need in the future,” she added.

Franklin County has roughly 80,000 acres of agricultural land. Sixty-eight percent of that land is located in western Franklin County within the Darby watershed; row crops account for 26,000 of those acres. Most farmland in the county has acreage that could be eligible for conservation practices that establish green infrastructure or open space benefits in the near-term and provide increased profitability to the land holder.

When land is developed under the Big Darby storm water permit, there is a minimum infiltration requirement. Get paid for your open space now while it is still in trees. Or install grasslands that will provide more water quality and ecological services than row crops and will help fulfill open space and infiltration requirements in the future while adding value to the landscape.

For example, your corporation owns a 200 acre farm on Hamilton Run. You have crops growing next to 1,000 lineal feet of stream that transverses your property. You decide to take 100 feet of the crop along the stream and plant it in native prairie grasses using CREP. 100’ x 1000’ equals 100,000 square feet or 2.3 acres. Common Darby area soil types, like Kokomo and Crosby silty clay loams, have soil rental rates of \$118 and \$109 per acre. Your payment rate is calculated to be \$113.50 per acre. If you put it into CREP, you will receive 200% of the soil rental rate, or \$227 per acre per year for 15 years on the land you convert from grain to grass. USDA provides a payment incentive that covers about 90% of the cost of planting. You will receive a rental payment every year for \$522.10 from the government for that 100’ wide filter strip and the land is still considered cropland for USDA and CAUV purposes.

That’s over \$7,800 over the contract life - guaranteed! Although row cropping for an equal area may yield more money over the contract life, it is unlikely this same area would encounter pristine conditions. It is more likely this area would encounter lower yield for these frequently

flooded marginal areas, commodities market fluctuations and farming production costs which can be upwards of half the gross.

After the contract term ends, the conservation area would continue to provide the matured storm water and infiltration requirements needed for further land development of the property. The established conservation area may also increase the value of the land adjacent to these conservation features and future dedicated open space.

The district conservationist will work with you to plan the seeding and management of the conservation crop.

Implementing green infrastructure practices on existing agricultural land can benefit land owners in the short term through program payments, and possibly reduced CAUV taxation, while creating long term benefits for the environment by reducing land erosion and surface water degradation. Conservation practices create value-added land features that meet future development needs. They create the green space and storm water control practices required by storm water permitting and are sustainable land practices for farmable areas already subject to frequent crop loss and flooding.

Do you want to know more about this and other USDA programs that can help you develop your open space and pay you to do it? Plan to attend a brown bag lunch session in early February to learn more about CREP, WRP, and other USDA conservation programs. Mary Ann Core, NRCS District Conservationist or David Reutter, Franklin Soil and Water Urban Conservationist can be reached at 614-486-9613.

EPA Information Request



The U. S. EPA has issued a draft information collection request regarding NPDES rulemaking slated for completion in November of 2012. Comments on the proposed survey will be accepted for sixty days after publication in the Federal Register, expected soon. The surveys are proposed to be mandatory for MS4s and will be sent out to owners and operators under the NPDES permit umbrella. This is a chance to have input on the future direction of storm water regulation and get a sense of where it is going and how you compare to national expectations. The pertinent documents can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/rulemaking>



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BMP Review: Seeding for Soil Stabilization

As we move into the winter season when most construction activity slows down and rains come more frequently, it becomes more and more important to protect the soil on our sites from the possibility of erosion. Vegetation controls erosion by reducing the velocity and the volume of overland flow and protects bare soil surfaces from raindrop impact.

Permanent seeding should be used for all disturbed portions of construction sites at final grade and any areas not planned for grading for a year or more. It should not be delayed on any one portion of a site at final grade while construction is ongoing on another portion of the site. Seeding should have been completed by September 30; any seeding done now is considered "dormant seeding". In dormant seeding the rates are increased by 50% and should, as always, be followed by mulching with straw or hydromulch. For general use, the seeding rate for Tall Fescue is 40-50 lbs. per acre, and Dwarf Fescue is 90 lbs. per acre.

Temporary seeding is used on exposed soil where additional work is not scheduled for more than 21 days. This type of seeding has the potential to drastically reduce the amount of sediment washed from a construction site. Efficiencies greater than 90% will be achieved with proper applications

of temporary seeding and mulch. As with permanent seeding, any seed applications should be done before the beginning of November.

At this time of year, use dormant seeding; extra seed should be used and must be properly mulched. From November through March it is all right to use mulch alone for temporary stabilization of bare soil.



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