



The Certified Inspector of Sediment and Erosion Control Newsletter

Special Interest Articles:

- LTAP/TTAP Centers to Offer the CISEC Inspector Program Nationwide
- Natives vs. Non-Natives in Stormwater
- An Opportunity for Improvement
- Make Sure that NPDES Permit is Up to Date
- Meet a CISEC Director
- Help Wanted: CDU Reviewer

LTAP/TTAP Centers to Offer the CISEC Inspector Program Nationwide

CISEC, Inc. will be presenting inspector training modules and administering its nationwide certification examination through the Federal Highway Administration's Local & Tribal Technical Assistance Programs (LTAP/TTAP).

The 58 LTAP/TTAP centers will provide inspectors, designers, and regulatory agency personnel more opportunities to receive training in the most professional sediment and erosion control inspector program in the nation. In addition, more opportunities for someone to take the certification examination also exist.

"These are exciting times to be involved with the CISEC Program," says Dr. Jerald Fifield, President of CISEC, Inc. "We now can reach a greater audience to provide the CISEC inspector training program in every state, as well as in Puerto Rico and those regional centers serving tribal governments. This also means it will be easier for qualified individuals to sit for the nationwide

examination and prove their expertise and skill as inspectors of sediment and erosion control and storm water management practices. They also now have more opportunities to meet certified inspector regulatory standards as required by the State of California, Austin, Texas, Sandy, Utah, and other municipalities.

Fifield also points out that by being able to offer the CISEC program through the LTAP/TTAP centers, CISEC, Inc. is one step closer to meeting its goal of a nationwide professional inspector certification program that ensures:

- Recognition throughout the nation that a CISEC is one who completes assigned duties in a competent manner which meets or exceeds minimum EPA's Construction General Permit requirements for inspecting and assessing construction site sediment and erosion control BMPs and storm water management practices.

- Recognition that a CISEC requires only minimal training to meet local regulatory construction site inspection and reporting requirements.
- Recognition that contractors, builders, developers, municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), and regulatory agencies can engage the professional skills of a CISEC knowing that he/she will observe, inspect, and report in a uniform, practical, and consistent manner.

Contact your local LTAP/TTAP center and request they offer the CISEC program and examination in your state. Then you can attend training modules on being an effective inspector and, if qualified, sit for the CISEC examination to become certified as a construction site inspector of sediment and erosion control and storm water management practices.

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Natives vs. Non-Natives in Stormwater BMPs

By Sarah Wright
CISEC #0252



Above: First Year Native Plant Installation

Below: Mature Native Plant Installation



I have heard the expression “it’s just a bunch of weeds” on numerous occasions in reference to native plantings, whether they are in a commercial development, flood control facility, stormwater BMP, or in my own backyard! About four years ago, my husband and I decided to try constructing a native raingarden at our own home. During the first couple years following installation, we did hear some ridicule from our neighbors. However, now that the raingarden has matured, the ridicule has turned to curiosity and admiration of our lush stand of wildflowers and native grasses.

Native vegetation, when installed and maintained correctly, can have major economic and ecological benefits. The root systems of native grasses and wildflowers extend ten to fifteen feet under ground at maturity, compared to turf grass which has only four to six inch roots. This feature helps reduce erosion, particularly on sites with highly erodable soil types. Because native plants were historically found in your locale, they are already adapted to the soil and weather conditions. Installation of natives will improve water quality by filtering pollutants, and will increase biodiversity and provide wildlife habitat. Once a native area is mature, it requires very

little maintenance; only mowing once or twice a year. This is compared to weekly mowing, fertilizer application, and herbicide application required to maintain traditional turf grass.

The drawbacks to native vegetation are few, but important to note. Native plants do take longer to mature than turf grass. Because of this, newly installed sites often have a weedy appearance, contributing to the public perception that native installations are a bunch of weeds. By providing a client with the details of where and when natives are appropriate and beneficial, you can help them get the most out of their stormwater BMPs.

An Opportunity for Improvement

By Scott David Rudd
CISEC #0352



I don’t know anybody that likes the current downturn in the economy. We would all rather be inundated with work. However, a slow period can also afford a unique opportunity.

We rarely have the time to take a breath and look at how we have been doing and what we can do better. There are a couple of critical tasks we can do during these slow times to help us better serve our clients and the industry. The first task is to closely look at those services we provide and

how we can improve upon them. The second task is to determine if we are growing professionally as individuals and where we can make a few personal improvements to provide better services.

Reviewing your existing procedures while taking a “client” point of view might best address the first task. Take a couple of moments over a cup of coffee and work through the services you provide from start to finish. It’s important that all of our services meet and exceed the expectations we would personally have

if hiring a paid professional. “Good enough” might not be acceptable if we were paying the bills. Ask yourself a few simple questions. Are the forms I use easily readable? Can the client clearly identify my recommendations and conclusions? Have I provided sufficient information and details on recommended and alternative materials? Have I scheduled my services in a way that works for both my client and the technical aspects

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Make Sure that NPDES Permit is Up to Date

By John Kuebrich
CISEC #0385

For many developers and general contractors, the annual statement is their reminder that the pesky NPDES permit renewal fee of \$500 is due.

Typically this is the only time of the year when the NPDES permit is even thought of. The most common comment heard is "can we file a Notice of Termination yet?" But little is ever considered of what information on the permit is relevant, or whether the scope of the project changed?

As a CISEC, are we checking the information on these permits? Those who review these permits need to be aware of any changes to contact names, contractor information (all too often the contractor information states "TBA"), construction times, total construction area, SWPPP contact information, and who is the project inspector. With so many developments being taken over by banks or

surety companies, it's becoming even more important to have this information updated.

Consider a simple example of an 85 unit single-family development, which has 50 homes completed and sold with people living in them. The remaining 35 lots cannot be developed due to economic hard times. Working with the local municipality and the Soil and Water Conservation District, it was determined that the detention basin, common areas, and the 50 occupied home sites were fully stabilized. When the developer updates information on the appropriate NPDES forms, he is able to reduce his responsibility to the acreage of the remaining 35 lots. He also writes a letter to the Home Owners Association stating that they are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the detention basin and common areas.

The above demonstrates

how a developer can reduce his liability to the remaining 35 lots. By working with the regulatory agencies to fully stabilize these lots, he might be able to file an NOT later in the summer. For the individual lots sold, he provides the buyers with a letter about their responsibility to comply with local and state ordinances concerning soil erosion and sediment control.

With so many projects in limbo and inspectors being laid off from consulting firms, evaluate whether your name is listed as the "Project Inspector" on the NPDES permit. If you are no longer performing these services, follow up with either your former client or employer to remove your name from the permit. With an unintentional lapse in paper work, there can be a big potential of liability for you and your client if this is not done.

Be sure those permits and paper work are up to date!



An Opportunity for Improvement (cont.)

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of the job?

The second task is a little more difficult. Few people enjoy taking a critical look at their own work to see where improvement might be made. A good friend or colleague can frequently be of great help. Often a few simple changes can make a tremendous difference. Ask yourself

few more simple questions. How are my writing skills? How neat and clear is the handwriting on my field reports? Do I actively try to increase my technical skills and knowledge? Are there other professional organizations whose information can help increase my skills?

These are but a few of

the questions that can help each of us identify areas to improve. The answers may be critical to the perception others have of your level of professionalism. It is in our collective best interest to continually improve the quality of our own work and the representation of our industry.





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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.cisecinc.org

Meet a CISEC Director

Hello all! My name is Carlo Turchiano. I am a Sagittarius. I like the feel of sand between my toes and puppies. My dislikes are people who are pretentious and stormwater polluters.

I graduated from Metropolitan State College of Denver in 1991 with a Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice and Criminology. Over the past 10 years I have worked for the Douglas County Building Division located about 20 miles south of Denver, Colorado. I have been responsible for developing and implementing Douglas County's Drainage, Erosion and Sediment Control (DESC) Program and I am currently rewriting the requirements to further compliment Douglas County's Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control (GESC) Manual. I have worked closely with builders, erosion control contractors and distributors on residential "pilot" programs to examine not only a



product's performance, but also its cost and maintenance.

I served two years as Vice President of the IECA Mountain States Chapter and was a founding member of the Home Builders Association of Metro Denver's Storm Water Task Force, where I worked to bring builders and regulators to the table to discuss stormwater issues.

In February 2006, I volunteered to help out the then fledgling CISEC program. Since that time, I was voted onto the Board

of Directors and was put in charge of the CISEC Exam. I am responsible for grading all of the exams, printing certificates, talking with those who did not pass the exam, scanning and filing CISEC files (including applications, tests, and renewal documents). This leaves me a couple of hours a week to spend with my wife and my two sons.

If I have spoken with you on the phone and seemed curt, or if my emails were a bit abrupt, please forgive me. I got a lot going on.

Help Wanted: CDU Reviewer

CISEC, Inc. is looking for individuals willing to work for a fantastic salary (\$0.00 per day) to review and accumulate data from Continuing Development Hours (CDUs) forms that registrants submit with their annual CISEC renewal. In addition to the fantastic salary of \$0.00 per day, you will be able to earn up to four (4) CDUs, depending upon the number of forms you process.

Experience required includes having common sense, able to read, working knowledge of Excel, and having the ability to assess information in a professional manner.

If interested, contact CISEC, Inc. at 720-235-2783 or send an e-mail to cisec_inc@yahoo.com.