2017 Board of Directors Changes

By CISEC, Inc. Staff

This past fiscal year has seen a lot of changes for CISEC, Inc:

- We lost a valued member of our board and our industry-Mike Alberson. See tribute on page 2 by Ken Kristoffersen.

- CAN-CISEC #0009 Jill Attwood from Ontario had to resign as she was offered a position with TRCA and would not have the time to do the position justice as she wanted. Thank you for your contribution Jill; you were a valuable member on the Board of Directors.

- We appointed a new member to fill Mike’s position on the Board of Directions--Josh Downey CISEC #31. Thank you for stepping up and welcome aboard.

- We also appointed a new member to complete Jill’s term and fill that vacancy-Tim Slatunas CISEC #1283. Thank you for stepping up and welcome aboard.

The following are your new officers for FY 2017-18:

- President-Tina Evans, temporary for one year
- Vice President-Brock Peters
- Secretary-Calvin Palmer
- Treasurer-John Balobeck.

Thank you to all of the above for your service and willingness to serve another year on the board.

Individual Highlights:

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In Memory of Mike Alberson

By Ken Kristoffersen, CISEC #0507

We are saddened to report the passing of Mike Alberson this past November after a short and valiant battle with cancer. Many of us knew Mike from his storm water classes, as a colleague and as a storm water compliance guru with many years of SWPPP development experience.

Mike was active for several years on various Boards including the Western Chapter of IECA and the CISEC Board of Directors. He was constantly tinkering with his training programs, always looking for more effective ways to deliver storm water training. Mike took his role as an authority and educator seriously and wasn’t afraid to ask the hard questions.

Mike was a leader and as each new Federal and California State permit rolled out, he made a significant effort to master the intricacies, which made him a significant resource. He was always helpful and generous, and he will be well remembered and missed by all.

Rest in Peace Mike. You will be missed.
Biotic Soil Amendments and the Necessity of Considering Cation Exchange Capacity in Soils

By Lauren Alaniz, CAN-CISEC #0127

In the efforts to improve our soils often we focus exclusively on adding nutrients to improve vegetation performance, when really there is another soil process that must come into consideration as well. This process has the intimidating name of the soil’s cation exchange capacity- but is actually quite an easy concept to understand. And by understanding this process at work in all soils we can improve our vegetation efforts and reduce costs on our site.

For nutrients to be taken up by plants they must be dissolved. Nutrients that are dissolved are referred to as cations and anions. Cations are the positively charged particles (1) and include most nutrients vital to plant success. So, in layman’s terms the Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) of soils is its ability to retain those vital nutrients and ensure they are available and in a form the plant can utilize.

What does that mean? Consider a parking lot analogy. The nutrient cations, “cars”, need somewhere to go if they are going to be able to park and stay in the soil. The higher the Cation Exchange Capacity in your soil the more “parking spaces” are available to hold those nutrients. The more parking spaces, the more cars… thus the higher your soil’s nutrient holding capacity- which means the more nutrients available for plants to utilize. The easy takeaway is this: If you are adding soil nutrients through soil amendments, but NOT also focused on raising your CEC levels then you are basically throwing your money away as the nutrients will simply leach out of your soils and will not proving the benefit you intended for your soils.

Another problem that may be encountered is if you also added organic matter as well as nutrients, but are still not seeing an increase in Cation Exchange Capacity and nutrient holding capabilities in your soil then the issue may be an organic material that is not being broken down correctly. This can be the result if you add organic matter without paying attention to cation exchange and added too much high carbon material all at once (for example, wood chips.)

Good cation exchange levels are generally considered to be ideal if they reach or exceed 20 meq/100 g. Peat moss provides a Cation Exchange Capacity ranged from 108 to 162 meq/100 g. (2), making it an ideal addition for both soil tithe improvement as well as dramatically improving a soil’s Cation Exchange Capacity. This makes it an excellent soil amendment and explains it’s long and successful usage by multiple industries that have growing plants as part of their business model. Humus and compost also have high cation exchange levels, but are short lived in soils and need replacement often, unlike sphagnum peat moss, which is very long lasting.

Cation Exchange Capacity should be something we consider hand in hand with adding nutrients to our soils to promote better and longer lasting vegetation success. The ability for soils to absorb more nutrients and hold onto them longer ensures lower maintenance requirements and costs through the reduction in the number and frequency of fertilizer applications.


(2) Cation Exchange Capacity and Base Saturation Variation among Alberta, Canada, Moss Peats. Janet F.M. Rippy and Paul V. Nelson. Department of Horticultural Science, Box 7609, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695
Since 1991, the Government of Malaysia has been legislatively committed to address environmental management of its country. However, accelerated erosion continues to exist in Malaysia due to poor construction practices on property development, infrastructure projects, agriculture practices, mining and forestry.

In September 2016, CISEC president Tina Evans and CISEC founder Dr. Jerald S. Fifield teamed with Mr. Leong Kwok Wing to teach in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia about sediment and erosion control on construction sites. This has led to the development of Malaysia’s CISEC (MY-CISEC) program that is recognized by the Malaysian Stormwater Organization (MSO).

A major goal of Mr. Leong for the MY-CISEC program is to ensure a professional inspector certification program exists that specifically addresses Malaysian environmental problems. The MY-CISEC program accomplishes this goal by emulating what is found within the United States and Canada CISEC programs while incorporating Malaysian conditions.

As with the United States and Canadian CISEC programs, MY-CISEC registrants must pass a rigorous and comprehensive 4-hour examination by 75% or better that tests their ability to:

- Assess and answer questions on an Environmental Management Plan (EMP),
- Develop inspection reports on construction site conditions,
- Answer questions on Malaysian Rules and Regulations,
- Answer questions on BMPs and pollutants and
- Answer questions on duties of an inspector.

For those that do not have sufficient inspection experience or education, CISEC, Inc. is working with Mr. Leong and MSO to ensure development of an optional training program on:

- Malaysian Rules and Regulations,
- Inspector Background Information and Material,
- Inspecting BMPs and Writing Reports and
- Conducting Construction Site Inspections and Presenting the Findings.

Today, more than 200 MY-CISEC registrants conduct construction site inspections and work with contractors as they implement BMPs identified in Erosion and Sediment Control Plans (ESCPs). They are ensuring mitigations measures specified in the Department of Environment’s (DOE) Land Disturbance Pollution Prevention Mitigation Measures (LDPPMM) are installed, inspected and maintained in an optimum manner.

Malaysia is among the leaders in Asia to protect the environment by providing training and certification. We applaud MSO and Mr. Leong for their dedication and professionalism to implement the MY-CISEC program for inspectors of sediment and erosion control.
Questions About: Pocket Certificates, Renewals, Reinstatement and Pink Slips

By Renewals Committee Staff

- Pocket certificates are being printed and will be mailed out to ACTIVE CISEC Registrants by the first part of October. If you do not have a current status, you must contact the renewals department ASAP to see what is needed to get you current. Please be aware that the pocket certificates are for your convenience and do not take the place of your annual renewal.

- If you have not yet renewed, please contact the renewals department via email (see below) for information on what you need to become current and active. If you have already renewed but have not yet received your receipt, please email the renewals department for that information. Please do not call as that can delay a response due to large volumes of incoming calls.

- Pink Slips will be sent out via email by the end of September; if you receive one, please contact the renewals department via email to see what is needed to get you current and active. This could be fees not paid from prior years; missing minimum required CDHs; original signed and notarized contract or missing current signed CISEC Re-Certification Contract. If you have paid your fees, but have not yet received a receipt; please email the renewals department to find out what the issue may be.

- If you are inactive or have been inactive for a while, again, email us to see how we may assist you in becoming current and active. It can be easier than you think, so let us help you with the process.

- If you have any questions or concerns about renewals or reinstatement, email us at cdh_renewals@cisecinc.org and we will see how we may be of assistance.

“Why is my name not on the CISEC, Inc. Website?”

By CISEC, Inc. Staff

When do you not find your name on the CISEC, Inc. website under “Find a CISEC”, it is due to one of the following reasons:

- We are missing your signed and notarized CISEC Certification Contract or your CAN-CISEC Certification Contract—two copies are sent to you in your certification packet.

- You may have unpaid annual or yearly renewal fees for the current renewal period and/or previous renewal periods (this is a yearly fee required to maintain your active status).

- You may have unpaid late and or reinstatement fees from the current renewal period and/or previous renewal periods.

- We are missing a re-certification contract that was emailed to you for your next re-certification period (this will soon be passé as by July 1, 2018 for U.S. registrants and October 1, 2018 for Canadian registrants will have all registrants on a yearly renewal and re-certification time frame).

- You are short CDHs required for re-certification; 3 year contracts or those with contracts expiring on June 30, 2017 or June 30, 2018, that is a minimum of 36 CDHs; or the new re-certification yearly minimum requirement of 12 CDHs.

- You were inadvertently dropped from the site when it was hacked in April of 2016 and the web technical people had to reset from the first of the year.

If you have questions, or concerns; please email us at cdh_renewals@cisecinc.org.
Emeritus Policy

By Staff

The following policy was adopted by the board of directors to address retiree’s specific needs as a CISEC registrant.

Emeritus Status Policy

CISEC, Inc. grants emeritus status to a CISEC or CAN-CISEC registrant that meets the following conditions:

1. The individual is at least 67 years old.
2. The individual has been a CISEC and/or CAN-CISEC registrant in good standing with CISEC, Inc. for at least three consecutive years prior to applying for Emeritus Status.
3. Upon receiving proof of reaching the age of 67 years and being a CISEC or CAN-CISEC registrant at least three consecutive years prior to applying for an Emeritus Status, CISEC, Inc. agrees that the individual is entitled to maintain his/her Emeritus registration status for the following condition:
   a. A United States Registrant is to pay on or before June 30, of each year, an amount equal to 50% of the annual CISEC registrant renewal fee as set forth by the CISEC Board of Directors.
   b. A Canadian Registrant is to pay on or before September 30, of each year, an amount equal to 50% of the annual CAN-CISEC registrant renewal fee as set forth by the CISEC Board of Directors.
4. Upon receiving proof of reaching the age of 67 years, CISEC, Inc. agrees that a CISEC or CAN-CISEC Emeritus registrant is to annually submit at least 50% of the CDHs that are required of registrants under the age of 67 years.

A CISEC or CAN-CISEC Emeritus registrant is expected to adhere to the current CISEC or CAN-CISEC Code of Ethics and remain in good standing with CISEC, Inc. in order to maintain an Emeritus Status.

**Proof can include legal documentation, driver’s license, birth certificate or other documentation as approved by the Board of Directors."