

STORMWATER UPDATE

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CSW Training Upcoming Dates

KSU CIT Program

<http://citksu.com>

June 6-7, 2018

Tentative:

September 26-27, 2018

March 18-19, 2019

March 20-21, 2019

May 6-7, 2019

May 7-8, 2019

Kansas Contractors Association

<http://www.kansascontractors.org/>

No Classes Scheduled

Construction Stormwater (CSW) Training has replaced the EIT/EMT courses. EIT/EMT Certifications remain valid for two years from date of certification.

All completed inspection reports must be submitted to the responsible Area Engineer and the contractor's WPCM within 24 hours of each inspection. The Area Engineer must sign within 3 calendar days and submit to KDOT.stormwaterinspection@ks.gov. Failure to complete and submit inspection reports on time may result in disincentive assessment

A Long Strange Trip

by Jason Van Nice

As many of you are aware, approximately one month ago I stepped away from the Stormwater Compliance Engineer position and accepted a new role within KDOT as the KC North Metro Engineer. While I am certainly looking forward to new experiences and opportunities, I wanted to take this space to look back on my five-plus years as SWCE.

When I started as SWCE in January, 2013, I had very little idea of what exactly this new position would require. KDOT was in the midst of negotiating the consent decree that would eventually define many of my core responsibilities. There was little to no established structure or policy within KDOT to build around so the first couple of years were focused on developing processes to help meet the mandates of decree.

One of my first "duties" as SWCE was to attend Nebraska's erosion control training class. We knew that KDOT needed to develop training and wanted to get some ideas of what that training might look like. I remember sitting in the meeting rooms at Mahoney State Park listening to their guest instructor, Mr. Leo Holm, tell fantasy tales of immediate stabilization, finishing as you go, and maintaining compliance as the job is built. These ideas were so far from the practices I was familiar with at KDOT that they seemed almost absurd or even impossible to implement.

Here we are five years later, and I am amazed at how much we have changed. So much so that those absurd or impossible ideas have become something we expect and that we accomplish on a regular basis. I will always say that this is due primarily to our inspectors, engineers and contractors who have "bought in" and continuously found ways to incorporate these principles in our projects. As I try to tell everyone who comes through our training program, it takes a lot of people working together to be successful, no person working alone can keep a project in compliance.

Of course, we at KDOT have only just begun on this journey. The next Stormwater Compliance Engineer certainly will have many challenges in front of them. We are starting to see the benefits of good construction stormwater management but we must continue to grow and find ways to improve. I believe we can also build upon our visibility within our state to provide improved guidance for cities, counties and others seeking to improve their programs.

It has truly been a pleasure working with you and serving as your Stormwater Compliance Engineer. Thank you!

JVN



Construction Stormwater (CSW) Classes

With the termination of the Consent Decree our training program has been updated. The EIT and EMT certifications will no longer be offered and have been replaced with the Construction Stormwater (CSW) certification. EIT and EMT certifications will remain valid until their expiration date. CSW certifications will be valid for four years from date of issue. Personnel performing stormwater related duties including inspectors, WPCMs and Area/Metro Engineers are required to maintain current certification.

A schedule has been set for CSW classes through the KDOT CIT program. Classes are currently planned for June 6-7, 2018. Tentative dates have been set for September 26-27, 2018 and for March 18-19, March 20-21, May 6-7 and May 7-8, 2019. Visit <http://citksu.com> for details and to register. Registration for September 2018 and the 2019 classes will open on September 1, 2018.

The Kansas Contractors Association (KCA) also sponsors classes. No classes are scheduled at this time. Contact KCA for questions or to express interest in future offerings.

Everyone should review their recertification dates and enroll in the appropriate classes to ensure that certifications do not lapse. Classes may be canceled due to insufficient enrollment so please register early.



Tied Concrete Block

A recent project on US 283 in Norton County included the installation of Tied Concrete Block mats for erosion protection. The mats consist of high strength geogrid embedded into concrete blocks. This combination provides permanent erosion protection while allowing for vegetation to grow between the blocks.

Tied concrete blocks may be used in many cases as an alternative to aggregate ditch lining or slope protection. Various erosion control materials are available as a backing for the concrete blocks which provide stabilization between the blocks until vegetation establishes. The mats are trenched in on the edges and anchored with a combination of rebar “staples” and percussion earth anchors.

It certainly appears that this type of product can be beneficial in the right circumstances. As we gain familiarity with the strengths and weakness we will likely see more of it in the future.



Stormwater Update Online

This issue and all past issues of this quarterly bulletin are available online at KDOT’s Stormwater website:
<http://www.ksdot.org/burconsmain/Connections/swppp.asp>

Contact Kevin Palic (kevin.palic@ks.gov) for questions, comments or suggestions for future content.