The New Way of Doing Business: Soil Erosion, Sediment Control, and Compliance Assistance (April 27, 2015)

Workshop Summary and Evaluation

Prepared by URI Cooperative Extension, RI NEMO

Overview of Training

This workshop was part of RIDOT Winter Training, where RIDOT employees are provided with a course catalog and voluntarily choose which courses to attend. The purpose of this particular workshop was to the address roles and responsibilities for stormwater management on RIDOT construction sites, review the history of soil erosion and sediment (SESC) control issues, introduce the RIDEM Compliance Assistance Program, and obtain RIDOT staff input to improve compliance.

A total of 16 RIDOT staff participated in this workshop, primarily Engineering Technicians and several Resident Engineers. The workshop was led by staff of the RIDOT Natural Resources Unit, RIDEM supervisory staff, URI Department of Engineering, and URI Cooperative Extension.

Summary Results

This document contains the results recorded by Turning Technologies Software during the training, when participants had the opportunity to answer questions about material presented and share opinions about appropriate actions using an electronic keypad. The most common response to each question has been highlighted in yellow.

Results from the use of the electronic keypads are organized into three sections: questions about material presented during training; group exercise questions; and training evaluation questions. An additional section has been added to the end of the document, summarizing comments that participants shared throughout the day.

The group exercise section summarizes the results of the small group discussions during the work session on system-wide solutions. The choices in this section were generated by participants during the exercise. Complete results are reported on page 8. However, the top problems identified by participants were: not enough training for contractors; ignoring or doing nothing about SECS controls; and not being proactive.

Based upon these results, as well as discussion during the training, it seems that there is some confusion about roles and responsibilities, however, some of this is due to the different names used by attendees versus those used in construction documents, such and the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. When questioned on material presented, the majority responded correctly. Overall, participants seemed to value the training, most noting that it was relevant for their work and that they planned to use what they learned. One participant even noted, “This is the best workshop like this that I ever attended.” In discussion of the workshop, several attendees commented that having RIDEM involved was very positive, and that the emphasis on working with RIDEM to help address construction site problems is likely to improve communication in the future.

1. Questions About Material Presented During Training

Who Is Responsible For…Enforcing Contract Documents?

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
Resident Engineer *(c)*	50.00%	8
Contractor	0.00%	0
Field Inspector	6.25%	1
SWPPP Inspector	0.00%	0
Bert & Ernie	0.00%	0
DEM	6.25%	1
Everyone On Site	37.50%	6
Totals	**100%**	**16**

Who Is Responsible For…Maintaining Compliance?

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
Resident Engineer	0.00%	0
Contractor *(c)*	75.00%	12
Field Inspector	0.00%	0
SWPPP Inspector	0.00%	0
Bert & Ernie	0.00%	0
DEM	0.00%	0
Everyone On Site	25.00%	4
Totals	**100%**	**16**

What is an SESC Plan?

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
Are we allowed to talk about that here?	0.00%	0
Same as a SWPPP *(c)*	63.64%	7
Simple Escape in the event of Sudden Catastrophe	36.36%	4
A GINORMOUS pain in the…	0.00%	0
Totals	**100%**	**11**

Who are the players?

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
Resident Engineer	0.00%	0
Contractor	13.33%	2
Field Inspector	6.67%	1
SWPPP Inspector	0.00%	0
Bert & Ernie	0.00%	0
DEM	0.00%	0
Everyone On Site	80.00%	12
Totals	**100%**	**15**

Who is the owner?

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
SWPPP Inspector	0.00%	0
Contractor	41.18%	7
Resident Engineer	58.82%	10
RIDOT *(c)*	0.00%	0
Owner of what?	0.00%	0
Totals	**100%**	**17**

Who is the operator?

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
The person you talk to when you dial 411. Wait…who dials that?	0.00%	0
SWPPP Inspector	0.00%	0
Contractor	93.33%	14
Resident Engineer	0.00%	0
Field Inspector	6.67%	1
Totals	**100%**	**15**

Who is the SESC inspector?

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
We have Inspectors?	6.67%	1
Design Consultant *(c)*	6.67%	1
Contractor	0.00%	0
Resident Engineer	53.33%	8
Field Inspector	33.33%	5
Totals	**100%**	**15**

What are the Top 3 "illicit discharge" pollutants from RIDOT Construction Sites?

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
Sediment	10.00%	1
Concrete washout	0.00%	0
Trash	0.00%	0
All of the above	90.00%	9
Totals	**100%**	**10**

Summary Quiz: How can you control illicit discharges?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Keep stockpiles covered.	0.00%	0
Use gravel construction entrances.	0.00%	0
Contain 100% of Concrete washout.	0.00%	0
Keep trash contained & covered.	0.00%	0
Look out for illicit connections.	0.00%	0
All of the above (c)	100.00%	15
Totals	**100%**	**15**

A slope keeps washing out, even though E&S controls are installed according to plans. WWYD?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Install the same controls again. That's what's on the plan!	0.00%	0
Bleep it. It hasn't worked so far. Why bother?	0.00%	0
Get something new on that slope!	71.43%	10
Call the NRU for a field inspection on Friday at 12:30.	28.57%	4
Totals	**100%**	**14**

A contractor fails to maintain E&S controls…repeatedly. Intentionally. WWYD?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Ahhh…he's a good guy. He's doing his best.	8.33%	1
Nothing - the SWPPP is covering it.	0.00%	0
Use a tiered fine.	75.00%	9
Ask the contractor to stop doing that….pretty please.	16.67%	2
Totals	**100%**	**12**

A 2-inch rain event is forecast for tomorrow morning. There's an excavator on a slope on your site, and the slope is exposed. WWYD?

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
Go get coffee and an umbrella!	11.11%	1
Call the NRU for a field visit on Friday at 12:30… that's only 4 days away.	0.00%	0
Install more hay bales, as designed!	0.00%	0
Call the contractor to get E&S installed before the end of the day.	88.89%	8
Totals	**100%**	**9**

2. Group Discussion Questions

Top ten HEINOUS crimes (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)*

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
No support from Management	7.69%	3
Push-back from contractor	7.69%	3
Design flaws	12.82%	5
Leaking equipment	5.13%	2
Not enough pay for DOT field staff	15.38%	6
Not enough training for contractors	25.64%	10
Sediment runoff into drains	2.56%	1
Concrete wash	2.56%	1
No pre-existing maintenance	10.26%	4
Need more DEM pressure on Contractors	10.26%	4
Totals	**100%**	**39**

*The choices for this question were generated by participants during the group exercise.

Top ten HEINOUS crimes CONTINUED*

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
Demo debris management	14.63%	6
E&S maintenance/running over	14.63%	6
Contract E&S contact staff	9.76%	4
Ignoring/doing nothing	24.39%	10
Not being PRO-active	24.39%	10
Not enough $$ in contract for Maintenance	12.20%	5
Totals	**100%**	**41**

*The choices for this question also were generated by participants, but due to restrictions on the number of options for each polling question, could not be included in the previous question.

3. Training Evaluation Questions

This training was relevant for my work.

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
Strongly Agree	69.23%	9
Agree	23.08%	3
Neutral	0.00%	0
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly Disagree	7.69%	1
Totals	**100%**	**13**

I plan to use what I learned at this training.

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
Strongly Agree	42.86%	6
Agree	50.00%	7
Neutral	7.14%	1
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly Disagree	0.00%	0
Totals	**100%**	**14**

The level of technical information today was….

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
easy	30.77%	4
somewhat easy	15.38%	2
appropriate	53.85%	7
somewhat difficult	0.00%	0
difficult	0.00%	0
Totals	**100%**	**13**

The pace of the training was….

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
slow	0.00%	0
somewhat slow	0.00%	0
appropriate	92.86%	13
somewhat fast	7.14%	1
fast	0.00%	0
Totals	**100%**	**14**

For this training… I wish you would change….

	Responses	
	Percent	**Count**
Absolutely nothing – you guys ROCK	21.43%	3
Absolutely everything – are you kiddin' me!?	0.00%	0
Not much – you mostly got it.	64.29%	9
You have no clue what I deal with	14.29%	2
Totals	**100%**	**14**

4. Comments That Participants Shared Throughout The Workshop

- Contractors don't want to take staff off work considered higher priority to perform stormwater maintenance.

- Catch basin cleaning is too difficult – fabric covers are heavy, rip and sediment falls in. Needs more frequent cleaning to avoid this.

- Bridge contractors need to be trained to look at the whole site, not focus on abutment to abutment. Often no LODs, no SESC controls.

- Compost mulch socks fall apart – need to address that in design and use better quality material and fill.

- Difficult for contractors to get paid for SESC maintenance. Often only $10,000 in contract when much more is needed.

- Potential Solutions:
    - Increase amount for SESC maintenance in contracts. Include installation and maintenance as one amount.

    - May be easier to pay for maintenance to avoid more costly problems.

    - But don't pay for maintenance when problem repeatedly caused by contractor, such as running over straw bales. Give notice when it's the last time.

    - Consider having the contractor design their own SESC plan instead of the designer, as FL DOT does (Code Language 212-1000). Mike D. will investigate how that is actually working.