



Using The Updated *RI Soil Erosion and Sediment Handbook*: Introductory Workshop

January 23, 2015 (morning)
Summary of Survey Results

Out of 47 attendees, 40 returned a complete survey, an 85 % response rate. Most respondents felt that the workshop was relevant and practical for their work and that it improved their understanding of the Handbook. The majority found the level of technical information appropriate to easy and the pace of the workshop appropriate.

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neither Disagree or Agree 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5	Mean
1. This workshop was relevant and practical for my work.	2.6%	2.6%	5.1%	38.5%	51.3%	4.33
2. I will be able to use what I learned in this workshop.	5.1%	0%	7.7%	48.7%	38.5%	4.15
3. This workshop improved my understanding of the Handbook.	2.5%	0%	10%	57.5%	30%	4.13
4. I still need to know more in order to better understand how to use the Handbook.	2.5%	10%	20%	47.5%	20%	3.73
5. This workshop was a good way for me to learn this content.	2.5%	0%	12.5%	47.5%	37.5%	4.18

	Easy	Somewhat Easy	Appropriate	Somewhat Difficult	Difficult	Mean
6. The level of technical information was:	30%	17.5%	52.5%	0%	0%	2.23
	Slow	Somewhat Slow	Appropriate	Somewhat Fast	Fast	
7. The pace of the workshop was:	0%	7.5%	90%	2.5%	0%	2.95

8. What was your most important reason for attending today?

The top answer involved learning more about the Handbook or soil erosion and sediment control in general, and was mentioned by seventeen (17) respondents. The connection to permitting and plan review was mentioned by seven (7) respondents, and the fact that the workshop was required was also mentioned by four (4) respondents. All submitted answers are included below:

- Required.
- Use of Handbook in permitting process.
- I hope to work in RI, so I need to learn about the SW management and SESC programs.
- Learn more about how the Handbook will be implemented/used.
- Compliance inspections for ERP Program.
- To be able to provide better guidance to homeowners/construction workers on site.
- Mandatory. How am I going to apply this to my plan review duties?
- Hear from some Handbook writers on reason behind specific items.
- Better understanding of the types and usage of erosion controls.
- To learn about new content and specific practices.
- To become more familiar with the best practices that are now available to control site erosion.
- Gaining a better understanding of the SESC Handbook.
- Related to daily aspects of my job.
- Get oriented on the content of the Handbook and understand how it relates to the SW Manual.
- Required.
- Plan review for permitting and become familiar with new Handbook.
- Familiarize with new manual.
- Receive training.
- Plan review.
- To become familiar with the new Handbook and e/s control methods that are deemed to be appropriate for a given scenario.

- Compliance inspections.
- Permit review- need to know what to review.
- Mandatory training for permit review. Need to learn manual for stipulating permit/review.
- Knowledge
- Become familiar with and use the new SESC Manual
- Being able to identify stormwater and water pollution violations during field inspections.
- Demonstrate interagency coordination and commitment to using the new Handbook.
- Training
- Learn what the RISESC was about.
- Manual overview.
- Education.
- Familiarization with requirements.
- New changes that were made to the Handbook.
- Plan review.
- To stay up to date.
- Better understanding of intricacies of erosion/sediment control.

9. Did we help you achieve your most important reason for attending?

One hundred percent (100%) of respondents said that we did help them achieve their most important reason for attending.

Either way, please let us know what we could have done better by checking all options that apply and writing any comments in the space provided.

Out of the choices provided, six (6) respondents said that we could have provided better information before the workshop.

Three (3) respondents said we could have improved the instructional methods.

Three (3) respondents said we could have made the workshop activities more stimulating.

One (1) respondent said we could have shortened the time for the workshop.

Seven (7) respondents said we could have added video to the workshop.

Other Improvements?

- Way below the level of experienced permit staff.
- Photo examples of good and bad practices, erosion controls, etc.
- 1/8 of room could not see presentation.
- Make slides available, so I can take notes.
- Short video instruction gives the speaker some time to rest; also video on how to use the manual may have more impact to people learning the practices.

10. What specific topics would you like to see covered in future workshops?

The most common suggestion related to enforcement, compliance, and inspections. Another popular topic involved training or certification for designers, practitioners, contractors.

- Fix stormwater manual first.
- Require that designer should be certified (not just PE, Landscape Architect, etc.)
- Techniques to improve compliance measures.
- How much inspections are considered necessary to ensure a modicum of compliance with Handbook and what is expectation in terms of staffing reapportioning versus permit review duties.
- Erosion controls in the field.
- Specific practices, maybe field examples (e.g. steep slope stabilization).
- Actual site conditions and measures taken to ensure stormwater compliance (recent examples).
- Practical ways to correct problems when they are encountered (fixing the damage).
- Application to field work/inspections.
- More compliance.
- Enforcement measures? Fines?
- More wetland protection info.
- Information regarding practitioner/contractor training.

Additional Comments and Suggestions for Future Training

- Don't do!
- Good job- clear and concise, appropriate for an introductory session.
- Contractors and consultants need training!!
- SESC inspector trainings.
- GIS/Arc trainings to better use available reference tools/maps.