

Local Program Report to the SCC

New Hanover County

On February 23, 2012 Gray Hauser, Matt Poling and Dan Sams conducted a review of New Hanover County's Local Program. The County conducted 231 total plan reviews in 2011, with 126 approvals and 105 disapprovals. The County has also conducted 1,810 inspections and issued 10 notices of violations and 10 civil penalties in 2011. The county has 2 full time equivalents dedicated to erosion control. During our review of the program, we inspected 4 sites and reviewed 4 plans that had already been approved. All four sites were in compliance.

Recommendations

The New Hanover County program is well administered. Land Quality staff recommends two improvements to strengthen the program:

1. A differentiation between comments and corrective actions should be implemented on inspection reports.
2. In the field, a focus should be placed on enforcing on temporary stabilization of inactive bare areas, sediment basin slopes and their associated diversions, to prevent erosion from occurring from within the measures.

Staff recommends continued delegation with implementation of the above recommendations.

City of Greensboro

On March 1, 2012 Matt Poling and Tim Latham conducted a review of the City of Greensboro's Local Program. The City conducted 211 total plan reviews in 2011, with 39 approvals. The City has also conducted 1066 inspections and issued six Notices of Violations and no civil penalties in 2011. Five projects were reviewed and inspected. Three sites were in compliance and two had one or more violations.

Recommendations

Land Quality recommends that the City emphasize stabilizing sediment basin slopes and their associated diversions to prevent erosion from occurring from within the measures. Land Quality staff recommends continued delegation of the program.

Lincoln County

On March 13, 2012, Matthew Poling, Gray Hauser, James Moore and Ryan Kormanik, conducted a review of the Lincoln County's Local Program. The County conducted 16 total plan reviews during 2011, all of which were approved. The county has also conducted 779 inspections, issued 14 notices of violations and 3 civil penalties in 2011. The county has 3 full time equivalents dedicated to erosion control. During our review of the program, 5 projects were inspected. Four of the projects were in compliance, with

the fifth site having some significant violations that the County has been actively addressing.

Recommendations

The Lincoln County is inspecting projects on a regular basis and is taking enforcement action as appropriate. Approved plans are generally adequate. The following recommendations are made to strengthen the program:

1. Inspection reports should be completely filled out. The majority of inspection reports that were reviewed lacked some checkboxes being marked. If violations are checked on the inspection report, this is usually a violation of the NPDES permit. Please mark appropriately. If the site is called in compliance, no violations should be checked. Instead, provide comments about the site in the appropriate areas.
2. Ensure that the approved plan is being followed at all times. Any significant changes will require the submission of a revised plan.
3. Please place more emphasis in the field on providing adequate temporary or permanent ground cover in a timely manner.
4. More emphasis needs to be placed on the adequacy of water conveyance measures. Thoroughly check to ensure that diversions are: a) not placed in fill, b) not too steep, c) maintainable during grading or placed along the edges of the site

Land Quality staff recommends continued delegation to Lincoln County, with implementation of the above recommendations.

Catawba County

On March 14, 2012 Poling, Gray Hauser, James Moore and Ryan Kormanik, conducted a review of the Catawba County Local Program. During 2011, 27 plans were reviewed, with 25 approvals and 2 disapprovals. The county has also conducted 1165 inspections, issued two notices of violation and no civil penalties. During the review on March 14, staff reviewed 5 plans and inspected 4 projects.

Four of the projects had violations, which had not been documented on recent County inspection reports. A letter was sent to Catawba County on March 20, 2012 with recommendations on improving the program. A follow-up review was conducted on April 30 and May 1, 2012 by Matt Poling. Three sites were revisited. No written inspection reports or Notices of Violation had been written on any of the sites since the March 14, 2012 review, though undocumented site visits had been made. Two of the sites were much improved because of additional ground cover.

Recommendations

Three of the sites inspected on March 14, 2012 had significant violations. Previous County inspection reports had not identified the violations or asked for corrective actions. The significance of the violations was pointed out during the review. After receipt of the Land Quality letter of March 20, 2012, and prior to the re-inspections on April 30 and May 1, 2012, the County did not even write inspection reports for these sites. The sites did improve with the establishment of grass. Catawba County is failing to enforce the provisions of its erosion and sedimentation control ordinance and the SPCA. Inspection reports have documented sites as being in compliance even though erosion and sedimentation control measures have not been properly installed or maintained. Written inspection reports have not been prepared following visits to sites with violations. Notices of Violation have not been sent when warranted.

Staff recommends that Catawba County be placed on probation. The County needs to improve the quality of plan review and site inspections, and take appropriate enforcement action for violations.

City of High Point

On March 21, 2012 Matt Poling and Chuck Kirchner conducted a review of the City of High Point's Local Program. According to the City's data, 41 plans were reviewed, with 41 approvals and 38 disapprovals in the past 12 months. The city has also conducted 450 inspections, issued 12 notices of violations, one civil penalty and one stop work order. The City of High Point contributes 2.5 full time equivalents to erosion and sediment control. Five projects were reviewed and inspected. All five of the sites had one or more violations.

Recommendations

Staff recommended the City improve the administration of the program as follows:

1. Any time a violation is identified in the field, an inspection report should always be filled out.
2. All paperwork that is not stored electronically should be organized chronologically and pinned into a folder. This will help you stay organized and will be of assistance for recalling the history of a site should you have to go to enforcement.
3. Continue to require adequate ground cover be provided within the time limits of the local ordinance and approved plan.
4. Continue to check for self-inspection records on site.

Land Quality staff recommends continued delegation to the City of High Point, with implementation of the above recommendations.

Guilford County

On March 22, 2012 Matthew Poling and Tim Latham conducted a review of the Guilford County Local Program. According to county data, 30 plans were reviewed, with 21 approvals and 16 disapprovals in the past 12 months. The county has also conducted 1880 inspections, issued two notices of violations and no civil penalties. During our review of the program, we reviewed 5 plans and inspected 5 projects. The county contributes 2 full time equivalents to erosion and sediment control. Three of the 5 sites were in compliance.

Recommendations

The Guilford County local program should implement the following recommendations to improve the program:

1. Require that adequate ground cover be provided within the time limits of the local ordinance and approved plan.
2. Continue to check for self-inspection records on site.

Land Quality staff recommends continued delegation to Guilford County, with implementation of the above recommendations.

City of Greenville

On April 23 and 24, 2012 Matt Poling and Mell Nevils conducted a review of the City of Greenville's Local Program. Five projects were inspected on April 23, including three projects that were inspected during the February 9, 2012 review. On the second day of the review, Land Quality staff spent time with the city of Greenville's staff reviewing plans, drafting notices of violations, and going over enforcement procedures. The five sites had one or more violations, though two were very minor.

Recommendations

The City of Greenville's local program is beginning to implement previously suggested program recommendations. However, continued help by personnel from NCDENR, Land Quality Section is needed in several key areas. These areas are listed below:

1. City staff should work with the Washington Regional Office to obtain additional training in E&SC plan review techniques.
2. City staff should work with the Washington Regional Office to obtain additional training in E&SC inspection techniques.
3. City staff should work with the Washington Regional Office and the Raleigh Central Office for training on when to take enforcement actions such as NOV's, stop work orders, civil penalties and injunctions
4. The City should establish procedures for carrying through on enforcement where it is needed.
5. City staff should continue to check for self-inspection records on site.

Land Quality staff recommends continuing the City of Greenville probationary period.