

Update on the Sedimentation Education Program

Presentations/Exhibits

The Sedimentation Education Specialist was invited by Scotland County Schools Career and Technical Education Department to participate in Career Day on March 17, 2016. The event brought together students with interest in various career pathways within eight program areas: Agriculture, Business & Information Technology, Career Development, Family & Consumer Science, Health Science, Marketing, Technology, and Trade & Industrial Education. The event allowed the opportunity to meet a diverse student body consisting of over 700 hundred high school seniors.

The Sedimentation Education Specialist participated in the annual Area VII Envirothon held on March 24, 2016 at Jones Lake State Park in Bladen County. The mission of the Envirothon is “to develop knowledgeable skilled and dedicated citizens who have an understanding of natural resources and are willing and prepared to work towards achieving and maintaining a balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.” Teams of middle and high school students, across the region, came together for an ecology field day/competition. Five member teams are tested on their knowledge of natural resources in the following subject areas: Wildlife, Soils, Forestry, Current Environmental Issues and Aquatics. The top middle school and high school teams at the area Envirothons qualify for the statewide NC Envirothon.

The Sedimentation Education Specialist was invited by Purnell Swett High School, to participate in a career event on April 15, 2016. The event is intended to help students to start generating ideas about the occupational possibilities that are available.

The Sedimentation Education Specialist was invited to participate in the 2016 Cumberland County Green Schools and Sustainable Sandhills Earth Day Celebration hosted by Cape Fear Botanical Garden. The event is scheduled to be held April 21-22, 2016 at the Cape Fear Botanical Garden in Fayetteville, NC. The Enviroscape will be utilized at the event to educate student on water pollution, and issues that affect the environment.

Workshops

Annual Workshop and Awards Luncheon for Local Programs

The 2016 Local Programs Annual Erosion and Sedimentation Control Workshop was held March 22-24 at the Renaissance Centre in Wake Forest, NC. Accommodations were planned for two representatives from each of the 53 local programs to attend the training.

The Sediment Program staff wanted to change the format of the event this year in an effort to encourage more group participation. A planning committee was created to include representatives from several local programs, which provided valuable contributions toward

workshop content. The agenda was structured to target current topics affecting the local programs. The first day was dedicated to recent legislative updates, remissions, and enforcement issues. The second day included design considerations for construction stormwater/linear projects/commercial sites, and round table discussions on forestry and agricultural exemptions/closeout inspections/SCC Expectations. The third day included group exercises on plan review, including private breakout sessions for local programs requiring focused technical assistance from DEMLR staff.

The Sedimentation Control Commission was represented at the event by Mr. Jonathon Bivens, during the awards luncheon ceremony. Awards are presented each year to recognize two local governments (1 large program and 1 small program) that have excelled in erosion and sedimentation control efforts. Nominations were submitted by the regional offices, and final selections were determined by staff. The winners selected this year were Town of Wake Forest and Gaston County. Multiple representatives from the winning programs were allowed to attend the awards banquet to receive recognition for their efforts. A plaque was awarded to each selected winner, and certificates will be issued to the staff members of both programs. Mr. Ted Sherrod (AECOM) presented the keynote address, "New and Emerging Technologies & Technology Transfer Opportunities."

The collaboration between the local program volunteers and DEMLR staff was vital to the success of the workshop this year. Several programs volunteered to sponsor breaks, while others offered assistance with workshop logistics. Staff received positive feedback from participants supporting the workshop structure/content, as well as the team approach demonstrated among the Central Office/Regional Office/Local Program staff. Staff would like to thank again the volunteers on our workshop committee:

Holly Miller - Town of Wake Forest
Ryan Eaves - Durham County
Lauren Witherspoon - City of Raleigh
Ben Brown - City of Raleigh
Rachael Thorn - Chatham County
Clark Thomas - City of Henderson
Mike Horan - Wilson County
Daniel Colavito - Town of Holly Springs

Fall E&SC Design Workshop

The Sediment Program staff met with members of the Southeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) Board of Directors on February 11, 2016 to discuss a potential partnership for conducting future training opportunities. The IECA is a non-profit, professional organization providing education, networking, and research for engineers, government, consultants, construction and related professionals, for the purpose of establishing

standards of practice and expertise in the fields of erosion control, sediment control and stormwater management. Partnering with IECA would allow access to a professional community capable of sharing state of the art erosion control concepts and techniques at the DEMLR sponsored training events. The meeting opened discussions for coordinating a fall 2016 Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Workshop.

Contract Administration

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) operating budget was cut during last legislative session. As a result, DEQ cut the education and travel funds of DEMLR to help address the budget shortfall. The education contracts, "Support for Four Workshops to Train Design Professionals" and "Support for Annual Workshop and Awards Luncheon for Local Programs," were not executed for FY2015-16 due to the loss. DEMLR staff made considerations to be able to conduct training in the most cost effective manner.

This reduction in the education budget has limited the number of training events DEMLR has been able to sponsor. The available funds were concentrated on the Local Programs Annual Erosion and Sedimentation Control Workshop/Banquet to address recent legislative changes affecting the programs. DEMLR was unable to contract with the Water Resources Research Institute of NC State University to facilitate the event as in previous years, which required the Sediment Program staff to handle all aspects for implementation of the event. The Sediment Program staff controlled budgeting, planning and development of the agenda, in addition to facilitating all workshop and awards luncheon logistics.

The Sediment Program staff produced a working budget to execute the event, and collaborated with the DEQ budgeting office to obtain signed contracts with grantees providing lodging and catered meals for all attendees. Invoices have been gathered and evaluated according to contract budgets. Items have been submitted for payment. Staff is also working with the budgeting office and local programs to provide travel reimbursement to workshop attendees.