



GreenCO Discussion Items for Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 28, 2008

In attendance: Jane Clary, Brenda O'Brien, Alison Peck, James Klett, Harriet McMillan, Mike Reis, Larry Lesser, Kristen Fefes, Josie Joosten. On the phone: Ram Dhan Khasla.

Meeting Notes and Action Items in Italics

Comments received to date have been integrated into the redline-strikeout PDFs emailed on February 28. We still need additional review from the Golf Course Superintendents, Sod Growers, Nursery/Greenhouse and Arborists.

1. Overall Reordering/Big Picture Concepts

Action needed

- **Life Cycle of Landscaping**: *A graphic was provided to illustrate the life cycle of the various Green Industry members. Retail/Garden Centers needed to be added separately. Please provide any edits to Jane (PowerPoint is attached). An additional graphic is needed to show the natural resources components/cycle of the landscape.*

Action needed

- **Xeriscape** (is not a plant): Lots of discussion regarding Xeriscape and need for re-education regarding what the term does and does not mean. Plants are 1/7 of the overall concept. There was even some discussion about dropping the term, but at the conclusion of the discussion, the Xeriscape term will be kept, but possibly with a subtitle that says something like "also known as good horticultural practice." *Need to revamp Xeriscape BMP verbiage to explain (in-detail) that Xeriscape is not a low water-use plant but instead a concept or philosophy.* Unless all seven principles are addressed, even Xeriscape gardens can be inefficiently irrigated.

Action needed

- **Reordering of Manual**: *General agreement regarding proposed reordering in handout, but move sustainability up to the top above Xeriscape. Please provide any additional comments to Jane regarding reordering.*

Action needed

- **Mission Statement**: *Add a mission statement about what the BMPs are and why they should be implemented. (Jane)*

Action needed

- **Revise Title for BMP Manual**: *There was some brief discussion about renaming the manual to shift from conservation to natural resource management. Need to determine a title for the manual. Email Jane your recommendations.*

Tree Planting

Action needed

- How to incorporate?: Jane will create a stand-alone tree planting BMP based on several handouts, including the James Urban work. Need to check copyright issues. Jim Klett wants the ISA Board to review all of the tree BMPs. For tree planting BMP, we could pull information from CSU Fact Sheets, CNGA and ISA tree planting guides. (Some basic information is already included in the plant selection and placement BMP.)
Wire basket discussion – will not be included.

2. Soil Amendment

Action needed

- Compost Standards: The group does want to include the compost standards in the soil amendment BMP. We need to get a copy from the Rocky Mountain Organics Council or the Compost Standards Association. It is recommended that if you buy compost; ask for the test results so you know what you are getting.

3. Plant Selection/Placement

Action needed

- Koski Turf Table: *Yes, include the turfgrass type table, but move to Turf Management BMP and possibly add more from Koski's presentation. (Jane)*

4. Irrigation Technology/Scheduling

Action needed

- Scheduling adequately addressed?: *Need to go with simple guidance at the beginning of the scheduling discussion. Also address the scheduling variances for a new irrigation system versus an existing one. Add a call-out box with a graphic on scheduling and not a set it and forget it schedule. (Jane)*
- Vendor issues: *Generally okay. Check the "common problems" table to see what the original source is; may not actually be Rainbird. Use Keesan table rather than Rainbird. Use Keesan table rather than Rainbird. (Jane)*
- *Add subsurface drip irrigation into discussion. Discussion favored use of sub-surface irrigation if companies have dedicated staff to maintain it (Keesan and CTM). It is critical that sub-surface irrigation be installed per the design. (Jane)*
- Mike Reis and others noted that basic messages are still needed up-front regarding the basic need to adjust the irrigation schedule. He faxed good simple-format information regarding schedule adjustment from Colorado Springs following the meeting.

5. Irrigation BMPs

Action needed

- 2004 Version of IA Guidelines—differences in DU criteria
 - *A lot of discussion regarding design DU versus operational DU. This needs to be clearly differentiated and explained in the BMP due to implications related to ordinances. (Jane/Ram Dhan)*
 - *The Irrigation BMPs need to be checked against the more current version of the IA Guidelines.*
- Rather than using WaterSense in a call-out box, include it in the bullet list of various resources.

6. Sustainability

Action needed

- Right Balance?: *Didn't get to discuss this in detail.*
 - EPA Greenscapes: Some of EPA's Greenscape information is not a fit for Colorado, but okay to include it in a call-out box in the references. Much of the Greenscape information is consistent with and already included in the GreenCO BMPs. Jane added the energy-related and 4 R's information from Greenscapes.
 - Other possible Practices from Front Range Sustainable Landscaping Coalition (FRSLC)? *Didn't get to discuss this, but in the "Supplemental Handouts" PDF that Jane emailed, Jane thought it might be worth CNGA and GCC looking at some of these ideas to see if there are some practices to be added.*
 - Hardscapes BMP? *Didn't get to discuss this at all, but a draft BMP idea was provided in the handout based on the FRSLC checklist. Does the group want to include a Hardscape BMP? If so,*
7. Question on Specific BMPs: *These were my hand-written notes in the margins of the two PDF packets of redline-strikeout BMPs. We got through some, but not all of these.*
 8. ET Tables for Appendix?: *We did not get to discuss this, but see new attachment put together by Troy Bauder at CSU Cooperative Extension and a graduate student working with Nolan Doesken. I think we should include this, but add in the Denver/Colorado Springs data, too. Thanks to Larry Lesser for spearheading this effort.*
 9. Glossary: *We did not discuss, but please provide any replacement definitions or new definitions you think are needed.*

Other

- *Grant: Need committee's in-kind hours spent for peer review process*
- *Checklists for Industries?: We didn't discuss this, but my sense is that this has not happened. How should we proceed?*
- *Copyright Issues*
- *Training Program Slides*
 - Good irrigation-soils-ET slides from Ram Dhan, Pro Green Westminster Forestry/Trees*
 - ALCC Awards*
 - X-rated Plant Brochures*

Next Steps:

- Manual Finalization
 - Update Introduction/Acknowledgements
 - Finalize BMPs—Close Comment Period
- Training Presentation Update Based on Revised BMPs
 - Possible Advisory Committee Meeting Week of Mar 17?
- Pull-out Packet for Use in Water Conservation Plans (for CWCB)

Next Meeting:

Tentatively suggested a meeting for March 19 at 1:00. We need to check for conflicts and finalize date. Alternate date is March 24th at 1:00 p.m. Please let us know which date works best.