



GreenCO BMP Expansion Advisory Team Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 19, 2007

In attendance: Sharon Harris, Jane Clary, Kevin Reidy, Ron Boyd, Stu Feinglas, Tom Halverstadt, Donna Pacetti, Larry Lesser, Mike Reis, Dave Tooley, Harriet McMillan, Jim Klett and Brenda O'Brien. On the phone: Josie Joosten, Curt Swift, Ram Dhan Khalsa, and Kristen Fefes.

Jane opened the meeting by recapping items discussed at prior meetings such as:

- Title:
 - The title for the BMP manual will be revised once the BMPs are updated. The title will indicate that the industry is “working towards sustainability...” and possibly expand the title to natural resource conservation, not just water resources. Conservation and sustainability are an ethic to be emphasized in the manual.
- BMPs:
 - An outline of proposed revisions to the BMP manual was provided as a basis for discussion. This outline has been updated based on discussion at the meeting and is attached to these meeting minutes.
 - Include a preface to the reader describing what the manual is and is not. Incorporate the “lifecycle of the landscape” from the start to on-going maintenance.
 - Create industry specific checklists for as a guidance tool for users (in an appendix—input from industry leaders needed)
 - Integrate or create an illustration of sustainability concepts for the green industry.
 - Add examples to some of the BMPs (lady bug release vs. using pesticides).
 - A glossary will be added to the manual; the index will be a “nice-to-have” item, if budget permits.
 - Sustainability will not be a stand-alone BMP; instead, sustainability concepts will be introduced in the introduction to the manual and sustainability considerations will be integrated into the BMPs under “Regional, Industry or Sustainability Considerations/Adaptations.” For some BMPs, call-out boxes may be used to contrast practices that highlight sustainability issues or example applications (e.g., what is sustainable and what is not sustainable? Why did they design it that way, what will not work, and what prevents a landscape from being sustainable.) Donna Pacetti suggested information on “greening the Green Industry.” EPA’s Greenscapes website provides good information on this topic.
 - Add reference information on where to obtain more detailed information.
 - Add irrigation auditing BMP: this should include pre-audit checklist that references audit guidelines/checklists in an appendix. Discussion focused on the multiple aspects of an irrigation system that need to be

corrected before an audit can be completed. Both pre-audit and audit templates are needed.

- Where possible, try to integrate return on investment concepts (e.g., things-to-consider, such as system development charges, tap fees, tiered water rate structures, etc.).
- Add an irrigation technology BMP to encourage use of latest technology whenever possible. (use Bureau of Rec report and EPA WaterSense materials).
- Develop snow removal BMP. Address salt damage to vegetation.
- Add an irrigation water sources BMP that addresses irrigation management practices for nonpotable (untreated) water sources (e.g., ditches, wells). Address grey water and rainwater harvesting issues as a side-bar/callout box. Incorporate Dr. Charles Burt's research on irrigation water quality (previously provided to Jane by Ram Dhan and Curt). Also incorporate the salt tolerances turf study conducted by Reagan Waskom and Tony Koski (Jane has this).
- Plant selection issues: Jane asked about GreenCO's position on the native versus non-native plant topic. GreenCO is okay with non-native plants from comparable climates. Jane may need some input from Harriet and Sharon on how to best provide information on this topic since many sustainability efforts focus on native plants. This could be included in a side-bar on plant selection.
- Clarify that xeriscape is a set of practices not a garden.
- Soil amendment BMP: need some further review/discussion on soil amendment.
- Water features: Make separate BMP and address issues related to ponds, fountains, etc. (See Curt's publication for West Slope.)
- Ask industry members what they see as the biggest problems in the industry with regard to water conservation/natural resources protection and make sure that these issues are addressed in the BMPs. Create a pet peeve list (i.e. plants on slopes, etc.) Have members document what they see in the field that portrays the industry in a negative light. These items should be part of industry checklists.
- New Appendices:
 - Industry checklists
 - Certification/recognition programs
 - Irrigation Audit Checklist

Assignments/Next Steps:

- BMP review:
 - Ask members and colleagues for specific feedback in their area of expertise and redline comments. Appoint point persons for each segment to develop criteria for responses, perhaps a list of questions that will focus the type of feedback needed.
 - Aggressive outreach to each organization for feedback on each BMP and redline comments is needed.
 - Larry volunteered to look at statistics of ET data and crop coefficients.

Next meeting Cancelled (see transmittal email)