

February News and Updates for the Urban Stormwater Workgroup

USWG Members and Interested Parties,

As we continue to find our footing in 2025, I wanted to provide the workgroup with a few announcements and updates on some ongoing efforts. We have decided to CANCEL our February 18th meeting, and I hope this quasi-newsletter will hold you all over until March:

Urban Nutrient Management Expert Panel

The panel held its 3rd meeting on January 10th. They heard presentations on how PA collects and sorts fertilizer sales data, and on data from Pennsylvania's soil test lab on the phosphorus content of lawn soils. The panel then walked through the first outline of their report and the key decisions they'll be making in the coming months. David and Michele have begun drafting the background sections of the report and the literature review. The panel will likely meet again in early March.

STAC Workshop Proposal

As described in an email earlier this week, CSN and DOEE staff drafted a state-of-the-science workshop proposal for STAC ahead of the February 10th deadline. The goal of this workshop is to connect soil health researchers, stormwater and watershed management practitioners, and the ecosystem services community to share the latest information on the interrelated roles that healthy soils play in developed communities, and the opportunities for better education and management of these soils to promote community well-being. This workshop proposes to emphasize soil health as a critical component to wholistic watershed restoration, and will hopefully provide a strong foundation for future consideration of soil restoration BMPs.

Goal Implementation Team Funding Project

A contractor has officially been selected for the USWG's scope of work "Beyond Bean Counting: Assessment of BMP Tracking and Accounting Procedures for More Wholistic Restoration Goals". Work should be getting underway shortly, and we will provide more details once David and KC have had an opportunity to meet with the project team.

Climate Resilience Work

CSN has been working with RAND on a framework for developing climate vulnerability assessments for stormwater programs. We have conducted about a dozen interviews (thanks to anyone who participated), and a literature review is also underway. We expect to share progress in March or April with the workgroup for feedback.

Meanwhile, on the modeling side, the team will be seeking feedback from the USWG on which models to use, and which priority BMPs to focus on in their evaluation of BMP performance under future hydrology. We should have some specific questions for you ahead of our next meeting.

Biochar White Paper

CWP and their partners are currently working on a white paper outlining the details of a proposal to credit biochar amendments to existing stormwater practices as a “BMP Interpretation”. We are targeting March for the draft white paper to be shared with the USWG.

BUBBAs are Due

CSN is currently accepting applications for the Best Urban BMP in the Bay Awards (BUBBAs). For anyone who has participated in the past, we have simplified the application process to hopefully make submissions quicker and easier! For those who haven't there are categories for projects ranging from traditional stormwater retrofits, to habitat creation, stream restoration, and IDDE programs. If you or your partners are doing something cool and worth sharing, please consider spreading the word and/or applying yourself! The deadline is February 21st. <https://chesapeakestormwater.net/bubbas/>

Thank you, and we'll be in touch soon!

David