

Executive Order 80

Workgroup for Topsoil Preservation Requirements in NPDES General Permit #2

Date: Thursday, April 24th, 2014

Time: 9 AM – 12 PM

Location: DNR Central Office, Henry Wallace Building, 502 E 9th Street, Des Moines
Room: 4th Floor Conference Room (west side)

Staff Support: Joe Griffin

In attendance: Pat Sauer, Iowa Storm Water Education Group; Creighton Cox, Home Builders Association of Greater Des Moines; Joe Pietruszynski, Hubbell Realty Company; Chip Classon, Jerry's Homes; Lucy Hershberger, Forever Green Nursery; Mark Watkins, McAninch Corporation; Chad Ingels, Environmental Protection Commission

1. Group introductions were made. These introductions included Iowa Department of Natural Resources staff and members appointed to the workgroup.
2. Iowa Department of Natural Resources staff provided a primer on the EO 80 stakeholder group process. The discussion included handouts and background on the process and reasons for the meeting.
3. The workgroup selected Creighton Cox as the chairperson, Joe Pietruszynski as the recording secretary. The vote was unanimous.
4. The workgroup unanimously agreed to adopt Robert's Rule of Order to conduct meetings. It unanimously agreed that the group would work toward consensus. Concern was raised that consensus defined by at least a 5 to 2 vote among members was bias. Chairmen Cox explained that it is important that we pursue solutions that would gain the support of the majority of members.
5. The members unanimously agreed that communications from the public should be received in writing for consideration. Comments, concerns, or questions will be forwarded to Adam Schnieders, NPDES Program Supervisor, adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov. The members all agreed that open and respectful communication is essential to the process.
6. Chairperson Cox opened the meeting asking for an approval of the Agenda. The motion was moved by Chip Classon and seconded by Joe Pietruszynski.
7. Joe Griffin, Senior Storm Water permit writer and NPDES Storm Water Program Coordinator with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, presented the Top Soil Preservation Requirements in General Permit #2. Mr. Griffin provided handouts to the workgroup for review.
8. Chairperson Cox provided the workgroup current definitions and requirements for effluent limitations reflecting practical technology current available as found in Part 450 –

Construction and Development Point Source Category, Federal Register, Vol. 79, No. 44 dated Thursday March 6, 2014, Rules and Regulations, page 12667. The group briefly discussed the meaning and scope of the federal standard.

9. Members of the group introduced themselves. Each member provided a brief professional background, experience in their field as it relates to storm water, and reasons why asked to serve on the committee. Joe Pietruszynski outlined his work as a city planner, conservation community developer, and land developer; Mark Watkins outlined his background in farming, mining, and earthmoving; Chip Classon shared his experience and background in subdivision development and homebuilding; Pat Sauer provided the workgroup with research documents, an overview of her experience and background as a soils scientist, information on soil and storm water mitigation, and professional teaching/seminar history; Lucy Hershberger outlined her experience as a landscaper and professional who works with soil, background on working with home builders and developers, methods used to enhance soil, and experiences in the Iowa City community; Creighton Cox shared his background as Executive Officer for the Home Builders Association of Greater DSM and Urbandale City Council member, experience working with the building and developer community as it is impacted by storm water requirements, and knowledge of the home building market; Chad Ingels shared his background as a community leader, school board member, farmer, and member of the Environmental Protection Commission .
10. The workgroup engaged in an open discussion on maintaining soil on site, need for soil, use of soil, construction practices, and customer yard concerns. Discussion centered on expressing individual concerns, education of each member's professional area, and providing a general understand of one another's concerns and viewpoints.
11. Chairperson Cox asked for vote for the next meeting time. It was moved by Joe Pietruszynski and seconded by Mark Watkins that the next meeting be held on May 2nd at 9:00 AM at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The workgroup unanimously approved.
12. Chairperson Cox asked the workgroup to bring facts, analysis, or figures to the next workgroup meeting so concerns could be better understood. Lucy Hershberger asked for costs associated with the current rules.
13. Chad Ingels asked for further clarification on the code and history on how the rule came into place.
14. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM