2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

MECA’s 34th Annual Conference was held in partnership with the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) on February 15-18th, 2022 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. We have been collaborating with the IECA for nearly two years and had plenty of obstacles to overcome along the way—but we did it!

We were honored to help bring people together from across the world to share ideas, solutions and success stories! The MECA Annual Conference gave everyone the unique opportunity to learn from industry professionals, network with colleagues and grow both personally and professionally.

Partnering with the IECA on this year’s conference gave attendees from across the world a chance to experience our great state of Minnesota! Folks had the opportunity to partake in a few Minnesota activities such as ice-fishing and Hammerschalgen! The overall feedback from those in attendance was positive and we are grateful to have been able to get together in-person—the networking was outstanding!

Thank you so much to our sponsors, presenters and attendees for contributing to the success of our 34th Annual Conference—we are grateful for your support!

We look forward to seeing you in St. Cloud at our 35th Annual Conference January 24-26th at the Park Event Center!

THANK YOU 2022 MECA PAVILION EXHIBITORS!

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IN THIS ISSUE
2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP | ELECTION RESULTS | MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD
BOARD MEMBERS | SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT | AWARD RECIPIENTS | UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
DEAR DWAYNE | YEAR IN REVIEW | PROJECT HIGHLIGHT
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Expanding our coverage area in 2022!

2022 Election Results

Now it’s easier than ever to become a member!

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Congratulations
MEGHAN & JEFF!

MECA Board Members
2022–2025 Term
MESSAGE FROM
MECA BOARD
PRESIDENT
GREG BERG

As I write this I believe we are all hoping for a change to spring weather and the start of a new season. People like to talk about the weather, and lately it is hard not to with the cold and snow. I think all of us are ready to get outside and start the field season.

The partnership with the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) to jointly host the 2022 Annual Conference and Trade Show at the Minneapolis Convention center in February was a great success. The event was well attended, organized, and the Trade Show is truly something to see. The involvement worldwide in the industry is incredible.

From the MECA Board, I would personally like to thank everyone who attended and were involved with the 2022 Annual Conference. For those that hadn’t experienced Minnesota and what we bring to the table from a hospitality standpoint, natural resources, and industry leadership this was a great display. The quality of speakers, demonstrations and topics Minnesota shared at the conference was top notch. It shows why we are leaders in the erosion control and stormwater field.

As I write this note, MECA is preparing to host the 2023 Annual Conference and just held our planning meeting. If you were unable to attend and have topics or speakers that should be involved, please get them to us soon. The Annual Conference is planned for January 2023 in St. Cloud.

We are constantly trying to keep current and past members engaged. With the IECA hosting the registration platform for the Annual Conference it was more difficult getting 2022 MECA memberships. As a reminder, if you have not renewed your MECA membership for 2022, please consider it. There is a new online payment link later in this newsletter. We are always striving to communicate with you and provide worthwhile benefits.

The MECA Board and partners are working on several workshops for 2022. Please watch for registration details on these upcoming events. The schedule is also listed in this newsletter. If you have an idea for a future education event or workshop, please get a hold of us.

The MECA board generally meets once a month. As always, you are more than welcome to attend a board meeting to listen, give input or bring up concerns. If you are unable to attend a meeting, contact one of the board members or Roberta and let us know any thoughts that are on your mind.

Take care and keep in touch!

Greg Berg
MECA Board President
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MECA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The MECA Memorial Scholarship was established by the Minnesota Erosion Control Association in 2007. Each year MECA rewards this scholarship to an individual who wants to pursue an engineering or science degree with an emphasis on erosion and sediment control or stormwater management.

This year’s MECA Scholarship recipient is Cindy Wuddah, a third year and international Student from West Africa, Ghana, who is pursuing a degree in construction management at Minnesota State University – Mankato. Cindy was not able to attend our awards and scholarship presentation at our annual conference because she was in class.

Cindy has a 3.70 GPA and is on the Dean’s List of honor students. She helped found and is currently the administrative assistant of the Construction Management Women's Association (CMWA). The goal of this group is to reach out to prospective minority students to help recruit diversity for the construction management department, as well as creating strategic environments that support educational, professional and entrepreneurial connection. This will provide hands on experience, and provide a learning tool for all construction students. Cindy has been recognized by a professor stating “During Cindy’s time here I have noted an excellent work ethic and drive to gain as much knowledge as she can. As an example, she continues to take 16-18 credits every semester and continues to keep a high GPA all while working a part time job.”

After graduation, Cindy plans to work in the United States in the construction industry. She plans to help introduce new ideas in the industry through erosion control and construction materials testing. She also plans to focus on her future projects to help reduce erosion in Ghana as well.

The MECA Board is honored to present this years scholarship recipient an increased amount of $1,500 and we wish Cindy the best in her future in the industry.

Congratulations Cindy!
Innovation Award
Presented to
Dr. M. Rebecca Forman
Erosion and Stormwater Management Program

Innovation Award
Presented to
Anoka Conservation District

Environmental Excellence Award
Presented to
Pete Krasaway & Andrew Dostal | MnDOT District 1
Karl Koller | MN DNR
Ryan Swanson & Jim Stadin | Ulland Brothers, Inc.

Environmental Leadership Award
Presented to
Metro Blooms

Environmental Leadership Award
Presented to
Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Each year MECA recognizes outstanding individuals and projects in the following categories:

Innovation Award
Awarded to an individual, company, government agency or organization that developed new products/ideas that advanced the field of erosion & sediment control/stormwater management.

Environmental Excellence
Awarded to an individual, company, government agency or organization for a project that is deemed excellent based on many factors including, but not limited to: innovation, partnership, water quality and quantity protection, and project success.

Environmental Leadership
Awarded to an individual, company, government agency or organization who has shown leadership in advancing effective erosion and sediment control and stormwater management or other water resource related fields that have advanced water resource quality in Minnesota.

Not Pictured:
Environmental Excellence Award
Presented to
Dennis Daleiden
SiteOne™ is home to an unmatched selection of erosion control solutions, and our green industry experts are your resource to help put them to good use.

To find a branch near you, visit SiteOne.com/Locations
MECA’S MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Mentoring in the workplace creates a partnership between colleagues for the purposes of learning and growing, and there are benefits to both mentors and mentees. The purpose of MECA’s mentorship program is to provide an opportunity to connect individuals from different aspects of our industry to gain insight on a new aspect of the industry and the chance to work with someone willing to share with them. The mentorship program will focus on both technical and non-technical development. Mentors and mentees will be paired and then provided with a program to follow at their pace and on their own time.

SIGN UP

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SHORELINE TOUR | JULY 2022

MNRoad TOUR | FALL 2022

FALL FIELD EVENT 2022
DEAR DWAYNE:

I can feel spring, see early flower color, and observe wildlife perturbation with defined activity. I am excited to begin a new season of construction. After waiting 16 months due to engine chip shortages, I finally took delivery of a new high performance 4x4 truck that needs breaking-in. I am well aware that trucks love mud, spinning tires, and water crossing challenges. Just look at all the commercials. Spring construction is also a time of mud, floods, and corrective actions from last fall work suspension. How can I get my new truck acclimated to mud while also respecting the need of mud to avoid pavements, conveyances, and waters of the state?

Signed, Mudly DoMuch

DEAR MUDLY:

Congratulations on the new arrival. Trucks at their infancy are really rambunctious and fully capable of challenging their owners while roaming uncontrolled and in high-risk activities. It takes a while for a truck to mature into adulthood capable of recognizing that construction stormwater discharge laws exist and apply to everyone. It takes time, patience and consistency to train a truck. Depending on the location and number of other trucks within the project limit cage perimeters, there will be many visible chemical spots, trash and wastes scattered over the project limits once the snow is gone. Teach the truck not to taste any soil deposit. Trucks are not color blind. It is important that white, grey, red, blue, yellow and black blobs are not eaten nor tracked about. You do not want a sick truck. Nothing is more frustrating than getting sick and having to clean up after others. But have your truck clean up the site. It sends a strong message. Older more mature trucks that should have known better can still be embarrassed enough to do better moving forward. A clean site is a safe site. Provide or reestablish proper waste receptacles. I would then move to the exits. Point out that the exit control must be kept functional and continuously works to prevent tracking onto pavements. You might have to rub the bumper into the failed exit to get attention. While we both know spinning cookies and driving where prohibited, infiltration basins, or on previously stabilized areas inside the project seems fun, the consequences of mud blops and bloops on the exit cost money to restore and frequent power-showers that wash the wheels and undercarriage. While infant trucks like wheel washoff, teenager trucks much less so. The truck needs constant training to stay within defined travel areas to minimize mud transport. Wheel washoff is the only realistic and practicable practice when mud cannot be prevented from paved surfaces.

Also point out field and curb inlets within and outside of project limits must be kept functional and mud free. This is for public safety and water resource protection. It is also important to manage stormwater accumulations from snow melt and spring rains. Let the truck know of the consequence by pointing out that it will need to perform the conveyance cleaning by use of the air intake snorkel vacuum system. The taste of mud and gumming up the innards should be enough to make the truck never to want to make a mud mess again. But if the truck insists on doing something, have the truck spin in circles around the field inlet to create a sediment trap moat and filter berm. You will have to provide a helping hand to enable the truck to leave the moat. But inlet reminders will be constantly needed.
Continued from page 9.

If the truck still has way too much energy, identify areas where temporary sediment traps are located, and have the truck play in specific soils, creating defined ruts that direct muddy saturated water collections to the traps. Teach the truck to roll out blanket. Make it seem like a game. Attach a blanket bar roller to the hitch bumper and see if the truck can catch you as you run ahead in defined areas. Before long, all the ruts and other conveyances are stabilized.

Next have the truck read the project looking for exposed soils, stockpiles or damages to previously vegetated or stabilized soils. Also examine the work play area limits. Locate the plan and read aloud to the truck. Locate the detail sheets and other images. All trucks love a good story. After the long winter, there will be clear misses and deficiencies. Teach the truck what are proper cage limits and the various types. Drive the outer play limits, identify the work cage deficiencies, and restore to function. Teach the truck what proper soil coverage looks like, using example training coverage percentages of 50, 70, 90 and 100 percent. By this time, the truck will recognize rolled blanket as equating to 100% coverage. Load up the truck back and spread straw mulch where rutting is minimal. Otherwise, have the truck carry a water filled, mechanically agitated tank filled with delicious seed, and high performance slurries and squirt everywhere soil is exposed. Be sure to praise the good work. Praise often. Trucks of all ages respond well to praise.

Lastly, and by far the hardest, is teaching a truck to write, and to write something after each storm event and weekly or so: to write down observations, areas with deficiencies that were corrected along with what and when, and recommendations to prevent future occurrences. Mudly, I recommend that you perform the task of writing, photo documentation, and amending the training program. In the end, you will have a happy, well-rounded truck that respects all other truck works.
Get The RIGHT MIX

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We started off the new year in 2021 hopeful that we could hold our Annual Conference in-person—but after much consideration—we opted for a one-day online conference that was held on February 4th, 2021. Thankfuly, with the help of Rebecca Forman, we were able to pull off an amazing online conference on our own without having to invest in a fancy event hosting platform. It felt good to have a big WIN after a quiet 2020!

We felt confident that we could successfully plan online educational opportunities throughout 2021 and held an online MS4 Permit Requirements workshop with Noah Czech, April Ryan, Cole Landgraf and other MS4 Experts. Another successful event with great dialogue and feedback.

On April 29th we hosted an online Sustainable Construction SWPPPs workshop with the help of MECA Board Member Meghan Litsey along with Kenny Blumenfeld, Ken Graeve and Dwayne Stenlund.

Next up was a workshop that was postponed from 2020—Better Buffers | From Dirt to Butterflies held at the St. Joseph Government Center on July 21st. Our first in-person event in over a year was great! We heard about pollinators, seed mix design, soil health and more from experts Karin Jokela, Patrick Kelly, Ann Journey and Bre Bauerly. The workshop concluded with a field tour of native planting landscapes at the College of St. Benedicts College Campus hosted by Chris Brake, College of St. Benedicts.

On October 13th, we held our postponed Microplastics workshop—What’s Brewing—at Urban Growler in St. Paul where we heard from Peter Leete, Ken Graeve and Mary Kosuth all about microplastics and what we can do to help efforts to reduce plastic waste in the erosion control industry.

We finished off the year with an online workshop about meeting TMDL requirements in Minnesota's MS4 permit. We heard from some of Minnesota's TMDL experts including; Anna Bosch, Ben Scharenbroich, Diane Spector and Ed Matthiesen.

Without the cooperation and willingness of our wonderful presenters we could not bring these educational opportunities to life—thank you all so much for sharing your knowledge and expertise! In additions, we are extremely grateful to our amazing sponsors whose support helps MECA continue to provide affordable educational opportunities—thank you all!

In closing, MECA is so fortunate to have such an amazing Board of Directors, who selflessly give their time and talents in order to keep the flame that was lit over 35 years ago by a few passionate folks who cared deeply about protecting Minnesota’s precious waterways. Thank you all for your immeasurable contributions.

We are looking forward to seeing you all throughout the year and at the 2023 Annual Conference!

Roberta Ringstad | Program Coordinator/Administrator
The shoreline along lakes and rivers provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife, affects water quality, and the overall health of a lake or river.

Erosion of shorelines can significantly impact water quality and habitat in lakes and rivers. Stabilizing these areas can help protect waterbodies from continued sedimentation, damage to adjacent land, and improve habitat for fish and wildlife.

This past summer, the Conservation Corps of Minnesota assisted in restoring 2,150 linear feet of shoreline on Rice Lake at the Boyer property, owned by Rick and Brenda Boyer.

To restore the shoreline, the Conservation Corps utilized two bio-engineering techniques by placing Cedar Tree Revetments and Willow/Dogwood Stakes along the shoreline.

Bio-engineering uses natural materials and native vegetation to stabilize areas along lakes and rivers while improving water quality as well as protecting fish and wildlife habitat.