

Advancing Effective Stormwater Management & Erosion Control Practices



2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW RECAP

MECA's 36th Annual Conference was held on January 30-February 1, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West in Plymouth.

There were 340 attendees throughout the 3-day event and the feedback was very positive! An attendee that has been joining us for over a decade recapped the conference perfectly: "It's not just about the learning and the advancements in erosion control; it's about the community that comes together, sharing knowledge and pushing each other towards excellence."

Thank you to all of our attendees for joining us at the conference and trade show— your commitment to helping preserve and care for Minnesota's most precious natural resources is appreciated.



Each year, MECA spends countless hours preparing and planning the conference. We search for quality content and dynamic speakers and we are so grateful to the industry experts that shared their knowledge and experiences with us this year!

Events like this would not be possible without the generous support of all of our sponsors! Thank you ALL so much for contributing to an AMAZING conference and trade show.

We look forward to seeing you in St. Cloud at our 37th Annual Conference January 28-30 at the Park Event Center!



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MESSAGE FROM MECA BOARD MEMBER JOEL ASP

I would like to thank all the regular attendees, sponsors, and first-time attendees for making the 2024 MECA Annual Conference a great success. Also, it was a great year working with our friends at MAPSS, U of M Erosion and Stormwater Management Program, MPCA MS4 Program, and MN

Seeding Contractors Association. All these organizations working together makes the MECA conference one the best around. We want to make next year's conference even better and as members of MECA, you can help make this happen by attending the pre-conference planning event on April 17th. Details are provided in this newsletter and watch your email for reminders.

Upcoming educational opportunities with MECA include the St. Cloud Stormwater Tour scheduled for May 22, 2024, and we are again partnering with NASECA-WI on their Rice Lake Field Event on September 26, 2024. As a newly elected board member, I am looking forward to meeting people at the events throughout the year.

I recently read an article about this winter being one for the history books. This winter is easily breaking the previous warmest winter on record, which was the winter of 1877/78. The average temperature, in the Twin Cities, that winter was 29°F. Other contenders for the warmest winter include 1930/31 and 2001/02 (26.9° and 26.8°F). As erosion, vegetation, and stormwater management professionals, we are always planning and watching the weather and this winter is another reminder that we must always be prepared for all kinds of situations.

Be sure to enjoy these historic temperatures and be prepared for the early spring activities.

-Joel Asp | MECA Board Member

CONTACT MECA
meca@mnerosion.org
(320) 685-5444
Mnerosion.org



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ST. CLOUD STORMWATER TOUR



Join us for the St. Cloud Stormwater Practices Tour

Sponsors: Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA), City of St. Cloud, City of Sartell

Bus Tour | Refreshments | Lunch | Networking

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 8:30 AM-3:30 PM

Check-in opens at 8 AM, Bus departs St. Cloud City Hall at 9:15 AM

Featured Practices:

- Aesthetic pond to stormwater pond
- Underground infiltration systems
- Underground detention system
- In-pond iron filings treatment
- Alum treatments
- Pre-treatment practices
- Tree planters
- StormFilter filtration system
- Rain garden retrofits

Featured Topics:

- MS4 permit compliance inspections & maintenance
- How to inspect & maintain underground treatment practices
- Stormwater pond dredging
- Prioritizing, planning & funding water quality improvement projects
- Design for maintenance
- BMP costs & benefits

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RICE LAKE FIELD EVENT

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND PRODUCT DEMONSTRATIONS FOR EROSION CONTROL AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



SAVE THE DATE!

MECA has teamed up with the North American Stormwater and Erosion Control Association of Wisconsin (NASECA-WI) for the 2024 Rice Lake Field Event on Thursday, September 26, 2024!

This popular annual event has been hosted by NASECA since 2005 in partnership with the American Excelsior Company ErosionLab, one of only a few erosion control testing laboratories in the United States.

In addition to hearing from experienced professionals, attendees will view product testing under a variety of control measures set up as stations around the grounds. There is ample time for Q&A as well as quality networking!

**WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND REGISTRATION COMING SOON!**

OFFERING IN-PERSON AND
ONLINE COURSES
**THAT MEET
NPDES PERMIT
REQUIREMENTS**



REGISTER at erosion.umn.edu



Ask Me Anything (AMA) Presentations

MECA has a FREE opportunity - through the University of Minnesota's Erosion and Stormwater Management Program - for you to hear from industry experts on relevant topics!

Zoom links will be posted within 24 hours of the event at <https://erosion.umn.edu/technical-references>

Upcoming AMA Presentations:

- Getting Ready for a Spring Awakening by Dwayne Stenlund, March 15th (note date change!) at noon ([PRESENTATION LINK](#))
- Earth Day with Jill and Keri Talking About Contamination on Construction Sites by Keri Aufdencamp and Jill Mickelson, April 22nd at noon
- Dewatering for Construction Sites by Dwayne Stenlund, May 13th at noon.

The presentations will be captioned and recorded.

Want to see a previous presentation?

Check out <https://erosion.umn.edu/technical-references>

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2024 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Congratulations to our 2024 Scholarship recipient, Kendra Sommerfeld!

Kendra is pursuing her master's degree in Natural Resource Management at Colorado State University along with a graduate certificate in Conservation Communications. She has a bachelor's degree in environmental science from the University of Minnesota. She currently works at Rice Creek Watershed District managing the outreach and communication program.

Congratulations Kendra and best wishes for your future!

To apply for the 2025 MECA Scholarship visit mnerosion.org.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



MECA is soliciting presentations and session speakers for the 2025 MECA Annual Conference.

The dates of the conference are Wednesday, January 29, 2025, and Thursday, January 30, 2025. Selected presentations could be scheduled for either of the two days. Presentations will be selected by the Executive Committee and acceptance notifications will be sent out by September 6, 2024.

Submittals are due by April 10, 2024.

Instructions:

Email the following information to meca@mnerosion.org:

- 1) A 100-word abstract of a topic/project highlight related to stormwater management, clean water, water resources, soil health, erosion and sediment control, etc. Topics should be product and vendor neutral, and the endorsements of products or vendors should be avoided.
- 2) Identify desired length of presentation. Presentations may be 30, 45 or 60 minutes in length (including question/answer).
- 3) Include speaker(s) bio and contact information.

If you have questions, please contact the MECA office at meca@mnerosion.org or at 320-685-5444.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN 2025 CONFERENCE PLANNING PLEASE EMAIL MECA@MNEROSION.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION!





2024 MECA AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year at the annual conference, the Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA) recognizes outstanding individuals and projects that support the association's vision to protect the quality of Minnesota's Natural Resources - specifically soil and water. This year at MECA's 36th Annual Conference, MECA awarded one Innovation Award and three Environmental Excellence Awards.

The 2024 Industry Leadership Award was presented to Sean Grefe and Dave Neiman at North Star Landscaping and Jared Kadelbach, Andy Huiras, Greg Huiras and Austin Wagelie with Mathiowetz Construction for their outstanding work on the TH 23 North Gap Project that runs from Paynesville to Richmond, MN.

The 2024 Environmental Excellence Awards were presented to:

- 1) The Bois de Sioux Watershed District and Moore Engineering for their Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project on the Minnesota/South Dakota Border.
- 2) Ron Beam and Greg Dehmer with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service – Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge for the Crane Meadows Platte River Streambank Stabilization Project near Little Falls, MN.
- 3) Samantha Anderson and Raymond Wiest with MnDOT District 1, Donny Pederson and Matt Price from Redstone Construction, and Kevin Saunders with the Transportation Infrastructure Management Division of Ontario Ministry of Transportation for the Bridge Deck Replacement Project over the Pigeon River.

By sharing educational training, best practices, and success stories, MECA aims to inspire everyone in the erosion control and stormwater management industries to further their knowledge and to continue striving for excellence. Commitment to education, innovation, and environmental stewardship are crucial to safeguarding the quality of Minnesota's soil and water for future generations.



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TH 23 NORTH GAP | MNDOT DISTRICT 3

Submitted by: Joel Sundeen, PE Services

TH 23 North Gap Project for MnDOT District 3 is an important corridor that is the primary east-west route that connects Willmar to I-94. Construction on the TH 23 North Gap Project was completed in the fall of 2023, and the project is currently being monitored until vegetation is established. The 9-mile, \$41.75 million project took place from County Road 33 in Paynesville to Highway 22 in Richmond. The project converted the two-lane configuration to four lanes. Additionally, 4 box culverts were replaced in the corridor along with mass grading, bituminous paving, lighting, stream realignment and revetment, and the construction of 17 permanent stormwater basins (infiltration, filtration, and rate control basins).



MnDOT utilized an environmental consultant to oversee environmental compliance on the project. As part of this work, the environmental consultant is responsible for attending weekly construction meetings, performing routine NPDES inspections with the contractor (Mathiowetz Construction, requesting and reviewing environmental site management plans, coordinating with regulators, and tracking environmental commitments through the project's Green Sheets. The environmental consultant worked with Mathiowetz's team to ensure a compliant and successful project, and communication and collaboration were essential to achieving these environmental goals and commitments. A unique opportunity arose to provide a training session on the project site with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for 20 regulators. The training session included a project tour where attendees learned about construction practices, potential environmental risks, and mitigation measures to reduce risks.

One of the environmental undertakings on the project included the realignment and native revetment of a portion of Kolling Creek. Prior to initiating this work, Mathiowetz Construction developed a temporary stream bypass site plan, and this allowed construction to take place outside of the live stream conditions to reduce the potential for environmental risk.



The new creek alignment was excavated to its new meandering alignment; riffles were then placed utilizing rip rap. Cedar tree revetments, Rosgen toe woods, fabric encapsulated soil lifts, live wattle bundles, live stakes, and native seed mixes were then installed to stabilize the stream banks and flood plain while also providing habitat for fish and wildlife. Work in this area was completed during the 2023 construction season, when the new box culvert, critter crossing, and DNR fencing were installed. The project remains under observation until the NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit notice of termination conditions are met.