

## GCSA News Bulletin - December 2013

**INCOG NOTE:** The following items have been collected from recent emails and announcements with changes to format, not content. Some have been abbreviated or images removed.

### 1. EPA Announces Its 2014 Webcast Series on Green Infrastructure

**INCOG NOTE:** This information was provided by Dr. Jason Vogel with OSU.

The U.S. EPA's [Green Infrastructure Program](#) is pleased to announce the launch of the [2014 Webcast Series](#). This series is generally geared towards public officials and practitioners just beginning to implement green infrastructure, as well as those looking to enhance established programs. Leading academics and professionals from around the country will cover a range of topics and applications, from best practices in operations and maintenance to the intersection of green infrastructure and climate change.

First Webcast: January 7th, 2014

*O&M and Green: Best Practices for Green Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance*

1:00pm – 2:30pm EST

[REGISTER!](#)

This webcast will provide a general overview of best practices for creating a green infrastructure operations and maintenance plan. Speakers will also cover specific lessons learned from early adopters of both regulatory and incentive approaches to ensuring proper O&M on both public and private property.

#### Speakers

Karen Sands, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District (MMSD)

Bill Hunt, Professor and Extension Specialist, NC State University

#### Upcoming webcasts:

March 4th

*Case Studies: Implementing Green Infrastructure under Enforcement Orders*

May 6th

*More Bang for the Buck: Integrating Green Infrastructure into Existing Public Works Projects*

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## 2. EPA and Washington D.C. COG Release Smart Growth Guidance

EPA and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Release Guide: "Using Smart Growth Strategies to Create More Resilient Communities in the Washington, D.C., Region"

A guide from EPA's Smart Growth Program and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments gives local governments in the metropolitan Washington D.C. area policy options to consider when preparing for climate risks while also meeting other environmental, economic, and social goals. While the guide was developed for the D.C. region, it will likely be helpful for other areas of the country as well. It presents approaches that can be used in city, suburban, or rural settings. The guide describes smart growth approaches that can reduce climate change-related risks to the land use, transportation, water, and building sectors. These approaches focus on three major goals: discouraging new development in particularly vulnerable areas, protecting people and assets in vulnerable areas, and encouraging sustainable growth in appropriate, less vulnerable areas. To access the report, visit: [http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia\\_communities.htm#dc](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia_communities.htm#dc).

## 3. Status of GCSA Website

The GCSA website revisions are well underway, and it is hoped that the new version will be on-line in January. Both content and appearance have been changed, but the overall structure has not. So you should still easily find the "blue pages" for the general public and the "yellow pages" for the GCSA members' resource needs. Once completed, the new website will contain our historical and latest GCSA News Bulletins, Fact Sheets, meeting handouts and other information as links on the website. The new website should become a better resource for you to use on a daily and weekly basis. Converting over to another software platform and changing server hosting is much more complicated than originally thought. So a complicated website like [www.stormwaterok.net](http://www.stormwaterok.net) requires more work to complete these changes. Just a little longer...

## 4. OSHA Training for GCSA Members Is Now Completed, Materials are Ready

INCOG has met the December 1<sup>st</sup> OSHA deadline to complete employee training on the new changes to Material Safety Data Sheets and container labeling to conform to OSHA's Global Harmonization System. We held a November 6<sup>th</sup> group training, and three local training sessions in Bartlesville, Jenks and Okmulgee. Over 150 employees of GCSA members received the 3-hour training provided by Vernon Seaman. In addition, Vernon has modified the PowerPoints and added speaker notes to many of the slides so that local training can continue in-house. INCOG will generate a brief overview paper with instructions for using the in-house training PowerPoints and make these available upon request. Also, contact INCOG if you desire to have INCOG host a local training session for your city or county employees. Even though the OSHA deadline of December 1<sup>st</sup> is past, training will continue to be needed.

## 5. EPA's 2014 MS4 Stormwater Conference in Fort Worth, Texas

Dates for next year's conference are July 27 to August 1, 2014. EPA has an updated website for the conference: <http://epa.gov/region6/water/npdes/sw/ms4/2014conference/index.html> . Another website link to the conference is: [www.scieca.org](http://www.scieca.org). Future conference locations being considered are Northwest Arkansas in 2015, and Oklahoma City in 2016. However, Waco and South Padre Island are also showing interest for future venues. Conference organizers are actively soliciting for presentations, so if you want to be a speaker, please submit your request now by following the instructions at the links provided above. Registration will likely be around \$300, probably with an Early Bird discount, and perhaps a discount for speakers.



## 6. LID Design Competition Needs Promotion

The Tulsa area LID Design Competition is well underway. Several design teams are already being formed, so at this point what is needed most by GCSA members is to "talk this up" to those whom you know and work with that may be interested in forming or participating in a Design Team. There are \$10,000 cash prizes for the winners of each of three design categories which should entice participation.

Please direct inquiries to the lid website link below and contact Dr. Vogel at OSU [jason.vogel@okstate.edu](mailto:jason.vogel@okstate.edu) for more information about participating in the design teams, and for attending the April 3<sup>rd</sup> LID Symposium at the Hard Rock Casino next Spring.

### The sites have been chosen!

1. Mixed Use Development – Elm Ridge in Broken Arrow (Lindsay Development)
2. Commercial Green Street – 6th Street in the Pearl District from Peoria to Rockford (City of Tulsa, Engineering Services)
3. Urban Residential Redevelopment – Barnard Trace, former Tulsa Elementary School (Phil Marshall Properties & Lindsay Development)

For more information about the sites, click here:

<http://lidcompetition.okstate.edu/design-competition-sites>

For information on forming a Design Team, general rules and competition updates, click here:

<http://lidcompetition.okstate.edu/>

April 3, 2014 will host the LID Symposium at the Hard Rock Conference Center. Formal presentations by all contestants will be given during the Symposium, and the competition winners will be announced that evening.

### **What can GCSA Members do to help promote the competition?**

The registration period for all Design Teams is November 14 to February 14, with deadline for final submission of all design contest materials by February 28<sup>th</sup>, so it is essential that everyone who can benefit from this event help to promote this and encourage formation of and participation in Design Teams. **How?** Forward this News Bulletin item and other notifications you receive to your city's planning staff, economic development staff and public works / engineering staff, and ask them to communicate with their contacts about the contest. Also forward the information to your own contacts in the private sector who represent firms that do land planning, landscape architecture, urban engineering design, etc. Contact those firms who can participate in or perhaps form a Design Team for the competition.

GCSA members will receive the greatest benefit from this competition if we have maximum participation from the planning and design community within the Tulsa area. So the more this gets promoted, the greater will be our benefits.

**Why is the LID Design Competition Important to GCSA?** Once OKR04 is finalized within a few months, there will be new requirements for permittees to promote and do education and outreach about LID to builders, developers and the community at large. We are fortunate to have this competition in the Tulsa area at just the right time. This one event encompasses general awareness about LID, provides detailed project development specification data about specific projects, will likely lead to actual installation of LID into at least one of the projects in the near future, and will provide competent data that compares LID cost savings and benefits over standard development designs that lack LID. And the coupling of the design competition to a 1-day formal LID Symposium will attract parties of interest from several regional states to see how LID is growing and benefiting the Tulsa area.

So please take a little time to forward information about the contest to your internal technical, planning and economic development staff as well as your contacts in the private sector involved in project planning and design.