



GreenCO Discussion Items for Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 19, 2008

In attendance: Jane Clary, Brenda O'Brien, Jim Klett, Kevin Reidy, Donna Pacetti, Harriet McMillan, Larry Lesser, Kristen Fefes, Donna Ralston and Stu Feinglas. On the phone: Ram Dhan Khasla, Curt Swift, Sharon Harris, Stu Feinglas and Tom Halverstadt.

**Reference validation:**

1. Change CSU Cooperative Extension to CSU Extension.
2. Remove text in several locations that implies practices apply on Front Range or Western Slope.
3. Validate names of links and proper names and dates from certification programs.

**Checklists**

1. Incorporate industry checklists and prioritizations. For example, develop a checklist for use at the beginning and close of the season (pre-season to do's and post season to do's.) The level of detail should be brief. (The Front Range Sustainable Landscaping Coalition checklist provides an example of the appropriate level of detail.) In reality, the checklist is a summary of the main points expressed in the BMPs on an industry sub-group basis. It may be helpful for industry sub-groups to solicit already existing internal operating procedures for starting up - and wrapping up.
  - a. For example: Greenhouse – check irrigation system, check for leaks, when to fertilize, etc.

The group felt the time needed to pull this together will be overwhelming during the busy season and this was a task that group previously determined was most effectively by industry members rather than Jane. CNGA feels very strong that checklists should be incorporated into this project. The group decided that checklists would be very valuable. **Brenda will email association execs to coordinate messaging on what is needed and get commitment. Use CNGA's as a model for other association. Should have CNGA's model checklist in a few weeks (Sharon/Tom).**

**ET Data**

Jane distributed ET Data from COAgMet stations, which Larry Lesser had spearheaded pulling together based on work by Troy Bauder at CSU. The Front Range data on page 9 was deleted due to lack of validation. Stu recommended adding websites links to ET sources and adding a % row below the monthly ET values for use in scheduling. Larry disagreed with identifying percentages due to concern that it could lead to reduction in duration rather than frequency and Rham Dhan agreed. (In other words, it could lead to light, frequent watering, rather than deep infrequent watering.) Text will be added to warn against the problem with guidance to adjust watering frequency instead. Jane will integrate

Northern and Denver Water's into the COAgMET data on page 1. Tri-River area has different numbers than Troy's. **Jane will use Phil Segura's (Denver Water) Front Range table.** Donna is comfortable with Denver Water's data and it's reliable.

### **Hardscapes BMP**

The Front Range Sustainable Landscape Coalition (FRSLC) developed a hardscapes sustainability checklist, which Alison Peck suggested could provide a basis for a Hardscape BMP. Jane provided a draft of the FRSLC practices in the BMP format. Overall, the group supports adding the BMP with minor verbiage edits, such as the use of the words "consider using" rather than "use" to mirror the real world perspective. For example, the FRSLC practices currently state to "use non-motorized equipment..." GreenCO would like to add the word "consider using non-motorized equipment when possible." In general the FRSLC group does not want the checklist practices to be extensively edited. **Jane will contact SSI and ask for permission on word changes. (Since the meeting, Jane followed up on this and, provided that the intent is not changed and the FRSLC group has the opportunity to review any changes, this should probably be okay.)** Kristen will look at other organizations (US Green Building) that might have hardscape BMPs, if needed. Kristen posed a question to the group. Are we representing the consensus or are we representing the cutting edge? The intent is to balance the environment and humans – and leave it up to companies to do what is environmentally sound. This is consistent with the concept that sustainability practices may best be understood as a continuum of practices. Donna Pacetti mentioned Mayor Hickenlooper's recent Executive Order 123 that has information on bids for bond issue on use of concrete etc. The mayor strongly supports LID for bond projects. Jane will look at the EO and see how it related to the draft hardscapes BMP and see which would be the best fit.

### **Tree Planting**

A draft Tree Planting BMP was handed out and discussed, particularly with regard to consistency with the CSU Master Gardeners' handouts on this topic. The group agreed with the need for the BMP and thought the general approach was fine. Jane asked if there were too many BMPs on trees in the manual. New tree BMPs are: Tree Planting and Tree Preservation. The group felt the number of BMPs is needed and warranted. Jane will forward drafts to Jude O'Connor and the ISA board for comment. Jane will leave in the soil structure graph and add a sentence to plant what is specified on the design. **Donna P. will follow up with Jude O'Connor on city rules about tree preservation during construction.** Jane will update verbiage to eliminate West Slope and Front Range references. Jane will leave in "rule of thumbs" and add a disclaimer about varying soil conditions and locations. **Dr. Klett will revise "knee height" text and come up with another example.** **Jane will address salinity issues with certain tree species using reclaimed water.** Change adaptability chart on page 30 to root system disturbance. Jane will make edits based on discussion and email to Dr. Klett for ISA feedback.

## **Glossary**

Please review and provide comments to Jane.

Delete Solomon and Burt table on page #50.

Stu recommended combining Non-Potable water and Reclaimed Water. The group agreed and they will be combined. Jane will add a statement to clarify that local government may have restrictions regarding how leaching is accomplished to check with your local utility for rules and regulations..

## **Next steps:**

1. Finalize a new title for the manual. Send your ideas to Jane. The group liked **“GreenCO BMPs ~ Moving Towards Sustainability.”**
  2. Revise credits: current people vs. historical help
  3. Jane will complete a revised BMP Manual package based on the input received to date on the project. Completion of this task will be some time in late April or May. An electronic copy will be distributed for those that would like to provide final review.
  4. There are several tasks remaining in the grant such as updating the training program and interacting with local governments regarding the revised BMPs, among others. We would like your input on these tasks, as well, and will keep the group apprised on these tasks. A follow-up meeting is not yet scheduled for these purposes and we recognize people’s availability for meetings is likely reduced due to the kick-off of the landscaping season. Thank you for the time you have invested in the process to date.
- 3. VERY IMPORTANT: Please Email your volunteer hours to Brenda**