

THE ENVIRO-SOURCE

COLUMBIA COUNTY RECEIVES INAGURAL LOCAL ISSUING AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM GSWCC

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Enviro-Source's Mission:

Promote environmental education and compliance for sustainable growth.



For the first time, the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) gave a Local Issuing Authority (LIA) of the Year award and selected Columbia County!

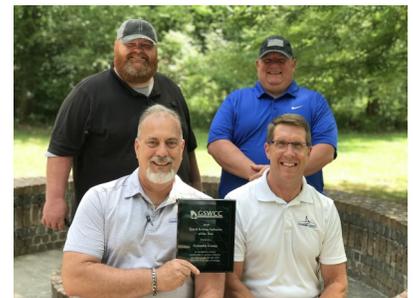
The responsibilities of an LIA include land disturbance permitting, determining the presence of state waters and abiding by those buffers, conducting erosion and sediment control (E&SC) inspections, issuing and resolving E&SC violations, responding to land disturbance-related complaints, and upholding the state model ordinance for Soil Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollution Control. LIA staff are also required to meet the state's education and certification requirements and submit information on all of these activities in regular reports.

Such extensive responsibilities are handled by



the Environmental Services Department. Together this team forms a cohesive, dynamic force that makes great strides to limit environmental impact, promote sustainable growth practices, and conserve the community we are so fortunate to live in.

As stated on the plaque presented to Columbia County "In recognition of your commitment to protect, conserve, and improve the soil and water resources of the State of Georgia".



Top photo from left: Tracey Shoemaker, DeVone Staggs, Wheeler Cowart, Connie Smith, George Eastman, Mike Anderson, Katie Beth Jennings, Clayton Whittle, GSWCC representative, and Steve Abbott.
Bottom photo from top row left: Shane Busby, Randy Fisher, Dennis Anderson, and Scott Gordon.



Keep the fish abundant.
We're in!
Are you?

DID YOU KNOW...

Storm drains are **directly** connected to our water resources. These storm drains are designed to capture and manage runoff during rain events. Sweeping grass clippings, leaves, dirt, or other debris into the road and storm drain is not acceptable because:

- Debris can clog storm systems which may cause flooding.
- Pollutants in our waters degrade aquatic life and recreational resources.
- Only rain belongs in the storm drain. Any other items may be considered an illicit discharge.

Please Remember:

What each individual does adds up and makes an impact in our Community.

Only Rain Down The Drain!



THE ABCS OF PASSING A REQUIRED INSPECTION

COMMON Q&A:

How soon can I get an inspection?

Inspection requests received by 4:30pm will be scheduled for the following business day unless you specify a later date.

NOT INSPECTIONS:

How do I schedule an NOT inspection?

If the project had an NOI, provide the County a copy of the NOT form submitted online in EPD's system, GEOS. NOT inspections are scheduled through the Stormwater Utility main office, 706-855-7246, and by emailing LDP@columbiacountyga.gov

My lot didn't require an NOI. Do I still need an NOT inspection?

Yes! Permit requirements and inspection requirements are two separate categories. Though the NOI permit was not required, E&S inspectors still need to visit the site to determine that stabilization best management practices have been followed (e.g., silt fence removal, permanent seeding and mulch, etc.).

How do I schedule an NOT re-inspection?

Call the Stormwater Utility main office, 706-855-7246, or email LDP@columbiacountyga.gov

Do pine straw or mulch beds count as permanent stabilization?

No. Pine straw and mulch are considered temporary stabilization and therefore require trees, shrubs, or perennial vines planted throughout. Please see the Green Book's Table 6-5.3 for ground cover recommendations. This table also includes guidance on plant spacing, coloration, and water and sunlight needs.



Notice of Termination (NOT) Requirements — By Wheeler Cowart

According to the 2016 Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia (Green Book), final stabilization means all soil disturbing activities have been completed, and, for unpaved areas not covered by permanent structures, 100% of the soil surface is uniformly covered in permanent vegetation with a density of at least 70%, or the site has been landscaped according to the approved landscape plan.

In addition to stabilization, drainage is a major component of a final inspection. Projects must be developed with positive drainage so as to allow water to exit without causing impact to adjacent properties

or waterways. Examples of methods to accomplish proper drainage are berms, swales, yard drains, as well as various filters for water quality. Many projects have drainage plans submitted to Columbia County as part of the permit package, however, any questions may be directed to the Stormwater office at 706-855-7246.

7-Day Inspection by Design Engineer, E&S Inspector, and Grading Contractor

Sites with NPDES ES&PC Plans are required to have the plan preparer, the "design professional," perform an inspection of the initial sediment storage requirements and perimeter control BMPs within 7 days after installation. We strongly recommend this inspection be coordinated with the E&S inspector and grading contractor. Failure to properly conduct the 7-day initial inspection is a permit violation and could result in fee accrual.



COLUMBIA COUNTY GI/LID

BY: GEORGE EASTMAN



Columbia County is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Phase II Community. The Phase II permit was renewed on December 6, 2017. Under this permit, Phase II communities are expected to require Runoff Reduction by December 6, 2020.

Runoff Reduction is the retaining of the first 1.0 inch of rainfall on site, to the maximum extent practicable. The use of Green Infrastructure (GI) and/or Low Impact Development (LID) are highly encouraged in order to achieve Runoff Reduction. It is understandable that GI/LID practices may not work on every site. With that said, Columbia County is working on a feasibility policy. The policy will include the testing of the soil for infiltration rates, water table and bedrock elevations, topography, and the possibility of previous soil contamination, on every proposed developed site.

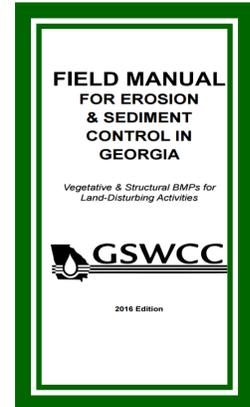
Not All Flocculants Are Created Equal

By: Wheeler Cowart

Is a little stained water really that big of a deal? Maybe more so than you would imagine. The cloudiness of water, or turbidity, measured in NTUs, affects the entire food chain from aquatic vegetation to land animals. Many of the soils in our county will only settle with the addition of flocculant to the BMPs for a site. Flocculants allow small suspended soil particles to attach and sink, minimizing transportation, and as they are not to be added directly to the receiving water, settling areas within the site are necessary. Since they are soil specific, many companies that sell these products also provide the soil testing required to ensure that the correct chemicals are being used. If not, then the effectiveness of the flocculant is diminished and money is wasted, and who wants that?



Once the correct product has been determined, application is where the creative part begins. From hydroapplication directly to soil to logs added to check dams and in storm drains, there are many different ways to get the desired outcome. In one instance where polymer blocks were added to dewatering pipes the turbidity values were reduced from 8,000 NTU to about 10 NTU! Knowing how and where to apply these products can be tricky and directly affects how well they work. So, if you are planning to incorporate this practice and would like to know more about it, feel free to contact the Columbia County Stormwater Office and we will be happy to help however we can.



*How do I find the **Green Book** online?*

Follow these steps:

Go to <https://gaswcc.georgia.gov/>

Then drill down...



*Click on **Urban Lands—Erosion and Sediment Control***



Technical Guidance



Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia 2016 Edition

Columbia County
Stormwater and
Environmental Services
Department

Mailing address:
PO Box 498
Evans, GA 30809

Phone 706.855.7246
Fax 706.868.4226
You can email us at:
LDP@columbiacountyga.gov



We're on the Web!

www.columbiacountyga.gov
Environmental Management

Enviro-Source Staff

Katie Beth Jennings... Environmental Services Manager
DeVone Staggs... Environmental Permit Coordinator
George Eastman... SW Plan Reviewer
Connie Smith... Floodplain Manager
Wheeler Cowart... ES&PC Plan Reviewer
Mike Zahner... SW Operations Manager
Margaret Alligood... Public Education Coordinator
Susan Glymph... Office Manager
Lisa Bryan... Customer Service Representative
Mike Anderson... Environmental Compliance Manager
Shane Busby... E&S Inspector
Scott Gordon... E&S Inspector
Clayton Whittle... E&S Inspector
Dennis Anderson... E&S Inspector
Tracey Shoemaker... E&S Inspector
Steve Abbott... E&S Inspector
Jason Alicea... NOT Inspector

FLOOD ELEVATION CERTIFICATES

By: **Connie Smith**

If you build or live in a high-risk flood zone, then you are probably familiar with the term "elevation certificate" (also referred to as an "EC").

The elevation certificate is a FEMA form that must be completed and sealed by an engineer or surveyor that is licensed in the State of Georgia. The EC documents the elevation of the structure and the equipment that services the structure as they relate to the base flood elevation.

The EC is an important tool that is used by insurance agents to properly write and rate the flood insurance policy. The EC can also be a helpful tool for a homeowner when they have to make important decisions regarding rebuilding and mitigation after a flood event.

The EC is also used as supporting documentation when a homeowner requests a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) through FEMA to remove a building from the special flood hazard area.



From left to right: at four feet below the BFE, at the BFE, and at three feet above the BFE. The illustration above is based on a minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) deductible and includes \$250,000 building coverage only (does not include contents coverage) for a single-family, one-story structure in Zone AE (high risk). Source: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1531251928965-e646d1b0e92038ab44410f2562061da0/Build_Back_Safer_and_Strong_Fact_Sheet_508.pdf

Columbia County is currently working with FEMA to present a half-day continuing education course for Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Floodplain Managers, etc. on elevation certificates. Date, Time, Location and Agenda will be announced once the details for the course have been finalized.

Upcoming SPECIALIZED Level I and II Re-cert Course

The NPDES Training Institute will hold a Level I and II re-certification course at the Columbia County Building A Auditorium on Friday, March 13, 2020 from 8am-12pm.

Participants will learn:

- Sediment basins and the control devices (skimmers and baffles) installed for water quality
- Regulatory changes in sediment basin design and installation
- New required components of sediment basins
- Criteria to inspect and maintain sediment

basin BMPs and components for compliance with project permits

Jim Spotts PhD and CPESC, is recognized nationally as an expert on sediment basin design and performance. Jim will present relevant research and practical methods used to design sediment basins, including the installation and maintenance of surface skimmers and baffles.

For more information and to register visit:

<https://npdestraining.com/events/sediment-basins-surface-skimmers-how-they-should-work-for-re-certification-of-your-level-1a-1b-or-level-ii-certifications-3-13-20-evans-ga/>