BMP Cost Database Update

Introduction

As a reminder, as part of CSN's EPA work plan we will develop an urban BMP cost database. Per our discussion at the February USWG meeting, we will be focusing on the following four practices in 2012: bioretention, street sweeping, urban fertilizer management, stream restoration. We have incorporated your feedback from the February meeting and refined our method accordingly. Here is a preliminary work plan to collect information on bioretention areas which is demonstrative to how we plan to move forward with future practices.

Data Collection

We have developed the bioretention cost data template which can be seen in Attachments A and B. Our method for collecting the needed information is a two-part method:

> *Method 1.* Contact local governments, USWG volunteers and other members of our Network (1,500 stormwater professionals in the Bay watershed) with a basic survey that asks for information on previously constructed bioretention areas. See Attachment A.
>
> *Method 2.* Send out a series of questions in "Survey Monkey" format to private construction firms that routinely build bioretention areas requesting *confidential* cost-estimates for a predetermined hypothetical bioretention scenario. See Attachment B.

Data responses will be tallied and input into an excel spreadsheet where they can be easily recorded, organized and statistically analyzed.

Data Analysis

Once the data has been collected, we will be able to make comparisons between the costs of a bioretention versus the different parameters of the practice. For example, we can compare the construction costs with the Treatment Volume of a practice. We will have the ability to separate out practices by state, the year installed, or practices that utilized specific design features like underdrains etc. We hope to see relationships that will demonstrate how the specific factors drive up the costs of a practice.

In addition to the ability to make comparisons, the cost data will allow us to create cost-predictive equations. We can use the data collected to come up with a simple cost per impervious acre treated or cost per cubic foot treated. Once we have enough data points we should be able to demonstrate a relationship between the two variables which will allow us to create a series of cost-predictive curves. These curves will allow for cost predictions as a function of specific design elements. These design equations can then be utilized by local governments for planning purposes prior to the implementation of a bioretention facility.

Participants
The following is a list of people who have either volunteered or have been suggested as potential contacts for the Urban BMP Database.

Kevin DeBell	EPA
Walter Caldwell/ Rebecca Stack	DDOE
Dave Sample	VTech
Kurt Stevenson	VTech
Karl Berger	MWCOG
Patrick Hagan	UMCES
Dave Hirschman	CWP
Chad Crawford	Fairfax County
Joe Kelly	PADEP
Jenny Malloy	US EPA, CBPO
Kim Burgess	City of Baltimore
Jennifer Tribo	HRPCD
Jeff Moeller	WERF
Robert Traver	VUSP

In addition to the Network contacts and the USWG volunteers listed above, we will be contacting a list of professional contacts through direct email. We will entice people to participate in our survey by offering the following incentives:

- $200 gift card to Home Depot
- Participants will receive a copy of the results as soon as they are analyzed
- Participants will be acknowledged in the final report
- Grand prize winner will receive a free CSN workshop on the topic of their choice!

Feedback
Your feedback is invaluable. Please let us know if there is anyone we are missing, or any additional data that we should be collecting. Any comments or suggestions can be directed to:

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