

## Peer Exchange Day 3 Chat Transcripts

**[3:20 PM] McCully, Jeannie (Guest)**

*Are environmental standards on the table? For example, chemical-based erosion and sediment control products like HECs and tackifiers?*

**[3:21 PM] McCully, Jeannie (Guest)**

*In past experience discussions were more focused on performance vs. environmental toxicants*

**[3:21 PM] Dwayne Stenlund (MnDOT) (Guest)**

*how much time do you personally devote to the AASHTO subcommittee?*

**[3:24 PM] Dwayne Stenlund (MnDOT) (Guest)**

*Scott, do you have any info on TRM/geosynthetic anchoring specifications?*

**[3:27 PM] McCully, Jeannie (Guest)**

*What is the estimated time commitment to participating in the subcommittee?*

**[3:27 PM] Alissa Salmore (Guest)**

*Does AASHTO define biodegradable? Or defers to FTC as referenced earlier today?*

**[3:28 PM] Dwayne Stenlund (MnDOT) (Guest)**

*which came first, the industry deciding some BMP, or standards that define some BMP?  
(1 liked)*

**[3:29 PM] McCully, Jeannie (Guest)**

*Would coordination with DOTs be a separate forum than forums with the industry?*

**[3:33 PM] Hidden, Scott A (Guest)**

*I devote quite a lot of time to AASHTO but mostly because I am a chair and vice-chair for various committees. Its all volunteer so you can be as involved as you have time or want to be involved.*

**[3:36 PM] Hidden, Scott A (Guest)**

*I do not have any TRM/geosynthetic anchoring specs. I have some ideas but not very comfortable sharing. I am really not an ECP expert by any means. When I was developing a proposed spec, I started with ECTC recommended specs and then talked to the ECP tech committee from NTPEP.*

**[3:38 PM] Hidden, Scott A (Guest)**

*When it comes to defining terms, AASHTO normally tries to draw from other sources like ASTM, research, etc. If all else fails and they have to define something that is not previously defined, normally it is best to reach out to industry since they are the ones that are primarily affected.*

**[3:41 PM] Hidden, Scott A (Guest)**

*Standards can be developed from various sources, industry, research, academia, etc. Ultimately whoever develops the standards, only the state DOTs vote on the standards. All other "friends" of the committees are non-voting.*

**[3:45 PM] Hidden, Scott A (Guest)**

*Some issues are certainly sensitive. In NTPEP, the most common sticking points are related to how decisions affect market share of various companies. And in some cases, AASHTO just has to make some people mad because they can't please everyone. In the end, it comes down to the voting by only the states as to whether something is accepted.*

**[4:04 PM] Holmes, Erin L. (Guest)**

*Can we talk about cost for a minute?*

**[4:21 PM] Smith, Christopher E (DOT) (Guest)**

*Exactly. Many states of wildlife restitution values.*

**[4:27 PM] Dill-Wendrzycki, Sue (Guest)**

*Sometimes change is dependent upon who is in charge at the time and their resistance to new ideas.*

**[4:27 PM] Grider, Nathan (Guest)**

*Right, propagation of wildlife, if even possible for some species, does not even consider ecosystem services that wildlife provide, such as pest control. That is a more difficult \$\$ to get at.*

**[4:28 PM] Holmes, Erin L. (Guest)**

*You have several Illinois folks on the call!! :)*

**[4:29 PM] Dwayne Stenlund (MnDOT) (Guest)**

*not all BMP and BMP composition changes increase costs. Also some benefits become clear once implemented*

**[4:29 PM] Serio, Melissa (Guest)**

*Group 1 - Survey is a good idea.*

**[4:29 PM] Grider, Nathan (Guest)**

*Yes, I have friends at IDOT here with me! :)*

**[4:31 PM] Graeve, Kenneth M (DOT) (Guest)**

*Takeaways:*

- *More communication and coordination among groups is key to making changes*
- *Coordination between agencies w/in each state*
- *Coordination w/ industry is important*
- *Timeframe - may take 3-5 years to bring new spec, testing, and products to market*
- *Availability of Jute has been short lately due to supply chain issues, and this could affect progress toward a timeline*
- *MT does not have any plastic in REPPs, so the question is where do we still need products with plastic*
- *Cost can be a barrier - if there's not high demand for products then they'll cost more; unified effort b/n states will drive costs down by increasing demand and streamlining testing requirements for mfrs*
- *Champions are needed to keep this effort moving, and having backup for those champions who can fill in when things get busy*
- *AASHTO technical committee - standard specification is a good opportunity to increase consistency*
- *New products can be hard because of the problem w/ specifying a proprietary product; it's also hard to have to modify specs as new products become available*
- *Innovative use of legacy products (wood chips, compost) can bridge the gap*
- *Industry will innovate & respond to demand from DOT customers*
- *New products need to be better environmentally and not just better performing (avoid negative side effects such as moving invasive species)*
- *Communication is a barrier, with independent states feeling like they need to reinvent the wheel in terms of making changes; How can we share information from these discussions to make the process easier for individual states*
- *Can we use existing organizations to help share information (orgs like ICOET)*
- *Culture shift is needed (which needs a champion)*

- States are moving at different rates (WashDOT changed specs quickly but many states have a slower process; CalTrans example of taking two years to change a single sentence in a spec
- Separate pay item to remove plastic BMPs
- Illinois is just starting to look at this, and are focusing on reducing as the first step to phasing in changes
- Regulatory leverage can really help drive change
- Sharing information
  - Send out a survey to learn what other states are doing
- Standardization
  - National standards for materials, definitions, etc.,
  - This would be the longer approach but could also have more long-lasting results
  - Work through ASTM to standardize definitions and corresponding testing
  - Manufacturers are ready to work with DOTs but they really need the standardization to streamline their efforts

(1 liked)

**[4:32 PM] Dunleavy, Peter (DOT) (Guest)**

*celebrate - that's what you do - then take a deep breath and continue liaisons*

(1 liked)

**[4:33 PM] McCully, Jeannie (Guest)**

*Could we maybe identify individuals that are willing to be part of a steering committee of sorts to sort through these discussions and create action items/next steps?*

**[4:34 PM] Dunleavy, Peter (DOT) (Guest)**

*Every entity on the call can send you 5 bullets - what their top priorities are and what action they will take*

**[4:34 PM] Dwayne Stenlund (MnDOT) (Guest)**

*It would be ideal if there were implemented BMPs at the state level that have tried organic based erosion prevention or sediment control materials and methods. Or, what ideas are states considering?*

**[4:36 PM] Hidden, Scott A (Guest)**

*One concrete step is we need state DOT representation for the AASHTO COMP 4g Tech Subcommittee. A list of names soon would be great.*

(1 liked)

**[4:38 PM] McCully, Jeannie (Guest)**

*Thank you so much for all the work you put into this amazing and informative effort*

**[4:39 PM] Holmes, Erin L. (Guest)**

*Thank for doing the breakouts!*

**[4:39 PM] Alissa Salmore (Guest)**

*Yes thank you doing the heavy lifting for putting on this forum! It is much appreciated!*

**[4:40 PM] Dwayne Stenlund (MnDOT) (Guest)**

*some people from MN are normal. be careful what you ask!*

**[4:40 PM] Dunleavy, Peter (DOT) (Guest)**

*establish a clearinghouse web site*

**[4:43 PM] Martin, Rebecca**

*Thanks so much to the committee and to Cindy- a great peer exchange!*

**[4:43 PM] Graeve, Kenneth M (DOT) (Guest)**

*Thanks Jeannie!*

**[4:43 PM] CRAig Shultz (Guest)**

*thank you*

**[4:43 PM] McCully, Jeannie (Guest)**

*Thanks again. Look forward to continued coordination. Be well*

**[4:43 PM] Dunleavy, Peter (DOT) (Guest)**

*KUDOS all around - brilliant conference and you are a fun group!*

**[4:43 PM] Holmes, Erin L. (Guest)**

*Thanks y'all. Great meeting/s and discussions!*

**[4:43 PM] Dill-Wendrzycki, Sue (Guest)**

*Met a lot of kindred spirits. Hate to say 'good bye'.*

**[4:44 PM] Armstrong, Jon**

*thanks everyone!*

**[4:44 PM] Hatfield, Trent (Guest)**

*Thanks eveyone.*

**[4:44 PM] Judge, Colin**

*Thanks everyone!*

**[4:44 PM] Dwayne Stenlund (MnDOT) (Guest)**

*It would be great if DOTs would list new products they would like to see*

**[4:44 PM] John Young Jr**

*TEXas has an annual environmental conference in September; would anyone be interested in talking about plastics in erosion control products at this conference next year?*