New Research Focusing on Emerging Wet Weather Flow Management Strategies

Robert Pitt, Kenya Goodson, Olga Ogburn, John Hardin, Redahegn Sileshi, Leila Talebi, Noboru Togawa, Ryan Bean, and Sree Usha Veeravalli

> The Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering The University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

The research carried out by our group at the University of Alabama has recently focused on sources and treatability of wetweather flows and contaminants, and the development and testing of new treatment technologies. Some of these activities are listed below and will be briefly described during this presentation:

- The National Stormwater Quality Database
- Surveys and the identification of inappropriate discharges to stormwater drainage systems using source tracking and uncertainty analyses
- Bacteria sources and control options in the Lake Tuscaloosa watershed
- Urban pet and wildlife bacteria sources, survivability, and transport
- Pollutant releases during the initial aging of asphaltic pavements
- Degradation and pollutant releases from piping and gutter materials under different pH and salinity conditions (WEFTEC poster)
- Heavy metal leaching from treated wood ash and soil amendments
- PAH contamination of urban stream sediments by particle size and organic content, and the development of thermal extraction methods

1

Management and treatment of wet weather flow discharges:

- Stormwater non-potable beneficial uses
- Development of biofiltration media designs to meet very low numeric effluent limits from an industrial site (WEFTEC presentation)
- Monitoring and modeling the interaction of green infrastructure practices for the control of combined sewer overflows
- · Sources and treatment of emerging contaminants in wet weather flows
- Testing of alternative biofiltration underdrain systems and the effects of sand characteristics on treatment flow rates (WEFTEC poster)
- Development and testing of the upflow filter for critical source areas
- Scour of captured stormwater sediments from simple treatment devices
- The use of WinSLAMM at US naval facilities to identify sources and treatment options for critical heavy metals
- Development of monitoring program to evaluate the performance of green infrastructure components for the control of CSOs
- Soil characteristics and infiltration designs to assist the city of Tuscaloosa in its reconstruction efforts

National Stormwater Quality Database, Developed for the EPA to compile existing stormwater discharge permit data



Number of Events and Geographical Coverage in NSQD ver. 3			
Rain Zone	Number of Events	Percentage of Events	
Zone 1- Great Lakes and			
Northeast	1,271	15	
Zone 2- Mid Atlantic	3,984	46	
Zone 3- Southeast	744	9	
Zone 4- Lower Mississippi Valley	301	4	
Zone 5- Texas	799	9	
Zone 6- Southwest	417	5	
Zone 7- Northwest	865	10	
Zone 8- Rocky Mountains	24	0.3	
Zone 9- Midwest	197	2	
TOTAL	8,602	100	





6

Higher *E. coli* levels were found in subwatersheds of Lake Tuscaloosa during large rains (>25 mm), compared to smaller rains, and more subwatersheds exceed the local criterion during the larger rains.







Survivability of Indicator Bacteria on Pervious and Impervious Surfaces



10

12

On concrete blocks, dog poop *E. coli* had rapid die-off for all conditions, except for warm, wet, and dark conditions. Die-off rate after one or two days decreased significantly and was similar to the persistent conditions. Three log removals (99.9% reductions) after about 10 days for most conditions. Re-growth was observed for warm, dry, and dark conditions after initial rapid dieoff. Models Compared



Enterococci was more persistent than *E. coli* with no removal noted for warm, wet, and dark conditions, with re-growth after the two day initial rapid die-off period for the other conditions.





 \bullet Zinc showed an increasing trend with the aging of the pavement, with the highest concentrations being 210 to 250 $\mu g/L$ after the 6 month aging period.



14



Cu release from the pavements showed a weak increasing trend with the highest concentrations being about 170 μ g/L for the final sample at the end of 6 months of aging of the pavements.















PAHs in Urban Stream Sediments Site 1: Cribbs Mill Creek Source areas: medium density two story family home residential area No history of sanitary sewage contamination

Site 2: Hunter Creek

 Source areas: automobile service commercial areas, heavy traffic along McFarland Blvd., and runoff from trailer park residential areas

Site 3: Carroll Creek

- Source areas: A residential area on one side and forested lands on the other side of the creek
- Has a recent history (in 2006) of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) into the creek





Stormwater Non-potable Beneficial Uses Selected Case Studies Examined:

- Asia (Singapore, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh, China, South Korea, and India)
- Africa (South Africa, Kenya, and Tanzania)
- Europe (Germany and Ireland)
- Australia (South Australia, Queensland, Victoria, and New South Wales)
- North America (US Virgin Islands, Florida, Hawaii, Washington, New York, Maryland, California, Missouri, Oregon, Washington, D.C., and North Carolina)









Monthly Rainfall



Irrigation needs for the landscaped areas surrounding the homes were calculated by subtracting long-term monthly rainfall from the regional evapotranspiration demands for turf grass. Comparison of East Coast vs. Central US Roof Runoff Harvesting Potential for Medium Density Residential Areas (can't use the same designs everywhere!)

Region	total roof area (%)	landscaped area (%)	study period annual rain fall (in) (1995 to 2000)	maximum roof runoff control (%), silty soil	storage tank size for max roof runoff control (ft ³ storage/ft ² roof area), silty soil
Central	18.1	62.5	33.5	90.6	0.72
East Coast	15.9	54.5	53.0	60.1	2.00

✓ The Central US area has a higher potential level of control compared to the East Coast because the ET demands better match the rain fall pattern.

✓ The Southwest US area is challenging due to large mismatches in timing of ET/irrigation requirements and availability of rains (would need very large tanks for long-term storage).

26

Cistern/Storage Tank Sizing vs. Performance

Storage per	Reduction	Number of 35	Tank	
house (ft ³	in annual	gallon rain	height size	Tank height
per ft ² of	roof	barrels for 945	required if	size required
roof area)	runoff (%)	ft ² roof	5 ft D (ft)	if 10 ft D (ft)
0.005	24	1	0.24	0.060
0.010	29	2	0.45	0.12
0.020	39	4	0.96	0.24
0.050	56	10	2.4	0.60
0.12	74	25	6.0	1.5
0.50	99	100	24	6.0



Designs and Evaluations to Support Biofiltration Systems in the Southwestern U.S.

- With very low numeric effluent limits, site requires designs refined to a much higher degree than in typical practice
- Need to optimize stormwater control performance through various design factors:
 - Treatment trains using combinations of sedimentation and media filtration
 - Long sedimentation pre-treatment drainage time
 - Sufficient media contact time to increase control of critical constituents
 - Specially-selected filtration media
- Bench-scale laboratory and pilot-scale media testing was therefore conducted to provide needed performance and design information.



This major home restoration project included the installation of underground water storage tanks instead of dry wells. Homes in this neighborhood have summer water bills approaching \$1k/month for landscape irrigation, so the economic benefits of irrigation using stormwater are very good.







Urban Runoff Quality and Treatability			
Pollutants	Media Treatment Notes		
NH ₃ -N	$\rm NH_4^*$ removed by organic media with variety of removal sites. May be removed by ion-exchange resins/zeolites if limited competition from +2 ions.		
NO ₃ -N	Uptake by plants. Limited removal below root zone. Leaches. (AEC)		
PO ₄ -P	Removed in high AEC or high Al/Fe media. Leaches if excess P in soil. (use soil test for preliminary determination) (low P; low OM)		
TSS	Removal excellent for particles greater than 1 – 2 $\mu m.$		
Cu, Total	Particulate fraction removed to some extent; Limited physical removals for Cu bound to particles smaller than $1 - 2 \ \mu m$.		
Cu, Dissolved	Valence charges range from +3 to -2. Cations potentially removed in ion- exchange resin. Anions and small positive charges likely removed in organic media with variety of removal sites. (CEC/OM)		
Zn, Total	Particulate fraction removed to some extent; Limited physical removals for Zn bound to particles smaller than $1-2 \ \mu m$.		
Zn, Dissolved	Valence charges range from +3 to -2. Cations potentially removed in ion- exchange resin. Anions and small positive charges likely removed in organic media with variety of removal sites. (CEC/OM)		







Stormwater Treatment Technologies that are Good Candidates for the Removal of Wet Weather Emerging Contaminants

- Biofiltration and bioinfiltration. We are conducting groundwater fate modeling to investigate potential groundwater contamination of ECs during infiltration through different soils
- Sedimentation. Our fugacity modeling indicates that many ECs are associated with particulates and can be trapped in wet detention ponds
- Other commonly used stormwater controls likely have less potential treatability of most emerging contaminants due to high flow rates and short contact periods
- Activated sludge and strong oxidation have been shown to be good treatment unit operations for emerging contaminants at wastewater treatment plants, but these processes are not common for stormwater control, but are used at treatment facilities receiving combined sewage.

37











Biofouling Testing of SmartDrain[™] Material

- The Formica-lined plywood box was also used to verify the head vs. discharge relationships for the biofouling tests.
- The SmartDrainTM was installed on top of a 4" layer of the drainage sand, and another 4" layer of the sand was placed on top of the SmartDrainTM.
- The box was filled with tap water and left open to the sun for several weeks to promote the growth of algae. Two different species of algal and liquid fertilizer were added to the test

d.	Drainage	algae exposure	
Trial No.	date	period(days)	i
1	17-Jun-10	14	
2	8-Jul-10	35	
3	25-Jul-10	52	
4	12-Aug-10	70	
5	3-Sep-10	92	
6	27-Sep-10	116	
7	11-Oct-10	130	















Particle size range	SS influent	SS effluent mass	% Reduction (%)
(μm)	mass (lb)	(lb)	, incluction (, i)
0.45-3	0.3	0.2	39
3-12	10.7	5.1	52
12-30	35.7	12.4	65
30-60	81.2	12.4	85
60-75	24.3	1.7	93
75-150	43.0	1.3	97
150-250	21.9	2.8	87
250-425	21.4	0.4	98
425-850	30.1	0	100
850-1400	21.2	0	100
1400-2000	15.7	0	100
2000-4760	17.6	0	100
>4760	10.9	0	100
Sum	334	36	86



CFD Calibration and Modeling of Scour of Captured Sediment in Storm Drain Catchbasin Inlets

1 Finee flow rates: 10, 5, and 2.5 LPS (160, 80, and 40 GPM)
2 Velocity measurements (Vx, Vy, and Vz)
3 Tie overlying water depths above the sediment: 16, 36, 56, 76, and 96 cm
1 Output of the sediment of the sediment



The Use of WinSLAMM to Evaluate Stormwater Control Options for Controlling Bacteria and Nutrients in the Antelope Creek Watershed, Lincoln, NE

WinSLAMM identified stormwater pollutant sources and candidate control practices for the Antelope Creek watershed in Lincoln, NE. The controls examined included:

- Roof runoff controls: rain gardens, disconnections, rain barrels and larger water tanks
- Pavement controls: disconnections, biofiltration, and porous pavement
- Street side drainage controls: grass swales and curb-cut biofilters
- Public works practices: street cleaning and catchbasin cleaning
- Outfall controls: wet detention ponds

The project included calculated runoff characteristics and the estimated costs (capital costs, land costs, maintenance costs, total annual costs, and total present value cost) and the unit removal costs.

53







Chastain Manor, Tuscaloosa, AL, F5 Tornado Damage, April 27, 2011



We are working with the City of Tuscaloosa to develop stormwater management options that meet the new city and state regulations for commercial sites that require re-building.







A clean slate at the Krispy Kreme location... total destruction of building, was totally impervious and will now have to meet new stormwater regulations with volume reductions. Surrounding destroyed neighborhoods will also receive attention, although individual homes are exempt from current stormwater regulations.









We are developing a fast track design manual, doing site designs, and reviewing plans. Starting with commercial buildings to maximize volume reductions; most all were not in compliance and City will not allow them to duplicate what was there before the tornadoes.

58

