CWP recognizes seven firms in completing the Mentor Protégé Program

AUGUST 2017

Exceeding the goal of mentoring two small businesses, the CWP proudly recognized the following small, minority owned firms for the completing the first year of the Mentor Protégé Program (MPP).

- Estime Enterprises
- Faulkner Lawn Care & Landscaping
- Grace Management & Construction, LLC
- Green Forever
- Kirila Earthworks
- M&G Services, Inc.
- Phoenix Infrastructure

This supportive services program focuses on developing the capacity of firms for green infrastructure. The MPP participants began their journey in February of 2016 with a full assessment of their businesses' skills and capabilities. Over the course of eighteen months, the CWP provided coaching, training, access to bidding opportunities, capital bonding, certification and other supportive services. Trainings such as CWP Best Management Practices, Blueprint Reading I & II, and Cost Estimating provided business owners with the foundation needed to compete on CWP projects. Each firm spent a few minutes reflecting on their experience in the program, lessons learned and what advice they would offer to the upcoming class of participants. Common themes throughout the reflections were appreciation for the hands on, tough love coaching that they had received, all thanks to Michael Burke (CWP Mentor Protégé Manager) and Nicole Copeland (CWP Contract Development Manager). Roland Jones, Director for the Prince George’s County Office of Central Services, encouraged businesses to take advantage of the tools and resources that had been provided and to keep striving for those long standing contracts. Also in attendance were the ten new firms joining the program. Stay tuned to the CWP’s next issue of The Drop to learn more about these protégés and their progress.
#CWPSpiritWeek Celebrates Program and Community Success

**OCTOBER 2017**

We’ve got the spirit! The CWP’s first ever Spirit Week highlighted success across the core focuses of the program: partnership, community engagement, workforce development, schools & youth education, and investing in small, local businesses. From volunteering at a local non-profit to planting shrubbery with an eager group of fourth graders, the activities were community centric and demonstrated the program’s commitment to showcasing collaboration at its best. There was too much fun for one document, so click [here](#) to see how things went down during this monumental week!

CWP Takes Deep Dive into Pond Retro-fit Best Practices

**NOVEMBER 2017**

Pond retrofits are a common best management practice that the CWP is utilizing in Prince George’s County stormwater improvement projects. As part of the CWP Engineers Brown Bag Learning Series, the team was recently joined by Jacqueline Takacs, Watershed Restoration Specialist with the University of Maryland Extension, Sea Grant Program. Jacqueline discussed best practices when designing, constructing and maintaining pond structures. Spanning across several years of working directly with communities impacted by pond retrofits, Jacqueline shared information on not only pond and watershed management, but also crop and pest management. Jacqueline’s presentation included lots on content on aquatic plants, benches and special care while working with wildlife surrounding ponds. The CWP team was very appreciative of information provided and invited Jacqueline back to meet with the community outreach team at a later date. The CWP Brown Bag meeting is one of many learning mechanisms being utilized to stay abreast innovative techniques, best practices and methods for building devices and working with the community.

CWP Schools Program Kick-Off Meeting

**NOVEMBER 2017**

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) principals, teachers, and building supervisors filled the media center at Walker Mill Middle School to learn about their acceptance into the CWP Schools Program. Designed to assist PGCPS with treating and managing stormwater runoff from impervious sites, the program places a strong emphasis on environmental literacy and ensuring that faculty and administration are involved during the design and construction process. Members of the CWP’s Community Outreach, Design and Maintenance team led the discussion on the device types to be utilized and the timeline of construction. Also in attendance were organizers from the Treating and Teaching Program, who spoke to participants about the environmental curriculums, outdoor classrooms and other innovative learning spaces that could be possible after project completion. The recently released CWP Schools video was shown and provided great examples of completed projects as well as a behind the scenes look at the collaborative approach between the school board, contractors and non-profits supporting this program. Participants were extremely excited about the student planting sessions that will be conducted at the close out of each retrofit project. The CWP design team looks forward to conducting on site meetings with each school to assess their troubled areas and propose the best location for a stormwater management device. Construction of at least ten schools will begin in June 2018. To date, the CWP has completed and certified 24 Prince George’s County Schools in the innovative program.

ABOUT THE CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP: The Prince George’s County and Corvias Public-Private Partnership (P3), also called the Clean Water Partnership, is an agreement between County government and the private sector to retrofit up to 4,000 acres of impervious surfaces using green infrastructure. This community-focused program works to address the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay, while simultaneously focusing on the needs of Prince George’s County residents and local businesses.
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CONTRACTOR SPOTLIGHT

Envirenew

How long has your company been in business?
Envirenew, Inc. was incorporated in 2010.

What is your specialty?
Our specialty is underground utility installation, storm water management, temporary traffic control and construction signs.

What is a typical day like for you?
A typical day for us are 3 crews working various sites in Montgomery and Prince George’s County while estimators continue to bid work in the office. For me, personally, it’s hectic!

What do you like best about your job?
What I enjoy most is meeting other women in this industry. I enjoy hearing their stories of how they ended up working in construction as well as how they manage their lives. Women are so resourceful and we are always eager to share our ideas with each other. We need the support of each other to thrive in this industry. I also very much enjoy that I get to work with my family every day!

What do you want readers to know about you and your company?
I started Envirenew out of necessity during the recession of 2008. I was working for a company that went bankrupt and I felt that starting a business was my only option. Fortunately, I had a couple of contacts that were willing to give us a start and we’ve managed to maintain steady growth since then. From the beginning, our goal has been to establish and maintain an impeccable reputation by providing a solid product and always working with our Primes, Inspectors, etc., to immediately resolve any concerns. I believe that these two things are key for our success.

What CWP projects have you worked on thus far?
We recently completed our first CWP contract at Cameron Grove #2 in Upper Marlboro, working for Nardi Construction, an excellent company. Breaking into the CWP Program is a goal I had been pursuing since it’s inception. Although it took a few years, I’m happy to say that we anticipate participating as long as we’re able. The CWP Program is geared towards inclusion and diversity which is truly a breath of fresh air in this industry, and I’m grateful for the support and training that Corvias provides.

Certifications:
MDOT MBE/DBE  Cert #17-12942

Website: 
www.envirenewinc.com

Phone: 
301-330-3484

LEARN MORE
CWP hosts University of Maryland Students Seeking Careers in the Green Industry

This fall Corvias joined with University of Maryland at College Park Campus Community Connection to develop an internship program for students from the Maryland Sustainable Engineers from James A. Clark School of Engineering. The program included four students who were teamed with local businesses that are participating in the Prince George’s County Community Based Public Private Partnership. The students were assigned to different program areas including design, project management, and construction observation. They gained exposure to different types and scales of projects, software applications, project documentation and other skills that will allow them to better understand the design and construction process for stormwater retrofit and infrastructure projects.

For more information on the UMD programs, visit:
Maryland Sustainable Engineers, http://www.se.umd.edu/
Campus Community Connection, http://campuscommunityconnection.umd.edu/

CWP’s Long-Term Maintenance Program is Off to a Great Start

Uncommon rain patterns are developing more than often making it extremely important that the CWP’s installed stormwater devices are functioning as designed. In June 2017, projects completed and certified in the program were officially transferred into a robust maintenance program to be assessed on a quarterly and yearly basis. Initial site visits were conducted by the CWP’s maintenance program manager and outreach specialist to ensure that those benefitting from the device fully understood the services that would be rendered over the course of 30 years. Some key touch points include removing trash and sediment, repairing minor erosion, inspecting devices to ensure proper functionality, and checking for pest, gullies, or any other problems that could affect the appearance of the device.

Thanks to the newly installed signage markers (attached to each device) maintenance crews are able to scan a quick response (QR) code to identify that device’s inspection history as well as proper care techniques. Furthermore, the CWP has instituted a 24-hour service line in which residents, neighbors and community members can address their concerns. This number can be found on all CWP project signage across the County.

In the Community – Catch us if you can!

1 CWP Contract Development Specialist attends the 2017 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Summit to speak with interested businesses looking to participate in the program.

2 Students at Lewisdale Elementary (Hyattsville) show their excitement after a planting session, following the completion of stormwater retrofit project.
CONTRACTOR SPOTLIGHT

Arya Civil

How long has your company been in business?
Arya Civil, LLC turned 10 years old in October 2017.

What is your specialty?
We specialize in infrastructure and heavy civil projects. Our work mainly includes SWPPP BMPs, LID, road repairs and construction, design for various kinds of projects ranging environmental concept, stormwater management and site developments for the residential, commercial, government projects. Furthermore, we provide construction inspection services for transportation and stormwater BMP projects.

What is a typical day like for you?
I start the day by calling project managers, the accounting and finance heads and proposal personnel regarding their plan for the day. Following the call, I respond to emails and calls and then attend the meetings and site visits with clients and project leads. In the afternoon I review the documents. As a principal, my role is to handle the marketing and work on it in between the meeting times.

What do you like best about your job?
I am using my knowledge, education and experience to build sustainable green infrastructure which helps clean the environment on earth for our future generations.

What are you looking forward to gaining from this program?
Here in Arya Civil we already have seen the benefits of this program. We have a better understanding of how to bid the project right and our staff has gone through leadership, safety, marketing and estimating trainings. The one-on-one business development consultations from Mike and Nicole are very helpful. We are looking forward to establishing a marketing and business plan to move Arya Civil to the next level, going from $1M to $5M in volume and make business more profitable.
Project Highlights

The National Association of Counties (NACo) granted Prince George’s County a 2016 Achievement Award for the development of the Clean Water Partnership, in the category of Community/Economic Development.

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters honored the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment’s Director, Adam Ortiz, with the 2016 Environmental Leadership Award for his work with Corvias and the Clean Water Partnership.

The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) convenes leaders to turn ideas into action. CGI Commitments to Action represent bold new ways that CGI members address global challenges—implemented through new methods of partnership and designed to maximize impact. Commitments can be small or large, global or local. No matter the size or scope, commitments help CGI members translate practical goals into meaningful and measurable results.

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