

5700000 INDUSTRY REVIEW COMMENTS

Bob Graham (Internal Review)

COMMENTS:

There needs to be two pay items. One for sod and one for hydroseeding/BFM. I have previously submitted these comments but the department continues down the same old wornout path. Industry needs to take a firm position against this spec.

RESPONSE:

David O'Hagan (Internal Review)

COMMENTS:

570:

- 1: Are there any of these methods restricted to a maximum slope inclination? If so, where is this information found?
- 2: Should there be a reference here and/or elsewhere to 987 (Finish Soil Layer Materials)?
- 3.3: Are there any restrictions on composition of sod pegs?
- 5: I **never** have understood why anything is measured in square yards. It's always first calculated in square feet from measurements/calculations in feet. Forcing someone to then convert to square yards just introduces an unnecessary chance for human error.

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Janna Glenn (Internal Review)

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Here is a link to Wisconsin's Code: <http://sand.nwisrl.ars.usda.gov/wiconstd.htm>

I have attached the federal Code 450 in pdf format.

If you'd prefer a statement, how about this:

"If polyacrylamide is used for erosion control, or as a part of hydroseeding mix, only anionic polymer formulations with free acrylamide monomer residual content of less than 0.05% are allowed. Cationic polyacrylamide shall not be used at any concentration. The maximum application rate of polyacrylamide active ingredient shall not exceed four pounds per acre per application event. Do not spray polyacrylamide-containing mixtures onto pavement, to avoid creating slippery conditions."

Let me know what you think.

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Jennifer Taylor

COMMENTS:

I do have comments on 5700000.D02 Performance Turf.
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"Maintain the sodded areas in a satisfactory condition until final acceptance of the project. Include in such maintenance the filling, leveling, and repairing of any washed or eroded areas, as may be necessary. The Department will pay for resodding necessary due to factors determined by the Department to be beyond the

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RESPONSE:

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Jason Bates

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Rick MacCalla

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RESPONSE:

Richard Newsome

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The new pay item Performance Turf is a single Square Yard pay item replacing Mowing, seeding, mulch material, fertilizer, water, grass seed(Quick Grow), wildflower seed and sodding.

This new composite pay item calls for sodding where designated and seeding & Mulch or Hydroseed at all other locations. Historically the designers have not been very good at designating where we need sodding and Project Administrators tend to overrun the sod quantities during actual construction to prevent erosion and future maintenance problems. Sodding provides some top soil and an initial good stand of grass in sandy soils with very few nutrients to promote a healthy growing environment for seed.

Once a contractor has bid the above composite pay item they will be very reluctant to change the planned percentage of sodding vs seeding show or indicated on the plans without additional compensation.

I suggest we have two Square Yard pay items:

- Performance Turf - Sodding
- Performance Turf – Other

RESPONSE:

Bob Dion

570-3.3 mentions "mow the sodded areas when competing vegetation height exceeds 20" "
.Suggest this be deleted. Mowing turf is addressed in 570-4.

Change the article numbers of 576-4 thru 576-7 to 570-5, 570-6 and 570-7.
Change article 570-5 to 570-8 and 570-6 to 570-8.

RESPONSE:

Anthony Walsh

Section 570-1, Description

Third Sentence: Suggest changing to read: "Maintain turf areas until final acceptance of all other contract work in accordance with Section 5-11."

Section 570-3, Construction Methods

Second Paragraph: Suggest changing to read: "Install turf materials per the plan typical sections, plan and profile sheets and Design Standard Index No's. 104 and 281".

Third Paragraph: Suggest deleting Engineer and insert Contract Plans in the following: "Except in the areas where the Contract Plans requires specific types of grass to match adjoining property". (These areas should be identified in the plans prior to bid in order to avoid price differentials for differing turf materials and subsequent claims for additional compensation)

Suggest adding the word final in the following: "All of the permanent grassing material shall be in place prior to final acceptance".

Last Paragraph: Suggest deleting the end of the sentence which states "unless the friction course is to be placed directly on a non-asphalt base". (The general consensus in this office is to always place the grassing first to avoid damage to the final friction course by the sod delivery/placement equipment)

Section 570.3.2, Seeding

First Paragraph: Suggest deleting reference to the Engineer and changing to "At the contractor's option, wildflower seed may be incorporated in the turf seeding operation or performed separately from areas designated for seeding". (The Engineer should not direct means or methods since a subsequent failure will lead to a claim)

Section 570-3.3, Sod

The introduction of this performance specification is the appropriate time to re-write this section and direct the Contractor as the responsibility party for placing sod on steep slopes instead of the Engineer. Continuing to have the engineer direct means and methods places the Department in a liable position in case of sod placement failure.

Third Paragraph: This paragraph directs the sod to be pegged at intervals as directed by the Engineer and paid for as unforeseeable work. I would suggest re-writing as “The Contractor should anticipate pegging sod on all slopes designated a grade of 2:1 or greater. The work for materials to perform the pegging shall be included in the unit price for square yards of Performance Turf”.

Sixth Paragraph: The term competing vegetation is too broad. I would suggest changing to read “Mow the sodded areas when turf height exceeds 20” and/or impairs the bottom 1/3 visibility of any maintenance of traffic device”.

Seventh Paragraph: This entire paragraph regarding noxious weeds and pest plants is confusing. Since Specification 7-1.3, Introduction or Release of Prohibited Aquatic Plants, Plant Pests, or Noxious Weeds, will still be in the contract, I would suggest simplifying by changing to read “Monitor turf placed for growth of pest plants and/or noxious weeds in accordance with article 7-1.3. All installed turf must be free of pest plants and or noxious weeds before final acceptance in accordance with 5-11.

Section 570-3.4, Hydroseeding

Second Paragraph: This notes mixing fertilizer as required into the hydroseeding slurry. Suggest re-writing as “Mix fertilizer into the hydroseeding slurry as required per section 162 soil testing and at application rates specified in section 982.

Section 570-4, Turf Establishment

Fifth Paragraph: Suggest re-writing to change the word the to all as follows “If at the time that all other work on the project is completed, but all turf areas have not met the requirements for established turf set forth in 570-4, continuously maintain all turf areas until the requirements for established turf set forth in 570-4 have been met for final acceptance in accordance with section 5-11”.

Section 576-4, Change to Section 570-5, Responsible Party

Second Paragraph: This paragraph states that the contract can be final accepted, terminated, in accordance with Section 5-11 even though the turf is not established and is therefore an incomplete item. How would you handle the offer of final payment when the turf item is incomplete? If you pay the Square Yards in full, you are in effect accepting as a finished product. I don't see how you can have it both ways, final but with an exception. Even with a performance bond, we have required all work to be complete. I don't think we should put the

Department in the position of partial acceptance and the additional CEI costs associated with continued inspections and Dispute Reviews occurring after final acceptance.

Section 576-6, Change to Section 570-6, Disputes Resolution

Section 576-7, Change to Section 570-7, Failure to Perform

First Sentence: Suggest removing the part referring to establish within a one-year of the final acceptance of the contract in accordance with 5-11. I don't think it's in the Department's best interests to advocate a one year period, post final acceptance and payment, allowing the Contractor to provide an established turf in accordance with 570-4. All the costs of the Disputes Review Board and the suspension, revocation or denial of the Contractor's certificate of qualification and additional CEI expenses could be avoided by requiring all work to be complete and acceptable at the time of final acceptance per 5-11.

Section 570-5, Change to Section 570-8, Method of Measurement

Section 570-6, Change to Section 570-9, Basis of Payment

RESPONSE:

Jeff Caster

To help with the Phosphorous issue, section 570-3.7 of the proposed Performance Spec could be modified to discourage use of phosphorous. read,

For bid purposes, base estimated quantities on an initial application of 265 lbs/acre, and one subsequent application of 135 lbs/acre of 16-0-8.

We also could ad a line, that *use of phosphorus must be approved by the engineer.*

Frances Thomas/CO/FDOT

06/26/2006 09:21 AM

To Jeff Caster/CO/FDOT@FDOT

cc Brian A Blanchard/CO/FDOT@FDOT, David Sadler/CO/FDOT@FDOT, Tim

Allen/CO/FDOT@FDOT

bcc

Subject Re: Fw: Grassing FDOT Fertilizer

No, I don't think so. I will add the comments to the Industry Review and we can talk about a change, if necessary. It may need to be in 104, as well. Wouldn't there be something in the SWPPP?

Thanks.

Jeff Caster/CO/FDOT

06/26/2006 08:39 AM To Brian A Blanchard/CO/FDOT@FDOT

cc Frances Thomas/CO/FDOT@FDOT, Tim Allen/CO/FDOT@FDOT, David Sadler/CO/FDOT@FDOT

Subject Re: Fw: Grassing FDOT Fertilizer

Brian,

On line, please find in the work book is a new improved 982 Fertilizer material spec <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/specificationsoffice/July06WB/9820000SS.pdf> In a new 570 Performance Turf spec (replaces old grassing spec). There is no prohibition on the use of Phosphorus, but use of any fertilizer must be justified by soil test. This new spec is nearly done and ready for publication. I think it will satisfy the concern.

If prohibition on use of P is appropriate, we can make that change.
Frances, have I missed anything important.?

Brian A Blanchard/CO/FDOT

06/26/2006 07:52 AM To Jeff Caster/CO/FDOT@FDOT

cc

Subject Fw: Grassing FDOT Fertilizer

second try. I will call Cled back, but just wondering if this issue has come up before.

----- Forwarded by Brian A Blanchard/CO/FDOT on 06/26/2006 07:52 AM -----

To: "Weldon, Cledwyn" <cweldon@sfwmd.gov>

cc: David Sadler/CO/FDOT@FDOT, jeff castor

Date: 02:54:23 PM Yesterday

Subject: Re: Grassing FDOT Fertilizer

I was in a meeting in Naples on Friday. I'll check into this Monday morning and call you.

"Weldon, Cledwyn" <cweldon@sfwmd.gov>

To <brian.blanchard@dot.state.fl.us>

cc

Subject Grassing FDOT Fertilizer

Hey Brian

Can you review these messages and call me ASAP?? 561-719-7573.

Thanks

Cled

Cledwyn R. Weldon, PE

Director, Engineering & Construction

561-682-6282

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

-----Original Message-----

From: Wehle, Carol

To: Olliff, Thomas; Adams, John; Carter, Larry CC: Maloy, John; Weldon, Cledwyn; Horne, George; Thayer, Daniel; Remen, Fred; Damian, Radu; Arrieta, Joel

Sent: Fri Jun 23 08:49:56 2006

Subject: Re: Fertilizer

I have a call into Secretary Stutler to have DOT change their specs!

Carol Ann Wehle

Executive Director

South Florida Water Management District

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

-----Original Message-----

From: Olliff, Thomas

To: Adams, John; Carter, Larry

CC: Wehle, Carol; Maloy, John; Weldon, Cledwyn; Horne, George; Thayer, Daniel; Remen, Fred; Damian, Radu; Arrieta, Joel

Sent: Fri Jun 23 08:04:34 2006

Subject: RE: Fertilizer

You guys are good.

TWO.

-----Original Message-----

From: Adams, John

Sent: Friday, June 23, 2006 7:31 AM

To: Carter, Larry

Cc: Wehle, Carol; Olliff, Thomas; Maloy, John; Weldon, Cledwyn; Horne, George; Thayer, Daniel; Remen, Fred; Damian, Radu; Arrieta, Joel

Subject: RE: Fertilizer

Larry,

I checked with Cled and found that we are utilizing DOT specifications for grassing canal bank side slopes for erosion control. That spec also calls for the use of p fertilizer. Cled was already aware of this and had contacted the U.S. Department of Agriculture to find an alternative. The USDA is recommending we switch to ammonium sulfate or ammonium nitrate. I have discussed this with Cled and have passed along Carols request to cease using p fertilizer and to continue to look for alternatives that are not obnoxious in the environment. Cled is addressing the contract specifications.

Thanks,

John

-----Original Message-----

From: Carter, Larry

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2006 2:19 PM

To: Adams, John

Subject: Fw: Fertilizer?

Larry

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

-----Original Message-----

From: Wehle, Carol
To: Olliff, Thomas; Carter, Larry; Maloy, John Sent: Thu Jun 22 08:43:29 2006
Subject: Fertilizer

I learned at the cattleman's meeting that sFWmD has a practice of using phosphorus fertilizer on the banks of our canals when we have contractors doing work for us. Please investigate. We need to be using no P time release nitrogen and lead the way!

Carol Ann Wehle
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

RESPONSE:

Don Evans

RESPONSE:

Jason Bates

RESPONSE:

Larry Johns

RESPONSE:

Mark Swick5700000 Industry Review Comments

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Section 570-3, Construction Methods

Second Paragraph: Suggest changing to read: "Install turf materials per the plan typical sections, plan and profile sheets and Design Standard Index No's. 104 and 281".

Third Paragraph: Suggest deleting Engineer and insert Contract Plans in the following: "Except in the areas where the Contract Plans requires specific types of grass to match adjoining property". (These areas should be identified in the plans prior to bid in order to avoid price differentials for differing turf materials and subsequent claims for additional compensation)

Suggest adding the word final in the following: "All of the permanent grassing material shall be in place prior to final acceptance".

Last Paragraph: Suggest deleting the end of the sentence which states "unless the friction course is to be placed directly on a non-asphalt base". (The general consensus in this office is to always place the grassing first to avoid damage to the final friction course by the sod delivery/placement equipment)

Section 570.3.2, Seeding

First Paragraph: Suggest deleting reference to the Engineer and changing to "At the contractor's option, wildflower seed may be incorporated in the turf seeding operation or performed separately from areas designated for seeding". (The Engineer should not direct means or methods since a subsequent failure will lead to a claim)

Section 570-3.3, Sod

The introduction of this performance specification is the appropriate time to re-write this section and direct the Contractor as the responsibility party for placing sod on steep slopes instead of the Engineer. Continuing to have the engineer direct means and methods places the Department in a liable position in case of sod placement failure.

Third Paragraph: This paragraph directs the sod to be pegged at intervals as directed by the Engineer and paid for as unforeseeable work. I would suggest re-writing as "The Contractor should anticipate pegging sod on all slopes designated a grade of 2:1 or greater. The work for materials to perform the pegging shall be included in the unit price for square yards of Performance Turf".

Sixth Paragraph: The term competing vegetation is too broad. I would suggest changing to read “Mow the sodded areas when turf height exceeds 20” and/or impairs the bottom 1/3 visibility of any maintenance of traffic device”.

Seventh Paragraph: This entire paragraph regarding noxious weeds and pest plants is confusing. Since Specification 7-1.3, Introduction or Release of Prohibited Aquatic Plants, Plant Pests, or Noxious Weeds, will still be in the contract, I would suggest simplifying by changing to read “Monitor turf placed for growth of pest plants and/or noxious weeds in accordance with article 7-1.3. All installed turf must be free of pest plants and or noxious weeds before final acceptance in accordance with 5-11.

Section 570-3.4, Hydroseeding

Second Paragraph: This notes mixing fertilizer as required into the hydroseeding slurry. Suggest re-writing as “Mix fertilizer into the hydroseeding slurry as required per section 162 soil testing and at application rates specified in section 982.

Section 570-4, Turf Establishment

Fifth Paragraph: Suggest re-writing to change the word the to all as follows “If at the time that all other work on the project is completed, but all turf areas have not met the requirements for established turf set forth in 570-4, continuously maintain all turf areas until the requirements for established turf set forth in 570-4 have been met for final acceptance in accordance with section 5-11”.

Section 576-4, Change to Section 570-5, Responsible Party

Second Paragraph: This paragraph states that the contract can be final accepted, terminated, in accordance with Section 5-11 even though the turf is not established and is therefore an incomplete item. How would you handle the offer of final payment when the turf item is incomplete? If you pay the Square Yards in full, you are in effect accepting as a finished product. I don't see how you can have it both ways, final but with an exception. Even with a performance bond, we have required all work to be complete. I don't think we should put the Department in the position of partial acceptance and the additional CEI costs associated with continued inspections and Dispute Reviews occurring after final acceptance.

Section 576-6, Change to Section 570-6, Disputes Resolution

Section 576-7, Change to Section 570-7, Failure to Perform

First Sentence: Suggest removing the part referring to establish within a one-year of the final acceptance of the contract in accordance with 5-11. I don't think it's in the Department's best interests to advocate a one year period, post final acceptance and payment, allowing the Contractor to provide an established turf in accordance with 570-4. All the costs of the Disputes Review Board and the suspension, revocation or denial of the Contractor's certificate of

qualification and additional CEI expenses could be avoided by requiring all work to be complete and acceptable at the time of final acceptance per 5-11.

Section 570-5, Change to Section 570-8, Method of Measurement

Section 570-6, Change to Section 570-9, Basis of Payment

RESPONSE:

Jeff Caster

To help with the Phosphorous issue, section 570-3.7 of the proposed Performance Spec could be modified to discourage use of phosphorous. read,

For bid purposes, base estimated quantities on an initial application of 265 lbs/acre, and one subsequent application of 135 lbs/acre of 16-0-8.

We also could ad a line, that *use of phosphorus must be approved by the engineer.*

Frances Thomas/CO/FDOT

06/26/2006 09:21 AM

To Jeff Caster/CO/FDOT@FDOT

cc Brian A Blanchard/CO/FDOT@FDOT, David Sadler/CO/FDOT@FDOT, Tim

Allen/CO/FDOT@FDOT

bcc

Subject Re: Fw: Grassing FDOT Fertilizer

No, I don't think so. I will add the comments to the Industry Review and we can talk about a change, if necessary. It may need to be in 104, as well. Wouldn't there be something in theSWPPP?

Thanks.

Jeff Caster/CO/FDOT

06/26/2006 08:39 AM To Brian A Blanchard/CO/FDOT@FDOT

cc Frances Thomas/CO/FDOT@FDOT, Tim Allen/CO/FDOT@FDOT, David

Sadler/CO/FDOT@FDOT

Subject Re: Fw: Grassing FDOT Fertilizer

Brian,

On line, please find in the work book is a new improved 982 Fertilizer material spec <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/specificationsoffice/July06WB/9820000SS.pdf> In a new 570 Performance Turf spec (replaces old grassing spec). There is no prohibition on the use of Phosphorus, but use of any fertilizer must be justified by soil test. This new spec is nearly done and ready for publication. I think it will satisfy the concern.

If prohibition on use of P is appropriate, we can make that change.
Frances, have I missed anything important.?

Brian A Blanchard/CO/FDOT
06/26/2006 07:52 AM To Jeff Caster/CO/FDOT@FDOT

cc

Subject Fw: Grassing FDOT Fertilizer

second try. I will call Cled back, but just wondering if this issue has come up before.

----- Forwarded by Brian A Blanchard/CO/FDOT on 06/26/2006 07:52 AM -----

To: "Weldon, Cledwyn" <cweldon@sfwmd.gov>

cc: David Sadler/CO/FDOT@FDOT, jeff castor

Date: 02:54:23 PM Yesterday

Subject: Re: Grassing FDOT Fertilizer

I was in a meeting in Naples on Friday. I'll check into this Monday morning and call you.

"Weldon, Cledwyn" <cweldon@sfwmd.gov>

To <brian.blanchard@dot.state.fl.us>

cc

Subject Grassing FDOT Fertilizer

Hey Brian

Can you review these messages and call me ASAP?? 561-719-7573.

Thanks

Cled

Cledwyn R. Weldon, PE

Director, Engineering & Construction

561-682-6282

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

-----Original Message-----

From: Wehle, Carol

To: Olliff, Thomas; Adams, John; Carter, Larry CC: Maloy, John; Weldon, Cledwyn; Horne, George; Thayer, Daniel; Remen, Fred; Damian, Radu; Arrieta, Joel

Sent: Fri Jun 23 08:49:56 2006

Subject: Re: Fertilizer

I have a call into Secretary Stutler to have DOT change their specs!

Carol Ann Wehle

Executive Director

South Florida Water Management District

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

-----Original Message-----

From: Olliff, Thomas

To: Adams, John; Carter, Larry
CC: Wehle, Carol; Maloy, John; Weldon, Cledwyn; Horne, George; Thayer, Daniel; Remen, Fred; Damian, Radu; Arrieta, Joel
Sent: Fri Jun 23 08:04:34 2006
Subject: RE: Fertilizer
You guys are good.
TWO.

-----Original Message-----

From: Adams, John
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2006 7:31 AM
To: Carter, Larry
Cc: Wehle, Carol; Olliff, Thomas; Maloy, John; Weldon, Cledwyn; Horne, George; Thayer, Daniel; Remen, Fred; Damian, Radu; Arrieta, Joel
Subject: RE: Fertilizer

Larry,
I checked with Cled and found that we are utilizing DOT specifications for grassing canal bank side slopes for erosion control. That spec also calls for the use of p fertilizer. Cled was already aware of this and had contacted the U.S. Department of Agriculture to find an alternative. The USDA is recommending we switch to ammonium sulfate or ammonium nitrate. I have discussed this with Cled and have passed along Carols request to cease using p fertilizer and to continue to look for alternatives that are not obnoxious in the environment. Cled is addressing the contract specifications.

Thanks,
John

-----Original Message-----

From: Carter, Larry
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2006 2:19 PM
To: Adams, John
Subject: Fw: Fertilizer?

Larry
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

-----Original Message-----

From: Wehle, Carol
To: Olliff, Thomas; Carter, Larry; Maloy, John Sent: Thu Jun 22 08:43:29 2006
Subject: Fertilizer

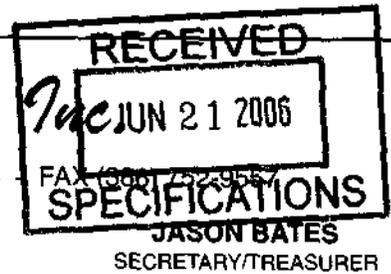
I learned at the cattleman's meeting that sFWmD has a practice of using phosphorus fertilizer on the banks of our canals when we have contractors doing work for us. Please investigate. We need to be using no P time release nitrogen and lead the way!

Carol Ann Wehle
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
SFWMD Wireless Email Solutions

Suwannee Valley Grassing, Inc.

P.O. BOX 2084 - LAKE CITY, FLORIDA 32056-2084 - PH. (386) 752-2504

VICKIE NOBLES
PRESIDENT



June 15, 2006

Duane F. Brautigam, P.E.
State Specifications Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Mail Station 75
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

RE: Proposed Specification Change: 5700000.D02 - Performance Turf

Dear Mr. Brautigam:

After reading your proposed changes to the grassing specs for DOT work, I do have some concerns. The main one is the bidding process. I think you need three pay items: sodding, seeding and mowing. The quantity of sod needs to be separate and the quantity specified. One reason being if it is changed on some jobs, and it will be, you have unit prices. If sod other than that in Section 981 is required to match existing private property, then it should be noted in the plans so it can be bid as to what will be used.

The mowing needs to be separate because as a sub, we do not know when the work will be done and if you will even mow or how many times you will mow.

Another concern is if a job is finished in the late fall or winter it will not be accepted until the next spring when permanent grass germinates and becomes established. There needs to be a provision made for this to be inspected as the work is being done and accepted then.

From my experience, hay or straw mulch works better in our soil than hydromulch. I think DOT needs to stay with hay except on areas you can't put a tractor that is not going to be sodded. Watering should only be done on sod and not seeded areas. It is not feasible to try to water seeded areas on roadsides.

We have been in the grassing business for a long time and have seen a lot of changes. Some have been good, some not. Please review your proposal. We are all working for a better finished project.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Evans".

Don Evans
Suwannee Valley Grassing, Inc.

Suwannee Valley Grassing, Inc.

P.O. BOX 2084 - LAKE CITY, FLORIDA 32056-2084 - PH. (386) 752-2504 - FAX (386) 752-2557

RECEIVED

JUN 21 2006

SPECIFICATIONS

JASON BATES
SECRETARY/TREASURER

VICKIE NOBLES
PRESIDENT

June 16, 2006

Duane F. Brautigam, P.E.
State Specifications Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Mail Station 75
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

RE: Proposed Specifications Change: 5700000.D02 – Performance Turf

Dear Mr. Brautigam:

I have read the proposed changes to Performance Turf. The main concern I had with the changes proposed back in September of last year is the same concern I have with the new proposal and that is with the bidding process. I see on the new proposal where the plans will specifically indicate sod and then leave the other turf establishment method up to the Contractor, but if the Department is going to identify sod on the plans, why not make two pay items: sod and "other"? The Department will in a sense be turning all construction jobs into lump sum jobs as far as the grassing is concerned. With a single pay item, a quantity take-off will have to be done on every job to determine a sod quantity and the "other" quantity. Some kind of weighted average unit price will have to be determined for the single turf pay item. I believe you will see increased costs with a single pay item because a lot of Contractors will be bidding turf at sod prices, not seed or hydroseed prices. Sod will instantly meet the specification requirements and allow the Contractor to end their responsibility much sooner and get the job accepted. A single turf pay item on a unit price job will also limit the field inspector's judgment. On every job, there will be "problem" areas that on the plans are not specified to be sodded. These areas may be erosion problems or environmentally sensitive that an inspector may decide to sod in lieu of seed and mulch and simply pay for the additional sod under the sod pay item. Under the new proposal, there will be no sod pay item and the Contractor is not going to sod areas that he did not figure on sodding in the bidding process. Again, every job will literally be lump sum as far as the grassing is concerned. I don't see why you can't encompass all of the grassing under a single specification but still have two pay items. This will put everyone on somewhat of an even playing field when bidding.

June 16, 2006

Page 2 of 2

I would like to see the mowing remain a separate pay item. I would not even begin to know how to incorporate the cost of mowing into a single turf pay item. It is never clear when a project will begin or how many mowing cycles will be performed. A mowing quantity take-off will have to be performed on every set of plans and somehow a weighted average price will have to be determined for the turf pay item that encompasses the litter pick-up, weed-eating, mowing, sodding, seeding, mulching and watering. I do not see how this is feasible.

Sod is an agricultural product that a lot of farmers have spent time and money on establishing as a cash crop. Farmers also produce hay that is used as mulch material on DOT projects. The proposed changes would do away with hay or straw which I see as a mistake. In our 25 years of experience, hay or straw is far better than hydromulch for erosion control in Florida sand. Sod and hay help Florida, hydromulch and BFM's help companies outside of Florida. Sod is plentiful and cheap in Florida and it can be harvested and installed year round. I can assure you that if the rest of the country enjoyed those luxuries, so much time and effort would not be spent trying to come up with alternative methods of establishing turf and there would not be a hydroseeding industry.

Please consider my suggestions. Suwannee Valley Grassing, Inc. has been our family business for over 20 years and we are ready for another 20.

Sincerely,

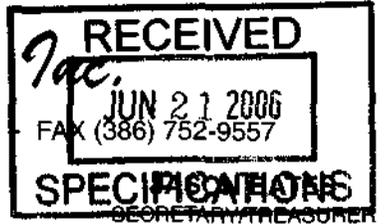
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Bates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and "B".

Jason Bates

Suwannee Valley Grassing, Inc.

Suwannee Valley Grassing, Inc.

P.O. BOX 2084 - LAKE CITY, FLORIDA 32056-2084 - PH. (386) 752-2504



VICKIE NOBLES
PRESIDENT

June 20, 2006

Duane F. Brautigam, P.E.
State Specifications Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Mail Station 75
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

RE: Proposed Specifications Change: 5700000.D02 – Performance Turf

Dear Mr. Brautigam:

I have read your proposed changes to "Performance Turf" and would like to voice a few of my concerns from a grassing superintendent's view point.

While I can appreciate the Department's efforts to simplify the pay items in the grassing area of the construction process, I believe that the changes proposed are too broad. Identifying areas on the plans where you know sod will be placed is fine, but I have been on many jobs where the plans said to use seed and mulch, but because of the severity of the terrain or looking at how much water will be sheet flowing across a slope, the engineer on the job changed those areas to sod. If you had one pay item for performance turf and the grassing contractor bid those areas as seed and mulch, they are not going to change it to sod. The prices are too far apart. Then you will have an issue with erosion and will have to pay for re-dressing and re-grassing as "unforeseeable work beyond the control of the contractor."

Another issue I see a problem with is trying to lump mowing, litter pick-up, etc. into a sod / seed and mulch price. How would you even begin to bid how many times the Department would require you to mow a project that lasts 300+ days?

I also notice the specifications are leaning very strongly to hydromulching. I am an advocate of this process in its place, but I do not believe that hydromulching is a good alternative to seed and mulch and certainly not as good as sod. For erosion protection, if you ask any contractor what they would rather have after they final dress a job to stop it from eroding away, they will almost always tell you that sod is the absolute cheapest thing you can put on a job. While I understand that in some other states you do not have

June 20, 2006

Page 2 of 2

the availability to sod year-round as we do here in Florida and you have to come up with other methods, but given the choice, I don't know a single contractor that would rather use hydromulch or seed and mulch in lieu of sod.

In my opinion, I don't believe it would be very hard to separate the aspects of what we do into 3 pay items I have listed below.

- 1.) Sodding – to include sodding, fertilizer and watering
- 2.) Seed and mulch / hydromulch – contractor can choose whatever method they think is best; to include labor and materials in one price per square yard
- 3.) Mowing, weed-eating, litter pick-up per acre per cycle

Our company has been grassing jobs for the Department for a long time and we see in the field what works and what doesn't and I think you should really consider my suggestions in coming up with a revised specification.

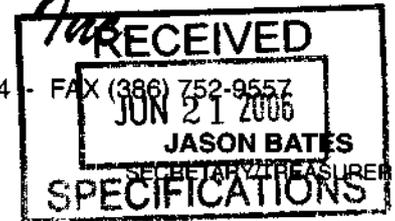
Sincerely,



Larry Johns
Suwannee Valley Grassing, Inc.

Suwannee Valley Grassing, Inc.

P.O. BOX 2084 - LAKE CITY, FLORIDA 32056-2084 - PH. (386) 752-2504 - FAX (386) 752-9557



VICKIE NOBLES
PRESIDENT

June 20, 2006

Duane F. Brautigam, P.E.
State Specifications Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Mail Station 75
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

RE: Proposed Specifications Change: 5700000.D02 – Performance Turf

Dear Mr. Brautigam:

I have some issues and concerns about the proposed changes to the grassing specs for FDOT work. In bidding, the sod, seed and mulch and mowing need to be kept separate. This will keep the bidding accurate and save the FDOT money because companies will know exactly what and how much they are bidding on. Classifying everything under "Turf" is too broad of a category. It needs to be more specific.

Another major concern is the use of hydromulch in place of hay or straw seed and mulch. There are many areas where hydromulch is not feasible and is not the best choice for a good stand of grass. Hydromulch is also not a good choice to keep erosion at a minimum. This is an issue with contractors who have to keep re-dressing the soil. Seed and mulch germinates faster since it is drilled into the soil and the hay helps reduce erosion. As grassing contractors, we are required to guarantee a good stand of grass. With our many years of experience, results have always been better with seed and mulch over hydromulch.

The issue of requiring seed and mulch to be watered is also not feasible or needed. Many of the areas are extremely large which makes watering not feasible. The seed is in the ground and will grow when the climate is right. Sod, however, does need to be watered or it will die.

This company has had many years of experience in grassing. We know what it takes to grow a good stand of grass. What is needed and what is not. We don't need to be wasteful for our sake or FDOT's. We want to have many more years of providing our services to our contractors and our state.

Sincerely,

Kristina Haugan
Mark Swick
Suwannee Valley Grassing, Inc.