



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: BAUM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

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**E**nvironmental regulations, codes and sediment control are not the favorite topics of any contractor. Baum Environmental Group, Inc. would like to think that what is considered a “nuisance” to contractors is something we can provide a comprehensive solution that is designed so contractors can focus on what they do best with tight budgets in mind.

Baum started off as a typical environmental consulting firm over 20 years ago. About 10 years ago a developer needed help with stormwater permits and as enforcement became more common, this opened a whole new door for the company to address a need that was ignored by most firms. Ordinary environmental consultants and engineers do not want to handle the aspects of stormwater management when it is within the scope of construction work. Diane Baum founder and CEO of Baum Environmental states, “Most engineers want to stick to design, and environmental consultants want to work for industrial clients where there is continuous work. Construction work is considered temporary and they do not see the revenue stream possibilities. Additionally, this industry

is different in how they obtain work and manage it. In a sense we have become part of their subcontractor core group and learned to organize our experiences to fit within their construction world. We became invested in learning the nuances involved in construction and understand their pain points.”

In response, Baum Environmental has developed a market niche to provide contractors a choice for low-cost solutions to a regulatory nightmare that construction firms are not normally adapted to handling on a daily basis. By establishing the knowledge and capability to adapt to our clients, we have built up our credibility as they recognize that we understand their type of business. The core focus of work is the mandatory Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) required for construction. This plan encompasses unique factors of the site and is the easiest path to achieve non-compliance from regulatory agencies. Inspections are typically required once-per-week and we provide that assistance. We work with our contractor clients through citizen complaints or work as a liaison with the city or state compliance management.



In awareness and continuation of supporting our client's success with their environmental compliance regiment, Baum Environmental provides expert installation of erosion control and maintenance at the construction site. Provided with contractor's license in all areas of commercial and residential construction, this has been a growing sector of our firm as erosion control becomes the key element within recent compliance issues. Enforcement actions are becoming more stringent since flooding has become a more prevalent problem. Regulatory agencies, municipalities and citizen groups are looking for scapegoats to limit budgets and future flooding in their neighborhoods. As usual, blaming the construction contractors and new development permitting has become the rallying call to provide compliance fines and legal liabilities to any construction project.

Baum Environmental Group's services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Stormwater Plans (SWPPP)
- Stormwater Inspections
- Green Home and Energy Star Review/Inspection (Louisiana Housing Authority, HUD)
- Erosion Control Install and Supplies (silt fencing install, check dams, inlet protection, etc.)
- Third-Party Code Inspections
- Permit and DEQ Liaison work
- Sewage Plant Testing and DMR work
- Small Sewer plant installs
- DEQ/EPA Environmental Permitting (all types)
- Air Permitting
- Post -Construction Stormwater Maintenance Plans and Covenants

To further develop our construction expertise, Baum has created innovations such as iPad inspections and unique erosion control methods that last longer and provide better effectiveness in the field than standardized products. A key innovation provided by Baum Environmental that will disrupt the market in erosion control has been the development of sponsored silt fencing products through a subsidiary called Silt Signs. Silt fencing is a major component of erosion control. By utilizing this new methodology, it allows state, municipalities, and the private sector to save thousands of dollars on silt fence installation. This is currently managed through contractors who are responsible for providing

compliance with mandatory state and municipal regulatory requirements. Silt Signs offers these key advantages:

- **Eliminates expense of silt fencing, allowing state, municipalities, and the private sector to utilize the savings.**
- Baum Environmental holds the obligation to ensure environmental compliance is achieved, eliminating the environmental liability on the contractor along with the state and local government on the installation and maintenance of the silt fencing.
- Saves thousands of pounds of sediment and debris from infiltrating into ditches, swales and sub-surface drainage systems. Thus, saving thousands of dollars in the future on maintenance and enhancing much needed flood control management.
- By maintaining fencing, sedimentation is lessened in streams and rivers resulting in cleaner waterways for sports and recreation activities.
- Silt Signs significantly reduces administrative work for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and municipalities. This helps the agencies to focus on other matters that require enforcement.
- Removing the environmental compliance requirements on contractors helps them to stay focused on their construction work and progress.
- No more limiting compliance issues due to tight budgets and the low-bid system that does not account for continual maintenance.
- Advertising provides education to citizens and residents.
- Assists in shielding unsightly construction projects and establishes a perimeter for construction boundaries.
- Allows for the use of innovative erosion controls with advertising through engineered designs.

Baum Environmental looks forward to more innovations and the introduction of Silt Signs. We also hope for a great year in infrastructure funding and assisting our clients with their environmental needs. We are active members of AGC and strive provide much needed relief to all environmental stormwater and compliance issues within the construction industry.

Feel free to contact Rebecca Bruton with any questions or information about our products or services at [rebecca@baumenviro.com](mailto:rebecca@baumenviro.com) or our office at 225-755-1200.●