SPECIFICATION
HIGH PERFORMANCE MODULAR BIOFILTRATION SYSTEM (HPMBS)
Material, Performance and Installation Specification

I. Summary

The following general specifications describe the components and installation requirements for a volume based High Performance Modular Biofiltration System (HPMBS) that utilizes physical, chemical and biological mechanisms of a soil, plant and microbe complex to remove pollutants typically found in urban storm water runoff. The modular treatment system in which the biologically active biofiltration media is used shall be a complete, integrated system designed to be placed in Square Foot or Linear Foot increments per the approved drawings to treat contaminated runoff from impervious surfaces.

The High Performance Modular Biofiltration System (HPMBS) is comprised of the following components:

A. Plant Component

1. Supplier shall provide a regionalized list of acceptable plants.
2. Plants, as specified in the approved drawings/supplier's plant list, shall be installed at the time the HPMBS is commissioned for use.
3. Plants and planting are typically included in landscape contract.

B. Biofilter Component

1. This component employs a high performance cross-section in which each element is highly dependent on the others to meet the performance specification for the complete system. It is important that this entire cross-section be provided as a complete system, and installed as such.

2. As indicated in the approved drawings, the elements of the Biofilter include:

    A. *A mulch protective layer (if specified).*

    B. *An advanced high infiltration rate biofiltration planting media bed which utilizes physical, chemical and biological mechanisms of the soil, plant, and microbe complex, to remove pollutants found in storm water runoff.*

    C. *A separation layer which utilizes the concept of 'bridging' to separate the biofiltration media from the underdrain without the use of geotextile fabrics.*

D. *A wide aperture mesh layer utilized to prevent bridging stone from entering the underdrain/storage element.*

E. *A modular, high infiltration rate 'flat pipe' style underdrain/storage system which is designed to directly infiltrate or exfiltrate water through its surface. The modular underdrain must provide a minimum of 95% void space.*

C. Energy Dissipation Component

1. An Energy Dissipation Component is typically specified to slow and spread out water as it enters the system. This component is dependent upon the design in the approved drawings, but typically consists of a rock gabion, rock filter dam or dense vegetation element, such as native grasses, either surrounding the Biofiltration Component or located immediately upstream of it.

D. Pretreatment Component

1. Pretreatment, when specified, is typically accomplished by locating the Biofiltration Component within a traditional vegetated BMP such as a vegetated swale, vegetated depression, traditional bioretention system, vegetated filter strip, sediment forebay, etc. These BMPs provide primary TSS removal when desirable.

E. Observation and Maintenance Component

1. An Observation and Maintenance Port shall be installed per the approved drawings to provide for easy inspection of the underdrain/storage element, and cleanout access if needed.

F. Extreme Event Overflow (by others)

1. An Extreme Event Overflow should be located external to, but near the Biofiltration element to provide bypass when needed. This may be an overland flow bypass structure, beehive overflow grate structure, or equivalent that serves the purpose. If a beehive overflow structure is utilized it should include a removable filter insert to provide for effective control of gross pollutants, trash and floatables.

II. Quality Assurance and Performance Specifications

The quality and composition of all system components and all other appurtenances and their assembly process shall be subject to inspection upon delivery of the system to the work site.

Installation is to be performed only by skilled work people with satisfactory record of performance on earthworks, pipe, chamber, or pond/landfill construction projects of

comparable size and quality.

A. Plants

1. Plants must be compatible with the HPMBS media and the associated highly variable hydrologic regime. Plants are typically facultative with fibrous roots systems such a native grasses and shrubs.

2. Supplier shall provide a regionalized list of acceptable plants.

3. All plant material shall comply with the type and size required by the approved drawings and shall be alive and free of obvious signs of disease.

B. Mulch

1. Mulch, typically double shredded hardwood (non-floatable), shall comply with the type and size required by the approved drawings, and shall be screened to minimize fines.

C. Biofiltration Media

1. Biologically active biofiltration media shall be visually inspected to ensure appropriate volume, texture and consistency with the approved drawings, and must bear a batch number marking from the supplier which certifies performance testing of the batch to meet or exceed the required infiltration rate (100 in/hr). A third party laboratory test must be provided to certify the 100 in/hr rate.

2. Each correctly installed and properly protected HPMBS will have the infiltration rate confirmed at the supplier's expense, by a wetted condition hydraulic conductivity test. It is recommended the test be run within 90 days of commissioning, but no more than 270 days. If the system has been compromised because of failure to stabilize the surrounding drainage area before or after commissioning, supplier shall notify the appropriate parties (e.g., Installer, Engineer of Record, Project Owner).

    a. *Failure to pass this test will result in removal and replacement of all media in the system at no cost to the project owner/operator.*

    b. *Test must utilize the equipment and follow the standard operating procedures found in the Harris County Texas manual entitled, Low Impact Development & Green Infrastructure Design Criteria for Storm Water Management (2011).*

    c. *Replacement media, if required, must be taken from a different batch than the original.*

3. Supplier shall provide, at no additional cost to the project owner/operator,

maintenance of the biofiltration system for a period of one year.

4. Pollutant Removal performance, composition and characteristics of the Biofiltration Media must meet or exceed the following minimum standards as demonstrated by testing acceptable to the project engineer:

Pollutant	Removal Efficiency
TSS	> 80%
Phosphorus	≥ 60%
Nitrogen	≥ 48%
Composition and Characteristics	
Sand - Fine	< 5%
Sand – Medium	10% - 15%
Sand – Coarse	15% - 25%
Sand – Very Coarse	40% - 45%
Gravel	10% - 20%
Infiltration Rate	>100 inches per hour
Peat Moss*	5% - 15%
*** Peat Moss Specification**	
Listed by Organic Materials Review Institute 100% natural peat (no composted, sludge, yard or leaf waste) Total Carbon >85% Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio 15:1 to 23:1 Lignin Content 49% to 52% Humic Acid >18% pH 6.0 to 7.0 Moisture Content 30% to 50% 95% to 100% passing 2.0mm sieve > 80% passing 1.0mm sieve	

D. Underdrain/Storage System

1. Underdrain/storage components shall be manufactured in an ISO certified facility and be manufactured from at least 90% post consumer recycled materials.

2. Underdrain/storage components shall meet or exceed the following characteristics:

Property	Value
Surface Void Area	≥ 85%
Unit Weight	3.25 lbs/cf
Service Temperature	-14° to 167°
Unconfined Crush Strength	32.48 psi
180 Day Creep Test	
Load Applied – Initial and Sustained	11.16 psi
• Creep Sustained – After 180 Days	0.20 inches
• Creep Sustained – After 180 Days	1.13 %
• Projected Creep – 40 years	1.72%

E. Separation Mesh

1. Separation Mesh shall be composed of high-tenacity monofilament polypropylene yarns that are woven together to produce an open mesh geotextile which shall be inert to biological degradation and resistant to naturally encountered chemicals, alkalis and acids. The mesh shall meet or exceed the following characteristics:

Properties	Test Method	Unit	Min Ave Roll Value	
			MD	CD
Tensile Strength	ASTM D4595	kN/m (lbs/ft)	21 (1440)	25.3 (1733)
Creep Reduced Strength	ASTM D5262	kN/m (lbs/ft)	6.9 (471)	8.3 (566)
Long Term Allowable Design Load	GRI GG-4	kN/m (lbs/ft)	5.9 (407)	7.2 (490)
UV Resistance (at 500 hours)	-	% strength retained	90	
Aperture Size (machine direction)	-	mm (in)	2 (0.08)	
Aperture Size (cross machine direction)	-	mm (in)	2 (0.08)	
Mass/Unit Area	ASTM D5261	g/m^2 (oz/yd^2)	197 (5.8)	

F. Bridging Stone

1. Bridging Stone shall be 3/8" pea gravel, or other diameter sized to prevent migration of filter media, as specified by supplier.

2. Stone must be washed and free from sediment, soil and contaminants.

III. Delivery, Storage and Handling

A. Protect all materials from damage during delivery and store UV sensitive materials under tarp to protect from sunlight including all plastics, when time from delivery to installation exceeds one week. Storage should occur on smooth surfaces, free from dirt, mud and debris.

B. Biofiltration media shall be segregated from any other aggregate materials and shall be protected against contamination, including contamination from any stormwater runoff from areas of the site which are not stabilized.

IV. Submittals

A. Product Data

1. Submit supplier's product data and approved Installation Manual as well as supplier's Operations and Maintenance Manual for the system. It will be the responsibility of the system owner/operator or their contractor to ensure the system is operated and maintained in accordance with the manual.

B. Certification

1. Supplier shall submit a letter of certification that the complete system meets or exceeds all technical and packaging requirements. Biofiltration media packaging must bear a batch number marking from the supplier which matches a letter from the supplier certifying performance testing of the batch to meet or exceed the required infiltration rate.

C. Drawings

1. Supplier shall provide dimensional drawings including details for construction, materials, specifications and pipe connections.

D. Warranty

1. Supplier shall provide a warranty for all components of the HPMBS for a period of one year provided the unit is installed, operated and maintained in accordance with the manual. Improper operation, maintenance or accidental or illegal activities (i.e. dumping of pollutants, vandalism, etc.) will void the warranty. Biofiltration media shall be warranted to pass the post-installation infiltration test described in this document.

E. Design Computations

1. The HPMBS must be sized using a volume based sizing criteria and demonstrate, using a SCS stormwater modeling software/spreadsheet calculator that the required water quality volume (defined by the Engineer of Record) passes through the HPMBS prior to activation of the overflow device (set no lower higher than six (6) inches above the top elevation of the HPMBS (typically defined as top of mulch)). Design computations must be provided as part of the submittal process. Sizing based solely on a filter surface area to drainage area ratio method will not be accepted.

F. Substitutions

1. Any proposed equal alternative product substitution to this specification must be submitted for review and approved prior to bid opening. Review package should include third party reviewed performance data of the biofiltration media that includes saturated conductivity measurements and pollutant removal efficiency.

Pollutant removal data must follow specified protocols. All components must meet or exceed Quality Assurance and Performance Criteria indicated herein.

V. Project Conditions

A. Review supplier's recommended installation procedures and coordinate installation with other work affected, such as grading, excavation, utilities, construction access and erosion control to prevent all non- installation related construction traffic over the completed HPMBS.

B. Cold Weather

1. Do not use frozen materials or materials mixed or coated with ice or frost.
2. Do not build on frozen ground or wet, saturated or muddy subgrade.
3. Care must be taken when handling plastics when air temperature is at 40 degrees or below as plastic becomes brittle.

C. Protect partially completed installation against damage from other construction traffic when work is in progress and following completion of backfill by establishing a perimeter with highly visible construction tape, fencing, or other means until construction is complete.

D. Soil stabilization of the surrounding site must be complete before the Biofiltration System can be brought online. Soil stabilization occurs when 90% of the site has been paved or vegetated. Temporary erosion control and/or sedimentation prevention measures shall be implemented to reduce the possibility of sediments being transported into the Biofiltration System prior to full stabilization of the site. Significant sediment loads can damage the HPBMS and lead to failure if not prevented or remediated promptly.

VI. PRODUCTS

A. Acceptable HPBMS

FocalPoint High Performance Biofiltration System

B. Acceptable Beehive Overflow Grate Structure (Optional)

Beehive Overflow Grate Structure with removable StormSack

C. Acceptable System Supplier

Convergent Water Technologies, Inc.
(800) 711-5428
www.convergentwater.com

D. Authorized Value Added Reseller

Construction EcoServices
1930 Aldine Western Road
Houston, TX 77038
832-456-1000
www.ecosvs.com

VII. Packaging

A. HPMBS is assembled on site.

B. Modular underdrain/storage unit is shipped flat and modules are assembled prior to installation.

C. Biofiltration media is delivered in one ton super sacks each labeled with supplier's batch number and/or in bulk with accompanying supplier's certification.

D. Other components are delivered in bulk or super sacks

VIII. Execution

A. Excavation and Backfill

1. Base of excavation shall be smooth, level and free of lumps or debris, and compacted unless infiltration of storm water into subgrade is desired. A thin layer (3") of compacted base material is recommended to establish a level working platform (may not be needed in sandy soils). If the base of the excavation is pumping or appears excessively soft, a geotechnical engineer should be consulted for advice. In many cases, a stabilization geotextile and 6" of compactable material that drains well will be sufficient to amend the bearing capacity of the soil.

2. Most applications require 8 oz Non-Woven Geotextile or equivalent nonwoven geotextile with a nominal weight of 8 oz per square yard to line the excavation to separate in situ soils and the HPMBS. (Applications requiring water to infiltrate the in situ sub-soils should use a bridging stone rather than geotextile to provide a separation layer between the HPMBS and the in situ soils). Geotextile, when utilized, should be placed on the bottom and up the sides of the excavation. Absolutely no geotextiles should be used in the water column. If an impermeable liner is specified, it shall be installed according to supplier's instructions and recommendations.

3. Specified backfill material must be free from lumps, debris and any sharp objects that could penetrate the geotextile. Material is used for backfill along the sides of the system as indicated in engineering detail drawings.

B. Inspection

1. Examine prepared excavation for smoothness, compaction and level. Check for presence of high water table, which must be kept at levels below the bottom of the under drain structure at all times. If the base is pumping or appears excessively soft, a geotechnical engineer should be consulted for advice.

2. Installation commencement constitutes acceptance of existing conditions and responsibility for satisfactory performance. If existing conditions are found to be unsatisfactory, contact Project Manager or Engineer for resolution prior to installation.

IX. Cleanup and Protection during Ongoing Construction Activity

A. Perform cleaning during the installation and upon completion of the work.

B. Remove from site all excess materials, debris, and equipment. Repair any damage to adjacent materials and surfaces resulting from installation.

C. If surrounding drainage area is not fully stabilized, a protective covering of geotextile fabric should be securely placed to protect the Biofiltration Media.

D. Construction phase erosion and sedimentation controls shall be placed to protect the inlet(s) to the Biofiltration System. Excessive sedimentation, particularly prior to establishment of plants may damage the HPMBS.

E. Strictly follow supplier's guidelines with respect to protection of the HPMBS between Installation and Commissioning phases.

X. Commissioning

A. Commissioning should only be carried out once the contributing drainage area is fully stabilized. If Commissioning must be carried out sooner, it is imperative that appropriate erosion and sediment controls be placed to prevent the entry of excessive sediment/pollutant loads into the system.

B. Commissioning entails removing the protective covering from the Biofiltration Media, planting the plant material in accordance with the approved drawings, and placing mulch if specified.

1. Dig planting holes the depth of the root ball and two to three times as wide as the root ball. Wide holes encourage horizontal root growth that plants naturally produce.

2. With trees, you must ensure you are not planting too deep. Don't dig holes deeper than root balls. The media should be placed at the root collar, not above the root collar. Otherwise the stem will be vulnerable to disease.

3. Strictly follow supplier's planting guidance.

C. Cover the exposed root ball top with mulch. Mulch should not touch the plant base because it can hold too much moisture and invite disease and insects. Evenly place 3 inches of double-shredded hardwood mulch (if specified) on the surface of the media.

D. Plantings shall be watered-in at installation and temporary irrigations shall be provided, if specified.

XI. Using the HPMBS

A. Maintenance Requirements

1. Each correctly installed HPMBS is to be maintained by the supplier for a minimum period of one year. The cost of this service is to be included in the supplier's price of the system.

2. Annual maintenance consists of two (2) scheduled visits unless otherwise specified.

3. Each maintenance visit consists of the following:

    1. *Complete system inspection*

    2. *Removal of foreign debris, silt, plant material, trash and mulch (if needed)*

    3. *Evaluation of biofiltration media*

    4. *Evaluation of plant health*

    5. *Inspection of underdrain/storage system via Observation/Maintenance Port*

    6. *Properly dispose of all maintenance refuse items (trash, mulch, etc.)*

    7. *Take photographs documenting plant growth and general system health*

    8. *Update and store maintenance records*

    9. *To ensure long term performance of the HPMBS, continuing annual maintenance should be performed per the supplier's Operations and Maintenance Manual.*

4. If sediment accumulates beyond an acceptable level in the underdrain/storage system, it will be necessary to flush the underdrain. This can be done by pumping water into the Observation/Maintenance Port or adjacent overflow structure, allowing the turbulent

flows through the underdrain to re- suspend the fine sediments. If multiple Observation/Maintenance Ports have been installed, water should be pumped into each port to maximize flushing efficiency.

Sediment-laden water can be pumped out and either captured for disposal or filtered through a Dirtbag filter bag, if permitted by the locality.

XII. Measurement and Payment

Given the integrated nature of the HPMBS, measurement and payment will be based not on the individual component prices, but on the size of the Biofiltration Media bed. The external dimension as indicated in the approved plans and executed in the installation will be measured in Square Feet and payment will be made per HPMBS system.

Measurement and payment of beehive overflow grate structure with removable filter insert will be based on per unit price.