**Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium**

**Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, January 9, 2013  
10AM – 11:30 AM  
Arcadia Lakes Town Hall  
6911 N. Trenholm Rd., Suite 2

*Type of Meeting:* Continuing Development of Stormwater Education Plan and Decision-Making for the Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

*Meeting Facilitators:* Mary Caflisch, Clemson Carolina Clear & Keith Anthony, Richland County DPW

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<td>Outreach Activity Updates</td>
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<td>10:15-10:25</td>
<td>Partners for Healthy Watersheds Program Update</td>
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<td>Spring Activity Scheduling – Festivals, Workshops, Events.</td>
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<td>Carolina Yards &amp; Neighborhoods Presentation Series</td>
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<td>Summer Celebration of Water 2013 Brainstorming</td>
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<td>Wrap-Up</td>
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[www.facebook.com/midlandsstormwater](http://www.facebook.com/midlandsstormwater)
Attendance:

Mary Caflisch  Carolina Clear
Christine Murphy  Arcadia Lakes
Erich Miarka  Gills Creek Watershed Association
Keith Anthony  Richland County Stormwater
Gregory Sprouse  Central Midlands Council of Governments
Katie Giacalone  Carolina Clear

Minutes:

The meeting began with a review of recent and upcoming activities, as well as ongoing projects.

Recent Activities

- Rooftop Rhythms – Oct. 25, Richland Mall, with Gills Creek Watershed Association
- Future City Project BMP Walking Tour – Oct. 31, Dent Middle School, with Gills Creek Watershed Association
- GCWA Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup – Nov. 3, South Beltline Boulevard
- Farmville at EdVenture – Nov. 3, GCWA booth
- Bookman Rd. Elementary Outdoor Classroom Work Day – Nov. 3, new plants for rain garden, installed two rain barrels
- GCWA Annual Meeting – Nov. 8, City Roots
- Fort Jackson Recycling Day – Nov. 15, GCWA participated
- Enviroscape Presentations by RC Conservation District
  - Round Top Elementary, Oct. 18
  - Pontiac Elementary Boy Scouts, Nov. 13
  - A. J. Lewis Greenview Elementary, Nov. 16
- Richland County Electronics Recycling Event – Dec. 1, Zion Mill Creek Baptist Church
- Enviroscape at Pontiac Elementary Science Safari – Dec. 7
- Carolina Clemson Rain Barrel Art Contest
  - This contest was held by Richland County, Lexington County, City of Columbia & Keep the Midlands Beautiful. Students in grades 6-12 decorated 24 rain barrels with USC or Clemson themes. The winning barrels were made by Chapin High School and White Knoll High School Art National Honor Society. They will receive $300 for and environmental project or art supplies for their school in an award presentation by Keith Anthony next week. The barrels were auctioned online, raising $730. Proceeds will go toward KMB Adopt-A-Waterway program and the 2013 Summer Celebration of Water. Six of the barrels were sold in the auction, and the remaining barrels will be returned to the schools. Mary will follow up with these schools to find out if they need assistance installing and using their barrels.

Upcoming Activities

- Enviroscape Presentations for Catawba Trail Elementary – Thursdays in January
- GCWA Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup – Feb. 9, South Beltline Boulevard
- Meeting with Richland County Sewer Providers – Last week of January. Keith Anthony and Erich Miarka would like to be included in this meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss materials that RCSC can provide to help sewer providers educate their customers on preventing and reporting sanitary sewer overflows.
City of Columbia is currently rewriting their stormwater manual. Erich Miarka is attending the monthly meetings on behalf of GCWA.

RCSWCD Earth Day Awards for school conservation projects – applications due March 15

GCWA will attend River Rally Conference – May 17-20, St. Louis, MO

**Ongoing Projects**

Future Cities Competition – Dent Middle School, Fall & Winter 2012
- Mentors from GCWA, RC Stormwater, Carolina Clear, and the Conservation District are working with five groups of students to redesign their city around solving stormwater issues. The students must create a computer simulation using the Sim City 4 game, build models of city using recycled materials, write an essay and give an oral presentation as part of the competition. The state competition will be held on Jan. 26, USC Aiken. The mentors will meet with the students on Jan. 23 to help them prepare for their presentations.

Twenty-five Mile Creek Watershed Planning – Kershaw County (Lead), Richland County, Fairfield County, Town of Elgin, Town of Blythewood, Town of Lugoff.
- This project funded by EPA 319 Grant, and is being facilitated by AMEC.
- Oct. 29 – Kickoff meeting
- Dec. 4 – Urban Sources Brainstorming Session
- Jan. 14 – Agricultural Sources Brainstorming Session
- TBD – Septic Sources Brainstorming Session
- TBD – Wildlife Sources Brainstorming Session
- TBD – Public Meeting

**Partners for Healthy Watersheds Program Update and Discussion**

In order to build public awareness and interest in this program, Mary has contacted the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Forest Acres Restaurant & Merchant Association, and Blythewood Chamber of Commerce about giving a brief presentation at an upcoming meeting. She will also be scheduling meetings with the local Rotary Clubs. One option to spark interest in the PHW program is to offer a special incentive to the first five businesses to participate. Mary and Katie Giacalone had discussed a cash prize of $100. The group felt that this amount would only appeal to small businesses. It was suggested that instead of money, the first five participating businesses might receive a prize pack featuring gear with the PHW logo, such as a hoody sweatshirt, travel mug, etc. Small electronics were also suggested, although nothing came to mind that was inexpensive enough to fit the need.

Usually, the PHW program would require only self-certification from participating businesses. However, for businesses wanting to qualify for the prize, a consortium representative would pay a visit to the business to verify their required actions. RCSC would also produce a video of these businesses completing stormwater actions, to be posted on YouTube and Facebook as an advertisement for the program. Other advertisement methods would include press releases and presentations to civic organizations. Mary and Keith will meet with Stephany Snowden in the Richland County Public Information Office next week to discuss the possibility of getting the program mentioned on local news stations. Arcadia’s Edge Apartments was mentioned as a business that might be interested in participating in PHW. To encourage restaurants to participate in the program, PHW might have a featured “night out” where we advertise for people to come to that restaurant. Similar options for other business types will be investigated.

**Spring Activity Scheduling**

March, April and May are very busy months with festivals, events, and consortium activities. As such it is important to get the dates of events we would like to attend on the calendar as early as possible. Once that is done, consortium events can be scheduled to avoid conflicts.
Dates have already been announced for the following events RCSC has attended in previous years:

- River Rocks – 4/13/2013
- Party for the Planet – 4/20/2013
- Big Nosh – 4/21/2013
- Sparkleberry Fair – 4/27/2013
- Envirothon – 5/3/2013
- Richland County Public Works Week Celebration – 5/21 & 5/22/2013

Dates for the following events have not been announced, but RCSC intends to participate:

**In April**

- Rooftop Rhythms
- Earth Sunday at Forest Lake Presbyterian Church
- Olympiastock
- Earthstock Festival

**In May**

- Richland County Public Works Week
- Blythefest
- Arcadia Lakes Picnic

**Month Unknown**

- Richland County Recycle Day
- GCWA Urban Paddle & Picnic
- GCWA Wine for Water Fundraiser

The following RCSC Special Events also need to be scheduled:

- Rain Barrel Workshop
- Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods Speaker Series

**Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods Presentation Series Discussion**

In May of 2013, RCSC partnered with Gills Creek Watershed Association to host a two-part backyard landscaping series featuring the Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods program. This year RCSC will host a four-part CYN speaker series. The dates will be four consecutive Tuesdays or Thursdays in March or April, depending on availability of a venue. The group agreed that March was preferable. Possible venues discussed included 701 Whaley, Richland Library Southeast (Garners Ferry Rd.), and the USC Green Quad. Ryan Nevius is looking into 701 Whaley for us. They may not be willing to hold four consecutive weeks for the meetings without charging a fee. It would be within our budget to pay a facility fee, but 701 Whaley tends to be expensive. The Green Quad has limited parking, which was a concern for the group. However, Greg Sprouse mentioned that there is a new parking garage on Blossom Street, although he was not certain if it was free after a certain time. Greg also offered the Central Midlands Council of Governments building for the meeting. Another option would be a local church.

The group decided on the following presentation topics: turf grass management, gardening for wildlife, water conservation, and “right plant, right place.” The comment was made that we could do “right plant, right place” every year because there was such a need to share this information. To advertise the speaker series, we will ask Stephany Snowden about the possibility of free commercial spots on radios.

It was also suggested that we plan some workshops at home improvement stores. Mary mentioned that Richland County’s new home horticulture agent is working with several local garden centers to arrange CYN talks at those stores.
**Summer Celebration of Water 2013 Brainstorming**

2013 will be the fourth annual Summer Celebration of Water festival. The group brainstormed ideas for improving the event over last year’s festival. One thing that continues to be a difficult task is measuring the number of people participating. This year we approximated the number of attendees from the number of paddle spotted waivers submitted, but not everyone participated in the paddlesports. The year before, a clicker was used to count people, but with visitors coming and going from multiple entrances, and people using the greenway for purposes besides the festival, this count was not very accurate. It was suggested that we place a table at the main entrance to the park from the parking lot, and give out raffle tickets as a way to count people. Hourly drawings for door prizes could be held as a way of encouraging people to take the tickets.

For the last three years, SCOW has been held at Riverfront Park. The advantages of this venue are that it is a central, well known location with ample parking and restrooms. The biggest advantage is the access to the Columbia Canal for paddlesport activities. The disadvantages are that space is limited and getting vehicles in and out is very difficult. To access the park, vehicles must enter through the Columbia Hydro and drive along the walking trail, which is only wide enough for one-way traffic and has few places to pull over to let other vehicles pass. Last year, the food vendors, who had the biggest vehicles, arrived late, and it was a struggle to get them into their spots. Also, after the festival was over, it took a long time for all of the vendors and exhibitors to be able to leave. We discussed other possible venues, but there were no options presented that would allow us the same access for activities on the water. One possibility presented was the amphitheater on the opposite side of the river, but that area probably does not have enough space for the inflatable slides and other activities. River access is available there. Mary will look at the site and report back to the group. Several years ago when the last Three Rivers Music Festival was held, the city closed the Gervais street bridge and had activities on both sides of river as well as on the bridge itself. Once EdVenture’s river terrace is complete, that might be a possibility. Mary will look into the status of that construction.

Possible solutions to the access problem in the current site were also discussed. We might offer to let the food vendors leave their trucks at Riverfront Park overnight. Last year many of the exhibitors brought their materials to the park the night before, and if even more of them do that this year, that would make access easier as well.

**Statewide Updates**

Katie Giacalone shared handouts for the South Carolina Low Impact Development Atlas and online smart board lessons for teachers. She also shared a list of good housekeeping videos that have been purchased by Carolina Clear. These videos are available for Carolina Clear partners to borrow for staff training and outreach use.

The meeting concluded at 11:32. The next RCSC meeting will be held on April 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM at the Arcadia Lakes Town Hall.