

# **Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium**

## **Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, January 13, 2010  
10 AM – 11:30 AM  
Columbia Chamber of Commerce  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
930 Richland St, Columbia, SC

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

*Meeting Facilitators:* Mary Nevins, Clemson Carolina Clear and Keith Anthony, Richland County DPW

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10:00-10:10	Welcome & Meeting Purpose  Introductions	Mary Nevins, Carolina Clear
10:10-10:30	Outreach Activity Updates	All present
10:30-11:00	Education Plan Updates & Round Table Discussion of Stormwater Outreach in Richland County	Mary Nevins & Keith Anthony, Richland County DPW  <i>All should participate!</i>
11:00-11:20	Planning and Prioritizing of Upcoming Winter and Spring Projects	Mary Nevins & Keith Anthony, Richland County DPW
11:20 – 11:30	Next Steps	Mary Nevins

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*Note: Parking is available BEHIND the building.  
Please only utilize spots posted as “Columbia Chamber.”*

## Notes from the Meeting

### *Attendance*

Geoff Smith	BP Barber	Amanda Ley	SCDHEC
Russell Onley	Arcadia Lakes	Jessica Artz	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Shaun Greenwood	Forest Acres		
Keith Anthony	Richland County	Heidi Johnson	Keep the Midlands Beautiful
Betsy Kammerlen	Fuss & O'Neill	Mary Nevins	Carolina Clear

### *Minutes*

The meeting began at 10:00 with a review of activities that took place since the October meeting.

- Rain Garden Installations and demonstrations:
  - Sandhills REC Children's Garden – Oct. 26
  - Bookman Road Elementary – November 7
- Keep the Midlands Beautiful
  - Third Saturday cleanups – Gills Creek, Oct. 17
  - Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale – Oct. 24: 400 rain barrels and 600 compost bins sold, despite rain!
- Smart Growth and Sustainable Site Design Conference – Oct. 20-21
- Caring for Creation Conference – Nov. 1
- America Recycles Day – Nov. 14
- EnviroScape presentations for Bookman Road Elementary science labs – Dec. 2-11

Media updates:

- Impact numbers from Time Warner Cable spots are now available
  - Up to 185,111 cable subscribers (Lexington, Richland, Sumter)
  - "Goldfish" commercial ran 20 times per week over 4 weeks.
  - Palmetto People spot ran 20 times per week from August 3 through December 21.

Stormwater Awareness telephone survey preliminary results have been released.

- Background
  - Survey began in August 2009.
  - Residents from 35 zip codes in Richland, Lexington, and Sumter were called.
  - 403 surveys completed.
- Highlights
  - 44.5% are "very concerned" about pollution and environmental quality of local streams and waterways;
  - 74.1% did not believe stormwater to be treated before discharge to local waterbodies. (*Relatively high!*)
  - Fertilizer, leaking vehicles, and industrial sites were listed as having great or some impact by the most respondents.
  - Waste from birds, runoff from washing cars, and pet waste were listed as having little or no impact by the most respondents.
  - 33% correctly defined a watershed.
- The full report will be available soon. Please see attachment for complete list of questions asked.

Next, the group discussed activities remaining to be completed from the current education plan, drafted in August.

- Winter
  - Business Recognition program
  - Pet Waste Campaign – brochures & posters displayed at vets, pet food stores, etc.
  - Richland County will be posting signage
    - All 14 RC parks will receive recycling and pet waste signs (2 per park)
    - “Now entering Gills Creek Watershed” signs – need encroachment rights from DOT. In progress.
- Spring
  - Pesticide/Herbicide/Fertilizer Conference
  - Lawn Mower Exchange
  - Riverbanks Zoo Springtime in the Garden
  - Festivals
    - Nature Fest at Congaree park
    - Forest Acres Festival
    - Sparkleberry County Fair
    - Public Works Week
- Summer
  - 4H2O Camp – on Lake Murray, with Lexington County Stormwater Consortium
  - 4H2O Advanced Camp – possibly at Harbison Forest
    - This will be for children who have attended the Lake Murray 4H2O camp
    - Volunteers are needed to teach activities at the camp. Anyone who is interested should contact Mary Nevins.
- Fall
  - Carolina Yard Display at State Fair Grounds
  - GCWA Watershed Curriculum Project for Dent Middle School

Two additional items were also discussed in depth: a rain barrel workshop and a stormwater festival.

#### Rain Barrel workshop and related activities

- Early April or May determined to be the best time for a workshop, to avoid conflicts with Earth Day Events.
- The group was concerned that the full-day workshop as we have done it in other areas would only accommodate 25 people. They wanted to reach a much broader group, as we have reason to believe that interest in Rain Barrels is high
- Either instead of or in addition to a full-day workshop where each participant would make their own barrel, it was suggested that demonstrations be given at various festivals with kits for sale.
- Another possibility would be to do a do a workshop for 50 with the barrels pre-cut to reduce risk from power tools, with the goal again to reach a larger audience.
- Richland County Stormwater said they probably could store barrels and provide manpower to cut the barrels, if needed.
- The group wanted to make rain barrels a theme for April and Earth Day, and include them in multiple events.

#### Stormwater Festival

- To allow plenty of time for planning and avoid the hotter months, this will be planned for September.
- Keith Anthony with Richland County has a planning guide from a MRI-Florida Division.
- Keith Anthony shared his vision of the festival – a free event for families that might start relatively small in scale and grow over time.

- A proposal was made that we form a planning committee for the festival
  - Shaun Greenwood with Forest Acres expressed that he had some experience with festivals and volunteered for the committee
  - Jessica Artz volunteered to serve on the committee on behalf of GCWA
  - Mary Nevins and Keith Anthony will serve on the committee
  - It was suggested that someone from Solid Waste serve on the committee, since they have experience with the RC Recycle Day festival
- The City of Columbia has expressed interest in collaborating on this festival

This last note led to discussion on the City of Columbia's involvement in future stormwater education activities.

- At this time the City of Columbia is not expressing an interest in joining the Stormwater Consortium.
- Columbia is welcome to collaborate with us on projects but will not be able to take advantage of mass media products (TV commercials, billboards, etc.) or education materials (brochures, etc.) and may only count our activities towards their reporting if they contribute to the activity in a significant way, equal to Richland County's contribution. (The same applies to us counting their activities).
- We believe that events we contribute to held by partners within the city limits (e.g. State Museum, USC, etc.) will still count for our reporting purposes, but Mary Nevins will confirm this with DHEC.

The meeting concluded at 11:30. Thank you to everyone who attended. This should be an exciting new year!