

Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, February 10, 2010
10 AM – 11:30 AM
Owens Field Airport
1400 Jim Hamilton Blvd. Columbia

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

10:00-10:10	Welcome & Meeting Purpose Introductions	Mary Nevins
10:10-10:20	Outreach Activity Updates	All present
10:20-10:40	Report from the Water Festival Committee	Mary Nevins & Keith Anthony
10:40-11:00	Discussion of Rain Barrel Workshops, Sales, and Related Activities	All Present
11:00-11:20	Planning for Earth Day Events	All Present
11:20 – 11:30	Next Steps	Mary Nevins

Meeting rooms are in the main airport building. The receptionist will direct you to the correct room.



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Notes from the Meeting

Attendance:

Mary Nevins	Carolina Clear
Keith Anthony	Richland County Stormwater
Alan Huffstetler	Richland County Solid Waste & Recycling
Mary Jane Henderson	Richland Conservation District
Jessica Artz	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Srinivas Valavala	Richland County Stormwater
Felicia Pringle	Richland County Animal Care

Minutes:

The meeting began with a summary of recent education activities.

- Carolina Clear taught a workshop on rain barrels for students at Ridgeview High School.
- Richland County Council finally passed the stormwater ordinance dealing with buffers!
 - The language of the Development Roundtable was accepted for the most part.
 - A minimum buffer of 50 feet will be required on all streams.
 - The entitled properties language was broader than recommended by the roundtable, but does include a seven year sunset provision.
 - Where the floodway is greater than 50 feet, the buffer will extend to the width of the floodway.

Following this was a discussion of upcoming events and updates to the education plan.

- Carolina Clear will be giving a presentation on the Ladsen Exchange Park Carolina Yards permanent display at the Land Grant & Sea Grant National Water Conference in Charleston, February 21-25.
- Carolina Clear and Midlands Master Gardeners are working on a proposal to the State Fair to develop a permanent exhibit on Carolina Yards, to be completed in time for the 2010 fair. The Carolina Yards program is a certification programs for homeowners who implement earth-friendly yard management practices, like composting, rain barrels, soil testing before fertilizing, wildlife habitat, etc.
- The Richland County Conservation District is working to repair and improve the Conservation Stations program for teachers at Sandhills REC.
- Srinivas Valavala will be presenting at the South Carolina Environmental Conference in Myrtle Beach on the subject of stormwater, March 13-17.
- Richland County will hold a Construction Conference, scheduled for the end of March – for engineers, developers and county planners, this will focus on the new development ordinances, particularly as they pertain to stormwater.
- Earth Day events and rain barrel workshops were discussed in detail later in the meeting.
- Gills Creek Watershed Association is working with NRCS to host a dam safety workshop for home and lake owners associations. With help from the County, this may be expanded to include detention ponds.
- Information on stormwater will be included in the 2011 Richland County Business Handbook.
- A Neighborhood Planning Conference will be held on May 1st.
- The RC Pesticide, Herbicide and Fertilizer Conference has been moved to May.
- In addition to the 4H2O Camp held at Lake Murray, we will be adding a 4H2O Advanced Camp to be held at Harbison Forest at the end of June or beginning of July. Everyone is encouraged to help out by providing presentations on water quality at the camp.

- The Industrial Operators Conference has been moved to the next permit year. This is because we are waiting on DHEC to approve new regulations for industry, which should be an important topic at the conference.

Next Mary Nevins gave an overview from the first Water Festival committee meeting.

- Mary Nevins, Keith Anthony, and Karen Kustafik (City of Columbia) were present at the meeting, although the committee has grown to include Jessica Artz (GCWA), Mary Jane Henderson (Conservation District), Shaun Greenwood (Forest Acres).
- The group had discussed either August 21 or August 28 from 10:00-3:00, tentatively. Jessica Artz pointed out that USC would have just started back by the 21st, so the 28th was agreed upon for the date, although we would like to have the same date as USC's service day if possible, to encourage students to volunteer at the festival.
- After discussion, it was decided that the event should be free, including free food, and most likely free to vendors, to increase participation in the first year.
- The idea of raising money for a cause was set aside for future years once the event is established.
- Everyone is encouraged to submit ideas for activities, exhibitors, sponsors, and vendors to the committee.
- A survey will be sent to committee members soon to set a date for a planning meeting.

Rain Barrel Workshops and other rain barrel education opportunities were discussed next.

- Richland County would like to host a rain barrel workshop at their main facility in May. The County and Carolina Clear decided against pre-cutting barrels to be able to include more people in the workshop, although we did decide to increase the number of participants to 30.
- Carolina Clear has also agreed to help the State Museum and Green Steps put on a rain barrel workshop for teachers on Saturday March 27.
- Although they like the idea of having rain barrel demonstrations at festivals, having kits with pre-cut barrels does not seem feasible at this time, due to the labor of preparing the barrels and transportation of barrels to and from the event. The Conservation District has rain barrel kits to sell, and may be interested in do so at a festival.

Earth Day events were reviewed due to a number of conflicts.

- The Sparkleberry Country Fair and Nature Fest at Congaree National Park are both on Saturday, April 24. In addition, Mary also needs to have a Carolina Clear display at the Sustainable Sumter Earth Day Celebration on the same day. The current plan is for Mary to attend the Sumter event in the morning and Sparkleberry Fair in the afternoon. Richland County will share a booth with Carolina Clear and will be there for the whole day to manage the Carolina Clear display.
- Gills Creek Watershed Association will probably be attending both the Sparkleberry Fair and Nature Fest, and can represent the consortium at Nature Fest. It is unclear whether Nature Fest is just Saturday or both Saturday and Sunday. If it is both days, Carolina Clear will plan to have a booth there on Sunday.
- We will likely not have a rain barrel demonstration at the Sparkleberry Fair, but will have a barrel on display. If anyone would like to volunteer to demonstrate constructing rain barrels, that is great.
- Richland County Master Gardeners has also asked for rain barrel materials to display at the Master Gardener Plant Sale.
- The Lexington/Richland Lawnmower Exchange, organized by Keep the Midlands Beautiful, may also be that weekend. There is no opportunity for booths at this event, but we may be able to contribute materials to the goody bags that are given out with the new lawnmowers.

Other Education Topics:

- Pet Waste Outreach
 - Richland County has posted pet waste education signs at all parks and is looking into the cost/management of pet waste disposal stations there.
 - Carolina Clear has nearly completed a pet waste tri-fold brochure and matching poster to be distributed to veterinary offices and pet supply stores. Srinivas Valavala asked to review the brochure and include language from the county ordinance relating to pet waste. A final draft may be sent to the listserv for comments, depending on time constraints.
 - Richland County Animal Care would like to include the pet waste brochures in their registration renewals which are mailed monthly to registered pet owners.
- Yard Waste Outreach
 - Although Richland County has not yet passed the leaf bagging ordinance, Carolina Clear will begin preparing outreach materials on keeping yard waste away from storm drains, which is required by the current code, with the help of RC Stormwater. The materials will be designed to be easily modified once County Council has finalized their ruling on leaf bagging.
 - Solid waste will be consulted on preparing these materials.

The meeting concluded with a reminder to enter all education activities into the online database.