

Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 9, 2014
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 Facilitator: Mary Caflisch, Clemson Carolina Clear

10:00-10:05	Welcome & Meeting Purpose	Mary Caflisch
10:05-10:15	Outreach Activity Updates	Mary Caflisch & Katie Giacalone
10:15-10:30	Volunteer Storm Drain Marking Program	Mary Caflisch
10:30-10:45	Pond Policy and Lake Summit Updates	Erich Miarka
10:45 -11:00	Overview of New Small MS4 Permit Requirements for Education and Public Involvement	Katie Giacalone
11:00-11:25	Brainstorming for 2014-2015 Education Plan of Work	All Present
11:25-11:30	Wrap-Up	Mary Caflisch



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Attendance:

Erich Miarka	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Christine Murphy	Town of Arcadia Lakes
Bree Tribble	Richland County
Reggie Robinson	USC MEERM Program
Mary Cafilisch	Carolina Clear
Katie Giacalone	Clemson

Minutes:

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

Recent Activities

- Presentation for Vista Nights Rotary Club – Jan. 21
- Green Congregation Drop-in – Jan. 30, McGregor Presbyterian Church
- Project Learning Tree Workshop – Feb. 8, Benedict College, sponsored by Richland Soil and Water Conservation District
- Richland Backyard Landscaping Series – Thursdays in March
- Pesticide, Herbicide and Fertilizer Conference – March 11
- GCWA Display Window at Mast General Store – throughout March. GCWA also had a booth on March 15th and 29th.
- GCWA presentation for students in USC Watershed Geology class – March 18
- Stormwater Information at Richland 101 – March 20, Richland County Stormwater and Environmental Planning, and Sustainability
- GCWA participated in a Green Career Fair organized by Sustainable Carolina – March 21, USC
- Clean Marina Workshop – March 21, by SC DNR and SC Marine Association
- Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale – March 22, with KMB and City of Columbia. 145 rain barrels and 110 compost bins sold.
- Interview with Sandlapper Elementary – Jan. 30
- Enviroscape Presentations for Catawba Trail Elementary – Feb. 11, 25 & Mar. 5, 7
- Water Quality Presentation for Zoobot Program – Feb. 27, Longleaf Middle School
- Enviroscape and Macroinvertebrate Activities for St. John Neuman School – March 14
- Envirothon Training for Lower Richland High School – March 20
- Webber Elementary Career Day – April 9

Upcoming Activities

- Macroinvertebrates for Nature Navigators – April 9, Sandhill REC
- GCWA cleanup at Whole Foods Market – April 15. May also mark storm drains in the same area with City of Columbia.
- A.C. Moore Elementary Earth Day – April 22
- Wine for Water – Fundraiser for GCWA and RBWA, April 22, Senate's End
- Bridge Creek Elementary Science Day – April 23, Richland Mall
- Macroinvertebrate Training for Master Naturalists – May 3, Heathwood Hall
- Kayaking with Nature Navigators Club – April 17
- Stormwater Management display at Richland Administration Building – May 6
- GCWA Adopt-A-Highway cleanup – May 17, South Beltline Boulevard
- National Public Works Week Kids Day – May 20, RC Public Works
- GCWA Urban Paddle – June 1 (tentative)

- 4-H2O Exploring Lake Murray – June 9-13
- 4-H2O Exploring the Congaree Watershed – July 7-11

Festivals

- River Rocks – Fundraiser for Congaree Riverkeeper, April 12, Riverfront Park
- Rooftop Rhythms – April 23 & May 22, Richland Mall
- Sparkleberry Fair – April 26, Sandhill REC, RC Stormwater, Conservation District, and GCWA
- Earth Sunday – April 27, Forest Lake Presbyterian Church
- Big Nosh Festival – May 4, Tree of Life Congregation
- Richland Recycles Day – May 16, State Fairgrounds.
- Richland 101 for kids is tentatively planned for July, but the date has not yet been announced.

Ongoing projects

A third organization has joined Partners for Healthy Watersheds: Intertape Polymer Group, which makes adhesive tape for industrial applications.

The new stormwater awareness public service announcements are now airing on the Richland TV channel. They can also be viewed at the Richland Online YouTube Channel. The RC Public Information Office will be providing Chenille Williams with a quote for what it would cost to air the pet waste PSA for two weeks in June. The package they are looking at includes 24 spots on WLTX, 29 spots on WIS and 315 spots on Time Warner Cable (various networks). Chenille is also planning to record a radio PSA using the same company that produced the video PSAs. Chenille is looking for ideas for scripts. Erich Miarka informed the group that Ryan Nevius with Sustainable Midlands has a general pollution script for a radio commercial that she could share.

Richland County is planning to take the Pet Waste Campaign in a new direction this summer. The county will be ordering pet waste bag dispenser stations to distribute to neighborhoods. Neighborhoods receiving dispensers will be required to sign a pledge to keep the stations filled and provide outreach encouraging residents to use them. The neighborhood assumes responsibility for maintenance of the stations. New marketing materials will be ordered, including portable baggy dispensers for individuals. These will be distributed at events, and to residents in neighborhoods receiving the pet waste stations. People interested in being part of this initiative should contact Chenille. Also, please send Chenille contact information for neighborhoods that may be interested in participating in this program.

Statewide Carolina Clear Updates (Katie Giacalone)

Data collection for the statewide Carolina Clear telephone survey of attitudes, knowledge and behavior is complete. 2400 responses were collected statewide, with approximately 400 coming from our area. The question about storm drain marking added for this round of surveys performed well in the first areas surveyed, and so it was included in the survey for all regions. This was a question RCSC was particularly interested in, as we have invested a lot of effort into storm drain marking. The next step is for the data to be cleaned and statistics performed. The questions will be prioritized to compare results with previous survey and across the region. It would be very costly to compare every single question between the two time periods and across all regions, so only questions that will give us the most information will be fully analyzed. Data from all of the questions will be retained so that it can be analyzed at a later time if deemed useful. Preliminary results are expected by mid-summer. The final report should be completed by winter. The telephone survey not only gives us valuable information for planning purposes, it also helps us meet permit requirements for program evaluation and public involvement, including input and targeting.

New billboards have been designed to promote the Carolina Yards program. Because Richland County government departments do not use billboards, Katie Giacalone suggested that we consider other uses for the designs, such as banners or promotional items like bookmarks. Clemson will be offering a Carolina Yards Online Course this spring. Also, the redesigned Carolina Yards workbook should also be out soon. Finally, searchable plant database has been added to the Carolina Yards website. These resources can be found at www.clemson.edu/cy.

Volunteer Storm Drain Marking Program

Chenille Williams wanted to update the group on the volunteer storm drain marking program, but had a conflict and was unable to attend the meeting. She passed on her notes on the program to Mary Cafilisch to share. Between 2008 and 2010, Richland County employed student interns to mark all of the storm drains on county maintained roads in residential areas. Chenille plans to reinitialize the program with the following goals: to engage the public to protect water quality in their own neighborhoods; to provide a visual reminder to deter illegal dumping; and to expand the program to new areas. The marking program will use volunteers. The program will include marking streets in neighborhoods build since 2010, replacing markers that have fallen off, and reaching out to neighborhoods in which the HOA has responsibility for maintenance of the roads. The program will also target apartment complexes and businesses. For the latter cases, consent and cooperation from the HOA or property owners is imperative. Ideally, residents from these neighborhoods, apartments and businesses will participate in the marking effort.

Chenille will be promoting this program in several ways. She will give an interview on May 1st for a segment on Richland Review TV program. On May 24th, she will have a booth at EdVenture to recruit volunteers. We will also attempt to contact the neighborhoods directly. Please forward to Chenille any contact information for neighborhoods, businesses, or apartments that might like to participate.

Pond Policy and Lake Summit Updates (Erich Miarka)

Richland County is working on developing a private pond maintenance policy, and Gills Creek Watershed Association has been assisting with this process. Erich Miarka gave the group an update on the policy. The private pond maintenance policy will apply to ponds which are owned by more than one person and not required for stormwater control (although they may serve this function anyway). The current policy is vague and hasn't been revised since 2010. The new policy will clarify when the county is responsible for maintenance and how much cost share the county will be responsible for. Private ponds may provide public benefits by capturing and storing stormwater, reducing flooding, etc. The new policy will employ a matrix listing criteria, which can be used to calculate a score that can be used to determine what assistance the county will provide. Ponds providing more public benefit will receive a larger amount of cost share from Richland County.

The Gills Creek Watershed Association is also planning a Lake Summit for the fall. It will take the form of a meeting between lake owners in the Gills Creek watershed with the goal of building communications. GCWA estimates this will be two hours in length, with guest speakers on lake issues including weed control, Richland County's pond policy, the reservoir model, and dam safety.

Overview of New Small MS4 Permit Requirements for Education and Public Involvement (Katie Giacalone)

The new Small MS4 NPDES Permit is now in effect. While Richland County is not subject to this permit (being a Medium MS4 with its own permit), the changes to the Small MS4 Permit may be indicators of what Richland can expect when its own updated permit is completed (currently in development by SCDHEC). Katie Giacalone gave the group an overview of the changes the requirements for education and public involvement in the Small MS4 Permit. Over all, the new

permit mandates more detail. It calls for MS4s to evaluate water body impairments within the MS4 boundaries, and use these to identify three priority community issues. These issues could be behaviors that need to be changed or other means of addressing the specific impairments. The permit also asks for quantifiable assessment of education and public involvement activities. MS4s also need to track what watershed each activity affects. This program data should be related back to data collected from water quality monitoring stations. The intent is for the MS4 to demonstrate that efforts being made are measurable.

The timeline for completion of Richland County's new NPDES stormwater permit is not clear at this time. However, as we approach our annual education plan development in July, it would be best to take the changes to the Small MS4 permit into account, so that we are prepared to implement them if they are present in the new Richland County permit.

Annual Report and Education Plan

The reporting year is coming to a close before our next meeting, and Mary will begin preparing the Annual Report of Activities for 2013-2014. The reporting period is from June 11, 2013 to June 10, 2014. Everyone needs to submit data for any education or public involvement activities conducted during this time period. Data should include the following: activity name, date, number of people who attended, and pollutants addressed. A short description would also be helpful, as well as photos of the activity.

At the July meeting, we will need to create our Education Plan of Work for the 2014-2015 year. Mary will put together a draft of ideas and email it to the group for feedback and additional ideas prior to the meeting. The group briefly discussed items they would like to include in the plan. These included providing education at a County Council retreat, providing education on the issues of stormwater drainage and easements, promoting shoreline buffers, and providing education for engineers through design process.