

Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 9, 2010
10 AM – 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 Nevins, Clemson Carolina Clear & Keith Anthony, Richland County DPW

10:00-10:10	Welcome & Meeting Purpose	Mary Nevins
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	Introductions	
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10:10-10:20	Outreach Activity Updates	All present
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10:20-10:30	FY2 Annual Education Report: Information Needed and Discussion of Format	Mary Nevins
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10:30-11:25	Education Plan Development for 2010-2011	All present
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11:25 – 11:30	Next Steps	Mary Nevins
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Notes from the Meeting

Attendance:

Srinivas Valavala	Richland County Stormwater	Shaun Greenwood	Forest Acres
Keith Anthony	Richland County Stormwater	Christine Murphy	Arcadia Lakes
Carlton Hayden	Richland County Roads & Drainage	Bob Bishop	Arcadia Lakes
Geoff Smith	BP Barber	Terasa Young	Carolina Clear
Jessica Artz	Gills Creek Watershed Association	Mary Nevins	Carolina Clear

Minutes:

We were joined for this meeting by the new Carolina Clear agent for Florence and Darlington Counties, Terasa Young. Carolina Clear is excited to have Terasa on their team. The meeting began with a review of education activities since the May meeting:

- Councilwoman Kennedy's Spring Fling Drop-in – May 12, Parklane Adult Activity Center
- Blythefest – May 14-15, Blythewood
- Rain Barrel Workshop – May 15, 10am-3pm, Public Works Facility
- Public Works Week Kids Day – May 18, 9am-1pm, Public Works Facility
- Forest Acres Festival – May 22, 10am-4pm AC Flora High School
- Black Expo – May 22
- Bookman Road ES Rain Garden Workday – June 1, 8:45-11:45am
- Richland County Recreation Commission 50th Anniversary Celebration – June 5, Meadow Lake Park
- Pet waste brochures distributed to 16 veterinary offices (400 brochures total).
- Keith Anthony has created a Richland County Stormwater Facebook page.
- Arcadia Lakes held its annual picnic, at which the Tree of Life Rain Garden was showcased.

Next we briefly discussed upcoming events:

- 4-H2O Camps: Pontoon Classroom – Lake Murray, June 14-18; 4-H2O Advanced – Harbison State Forest, June 28-July 2
- Pesticides/Herbicides/Fertilizer Conference – July 21
- Green Steps Teachers Rain Barrel Workshop – July 16, 9am-12pm, SC State Museum
- Presentation at Wheatley Branch Public Library
- Gills Creek on the Mountain (fundraiser) – July 18, Cook's Mountain, Eastover.
- Water Quality Conservation Station Programs – June 30 & August 3-4.
- Summer Celebration of Water festival – Aug. 28, 9am-2pm
- A rain garden is being constructed at Owens Field Airport.

Since we last discussed the telephone behavior and opinion survey, a analysis has been produced from the survey data, comparing the four areas surveyed for percentages of people reporting certain behaviors. The following trends were noticed:

- The four survey areas were: Midlands (Richland/Lexington/Sumter), Charleston area, Myrtle Beach area, and Florence area.
- The Midlands was in the middle of the range for percentage of participants who “If owner of a pet, always/ nearly always picked up after the pet when on a walk,” and “Always/nearly always washed car on lawn or gravel instead of pavement.”
- On the positive side, the Midlands had the lowest percentage of participants who “Always/nearly always disposed of oil, paint or other chemical down storm drains.”
- On the negative side, the Midlands had the lowest percentage of participants who “Always/ nearly always considered likelihood of rain before treating a lawn with fertilizer or pesticides.”

This was followed by a discussion of the upcoming annual education report. The deadline for submitting activities for the report was set as June 30. Information can either be entered into the online database, or emailed directly to Mary. Photos from events are highly encouraged. A copy of last year's report was passed around, and no one had any major changes to the format to suggest. Richland County recently released a new ranking of pollutants of concern. Bacteria, sediment, and nutrients continue to be top issues. Oil and grease were also ranked highly, but Geoff Smith of BP Barber, being familiar with the data, stated that this was due to a single sampling site and likely not an overall trend. In his professional opinion, oil and grease is not a top pollution issue at present. A noticeable increase in fecal bacteria can be seen over the last 4 years, but it is not yet statistically significant, although Geoff believes it to be a real trend.

For the rest of the meeting we worked on the Education Plan of Work for Year 3, 2010-2011. A copy of the final education plan will be distributed for approval after the plan is completed at the July meeting. Important notes from the discussion are as follows:

- The “Target Pollutant” category “pollutants resulting in low dissolved oxygen” will be removed from the plan document, as this is not an issue that can be addressed directly with education. Instead, we address factors that cause low DO, such as sediment and nutrients.
- We discussed also removing “temperature” but decided that this was an important issue and could be addressed by encouraging infiltration BMP and reduction of impervious surfaces. This will be a target pollutant primarily for professionals and elected officials.
- General Public
 - Of the festivals we presented at this year that are reoccurring events, everyone mostly felt that attending these events again in the upcoming year would be beneficial. The only event we questioned the value of was “Earth Day at the State House,” which was poorly attended.
- Youth
 - The group felt strongly that it was important to do more with the schools. Shawn Greenwood suggested getting rain barrels into the curriculum, with a decorating contest, essay contest, auction, or some other way to get the school and community involved.
 - Mary would like to pursue promoting the national River of Words art and poetry contest on watersheds.
 - A structured curriculum for all schools on watersheds would also be great, but may be too large a goal for this year. However, Carolina Clear is developing Smart Board lesson plans on water quality, and Gills Creek is piloting a curriculum program at Dent Middle School in the upcoming year, pending grant funding.
 - Killian Elementary and North Springs Elementary would be good sites for rain garden projects. Crayton School also has environmentally conscious teachers as well as issues with erosion and stormwater.
- Professionals
 - It is uncertain whether internal trainings should be included in the education plan or if those fall under “good housekeeping” only. It might be appropriate to list them in a separate section.
- Elected and Appointed Officials
 - A stormwater utility study has been planned. This is only a study, and it remains to be seen whether implementing a utility will actually be proposed.
 - Development Roundtable meetings are continuing.
 - We should target one work session with County Council on stormwater issues such as leaf bagging. It might be possible to reach out to the Forest Acres Council with a presentation during their retreat.
- Programs for Homeowners and Commercial Citizens will be discussed at the July meeting, due to time constraints. The meeting was concluded.