

Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, July 2, 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
10:15-10:25	Pond Improvement Project at Richland County Public Works	Charles Jarman, P.E., Water Resources Engineer
10:25-11:10	Development of 2014-2015 Education Plan of Work	All Present
11:10-11:25	Brainstorming: Three-Year Strategic Plan	All Present
11:25-11:30	Wrap-Up	Mary Caflisch



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Attendance:

Chenille Williams	Richland County Stormwater Department
Erich Miarka	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Christine Murphy	Town of Arcadia Lakes
Chanda Cooper	Richland County Conservation District
Chuck Jarman	Carolina Clear
Amy Scaroni	Carolina Clear
Mary Caflisch	Carolina Clear

Minutes:

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

Recent Activities

- Pasture Management Workshop – April 9, Conservation District
- Macroinvertebrates for Nature Navigators – April 9, Sandhill REC
- Webber Elementary Career Day – April 9, RC Stormwater
- River Rocks – Fundraiser for Congaree Riverkeeper, April 12, Riverfront Park
- Soil Health and Erosion presentations – Conservation District: April 17, Blythewood Garden Club; April 23, Heathwood Hall (high school)
- 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
- Rooftop Rhythms – April 24, Richland Mall
- Sparkleberry Fair – April 26, Sandhill REC: Carolina Clear, RC Stormwater, Conservation District, & GCWA
- Earth Sunday – April 27, Forest Lake Presbyterian Church: Carolina Clear, GCWA & Conservation District
- Envirothon Competition – May 2, Sandhill REC
- Macroinvertebrate Training for Master Naturalist – May 3, Heathwood Hall
- Big Nosh Festival – May 4, Tree of Life Congregation : Carolina Clear & GCWA
- National Public Works Week Display – May 6, Richland County Administration Building, RC Stormwater
- Richland Recycles Day – May 16, State Fairgrounds
- Kayaking with Nature Navigators Club – May 17
- National Public Works Week Kids Day – May 20, RC Public Works
- Enviroscope & Fish Story Presentations – May 22 & 23, Brennann ES, GCWA
- Public input session for Owens Field BMP project – May 28, Richland Administration Building
- Composting/Soil Health/Conservation Tillage presentation at Nature-Based Inquiry workshop for K-5 Teachers – June 3, Logan Elementary School
- 4-H2O Exploring Lake Murray – June 9-13
- Composting/Soil Health/Conservation Tillage presentation at Congaree to Conservation Professional Development for K-12 Teachers – June 17, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School
- Radio PSA Recording – June 20
- CEPSCI brochures delivered to Richland County New Construction office – June 23
- Owens Field BMP project public walkthrough – June 30, Owens Field Park

Upcoming Activities

- 4-H2O Exploring the Congaree Watershed – July 7-11
- Gills Creek: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow history presentation – July 31, Richland County Public Library, main branch
- Summer Celebration of Water – August 23
- Rain barrel workshop for St Michael and All Angels' Episcopal Church – Date TBD
- Rain garden installation and workshop – Clemson Sandhill REC, Date TBD
- Carolina Yards demonstration garden installation and workshop – Clemson Sandhill REC, Date TBD

Additional Notes

Sustainable Midlands is hiring a coordinator to focus on Rocky Branch and Smith Branch Watersheds.

The Conservation District recently submitted a 319 Grant for the 25 Mile Creek Watershed implementation program to assist with agricultural best management practices. The Gills Creek Watershed Association also submitted a 319 grant for a rain water collection system to be installed at the New Magistrate Court Facility to be built on Decker Blvd by Richland County. The site will feature a green parking lot including bioswales and bioretention. The original plan had included rainwater harvesting, but the budget was insufficient. This submission by GCWA was to put that piece back into the project. The construction should be completed in the next 3 years.

The erosion control project at the Richland County Administration Building has been delayed due to difficulty scheduling a contractor but should be completed in FY15. This project includes a retaining wall with an underdrain to reduce erosion problems from parking lot runoff.

Gills Creek Watershed Association has asked for the consortium members to help them promote their history presentation on July 31st. Anyone who is able should share the announcement and post it on social media.

Chenille gave an update on the “Pick It Up” program. Richland County Stormwater Management will be encouraging neighborhoods to take a pet waste pledge, in return for which the neighborhood will receive a pet waste station. At least ten residents must agree to pick up waste from their own pets, plus encourage neighbors by putting up signs or flyers. Maintenance of the stations and restocking bags is the responsibility of the HOA or neighborhood. Residents who sign pledge form will receive a portable bag dispenser for a leash. Mary also has doggie bandanas which can be given to pledge signers. Some of the promotional materials are ready, but the flyers still need to be completed. This program should be ready to launch very soon. All consortium members are asked to go ahead and start thinking of neighborhoods that might be interested in participating.

Chanda Cooper requested a Carolina Yards workshop for the SWCD employee training in September in Lexington. Mary agreed to teach this workshop, and she will also see if the Carolina Yards statewide coordinator is available.

Carolina Clear Statewide updates:

Amy Scaroni is the new Associate Coordinator for the Carolina Clear program. Amy was able to join us for the meeting, and told the group more about herself and her new position. Amy has a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, from Louisiana State University and a M.S. Environmental Studies from the College of Charleston. She has experience in coastal natural resource management, watershed restoration, and environmental education. Katie Giacalone is now also the Assistant Director for Clemson’s Center for Watershed Excellence, so she will be focusing more on regional collaboration and watershed planning. Amy will be taking over day-to-day management of the Consortia, including media buys and program development.”

The Carolina Yards program has a new workbook. The workbook is available in digital form for free, and print copies will be available soon. Mary also now has a GoPro waterproof sports camera.

This was purchased for the 4-H2O day camp program, but can be used throughout the year for capturing footage in the field and on (or in) the water.

Amy told the group about a new mass media contract Katie is working on. The contract is with WIS for the purpose of marketing Carolina Yards and Summer Celebration of Water in the Midlands. The contract will include 75000 guaranteed views of banner adds.

Clearly Doing Good project

The Clearly Doing Good project will provide funds to put in best management practice demonstration projects for commercial spaces or apartments. Interested businesses will need to apply to receive funds. There is a specific list of practices that they can choose from, including rain gardens, pet waste stations, etc. Carolina Clear will hire contractors to do the installations. Each installation will include educational signage. The agreement with the facility receiving a BMP will include access to the BMP for education events and stewardship opportunities. Carolina Clear is planning an LID training for contractors this fall/winter as part of this project. Project installations will begin in spring.

Pond Improvement Project at Richland County Public Works

Charles Jarman was hired in May as a stormwater engineer with statewide responsibilities on the Clemson Water Resources team. He has been meeting with agents across the state to discuss projects and needs for education and technical expertise. He will also be helping to educate contractors and engineers on stormwater management. Chuck has over 34 years of related engineering experience; and has served the last 14 years as the stormwater manager for Charleston County. Chuck has been designing stormwater practices for many years. Many of these practices are counterintuitive to the contractors. For example, they are used to compacting soil and mowing grass, where LID requires uncompacted soil and tall vegetation. This presents many opportunities for education. Chuck noted that demonstrations and site visits are best because these contractors prefer to be out of doors and don't do well in classrooms.

Chuck and Mary met with Quinton Epps and Chenille Williams at Richland County Public Works on Powell Road to discuss possible improvements to the stormwater pond as a demonstration project. He started off by looking at bank stabilization. Goose droppings were also clearly an issue. Vegetating the edges of the pond may reduce geese population because it gives the appearance of harboring predators, which geese don't prefer. Chuck proposed creating a wetland area at the outfall end of the pond, which is near the road. The outfall pipe drains to a ditch which drains to a tributary of Crane Creek. There is a flat area where a littoral shelf could be planted. This would provide filtering and screening of the outfall. Chuck can work with the county to do surveying of the site. He can do the design work, and we can consult a plant expert at Clemson to recommend what plants to include. This would take the burden off of Public Works for design phase, and create a much needed retrofit and demonstration site. See the attached handout for additional project details.

Erich Miarka asked if Chuck is working on projects like this statewide. Chuck plans to do two or three installations per year across the state. Chuck is also working on developing an online training and certification program for post construction BMP inspection. A pilot workshop will be offered in 2 weeks at Furman. A similar workshop is planned for the coast in fall. Inspectors certified through this program could be hired by HOAs or businesses to solve pond problems. Developing a pool of people to provide this service would take some of the burden off of Richland County Stormwater and Clemson Extension. Erich asked who was participating in the Furman pilot. Chuck replied that they will have a mix of MS4 personnel, contractors, engineers, and university personnel. An online certification option will be developed in the future.

Development of 2014-2015 Education Plan of Work

The consortium members present reviewed the education plan draft provided by Mary. For each target audience, we discussed whether items listed should be included in the education plan for the upcoming year, what changes needed to be made, and what new programs should be added. It was noted that the pollutants addressed and partners involved are not correctly marked for all items on the list. Mary will go through list and make sure these are corrected. Here are the more important items discussed. Please see the attached handout for a complete draft of the Year 7 Education Plan.

General Public

- Outreach on county maintenance and responsibility: Richland County has a new door hanger project to notify residents with stormwater outlets on their property of the function of these outlets, and the effects that the property owners may experience, such as flooding if they are clogged. The door hangers are ready for distribution, but Richland County needs to identify a target neighborhood to begin with.
- Stormdrain marking was added as a new volunteer activity
- The Richland Radio program has been discontinued. This item will be changed to interviews on the Richland Review YouTube.com videos, which are produced monthly.
- Stormwater display at Blythefest needs to be added to the festival section. This is a regular event for Richland County now.

Elected and Appointed Officials

- A presentation at the Richland County Council retreat was added. Chenille told the group that Quinton Epps and Buddy Atkins actually gave a presentation on flooding at a county council meeting in 2014 as well.

Commercial Citizens

- Amy Scaroni will be presenting at the South Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association Fall Festival at the State Farmers market. She will have information for landscaping professionals about stormwater controls.
- Chenille plans to have a FEMA CRS flooding preparedness workshop for real estate agents and provide educational materials.

Homeowners

- Gills Creek Watershed pond conference added
- Shorescaping workshop and installation at Richland County Public works added
- Carolina Yards demonstration garden and rain garden installations at Sandhill REC added

Three Year Strategic plan and Year 6 Annual Report.

We are in year 7 now, and should consider developing a strategic plan for next three years. Our current three-year plan goes through spring 2015. Mary proposed potential timeline: Start collecting feedback prior to January RCSC meeting, then work on writing the plan at the January and April meetings to have final document completed by the July meeting.

Mary reminded everyone to submit their education and public involvement activities for inclusion in the RCSC Annual Report. Mary needs to verify that all of the partner logos in the annual report are up to date. Partners should send Mary their logos if those have been updated recently.

With no additional business, the meeting concluded at 11:45AM. The next RCSC meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2014.

Richland County Public Works Site
400 Powell Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203

Project Objective:

Install BMPs to provide water quality benefits to the receiving water body. The installation of the BMPs will be incorporated into educational workshops on their installation.

Background:

- The Public Works Department of Richland County occupies the parcel.
- The site would be considered a commercial/light industrial type use. The land cover consists of buildings, paved roads paved parking, grassed storage/parking areas, bulk material storage and a pond. The sited occupies approximately 25 acres including pond of approximately 2 acres.
- The parcel elevation averages elevation 315 with approximately 30 feet of relief across the property.
- The soil are Blanton (Sand, Hydrologic Group A), Fuquay (Sand, Hydrologic Group B), and Pelion (Loamy Sand, Hydrologic Group B). The area that drains to the pond is Blanton and Fuquay types soils.
- The pond discharges into a tributary of Crane Creek that has a TMDL for Fecal.
- There is a small rain garden at the upper end of the pond that is capturing runoff from several of the building and pavement areas prior to discharging into the pond.
- The pond has an active population of geese and ducks that are producing significant amount of waste material around the perimeter of the pond.

Project Scope:

We are in the process of doing a preliminary assessment of the project. The project would consist of multiple phases that would be independent of each other.

The first phase would be to construct a littoral shelf with aquatic vegetation in the vicinity of the outfall from the pond. The current outfall is a discharge pipe with no screening or formal control structural. This shelf and vegetation would provide a variety of water quality benefits such as filtration, screening, and pollutant uptake. The project would also create a great opportunity for an educational workshop.

Future phases of the project could include expansion of the littoral shelf to other areas of the pond and some pond bank stabilization in various locations.