

Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, July 3, 2013
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
10:15-11:15	Year 6 Education Plan of Work Discussion	Mary Caflisch
11:15-11:25	Submitting Annual Education Report Data	Mary Caflisch
11:25-11:30	Wrap-Up	Mary Caflisch



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Attendance:

William Boyd	Richland County Stormwater
Erich Miarka	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Bill Stangler	Congaree Riverkeeper
Chanda Cooper	Richland County Conservation District
Gregory Sprouse	Central Midlands Council of Governments
Mary Caflisch	Carolina Clear
Rachel Schilling	Clemson University Extension Service

Minutes:

The Meeting began with a review of recent and upcoming activities as well as ongoing projects followed by extensive discussion of the next year's activity schedule

Recent Activities

Festivals

- River Rocks Festival – April 13, Riverfront Park
- Rooftop Rhythms – April 18, Richland Mall
- Party for the Planet – April 20, Riverbanks Zoo
- Big Nosh Festival – April 21, Tree of Life
- Earth Sunday – April 21, Forest Lake Presbyterian Church
- Sparkleberry Fair – April 27, Sandhill REC
- Black Expo – May 18, Colonial Life Arena
- Arcadia Lakes Town Picnic – May 19, Tree of Life

Youth Activities

- Career Day at Webber Elementary – April 17
- Macroinvertebrates for Nature Navigators 4-H Club – April 9, Sandhill REC
- Eco Night at St. John Newman School – April 23
- Crane Creek Community Center After-school program – April 30
- 4-H Club Kayaking Trip – May 4, Congaree National Park
- Public Works Week Kids Day – May 21, Richland County Public Works
- 4-H2O Exploring Lake Murray – June 24-28

Richland County Events

- Shredding and Recycling (Richland County) – April 27, Heathwood Hall
- Public Works Week Display Booth – May 7, 2020 Hampton St.
- Richland County Recycle Day – May 17, State Fairgrounds
- Industrial High Risk Conference – May 8, Midlands Tech Northeast Campus
- Pesticide, Herbicide & Fertilizer Conference – June 4, Midlands Tech Northeast Campus

Other

- Wine for Water - April 25, Senate's End, to benefit Gills Creek Watershed Association
- Rain Barrel Workshop – April 16, Sandhill REC
- GCWA Adopt a Highway – May 18, South Beltline Blvd.
- Cary Lake Cleanup – June 8, Arcadia Lakes
- GCWA Middle Watershed Plan Open House – June 22 & 23, Whole Foods
- Congaree Riverkeeper Cleanup with Montessori School – June

Upcoming Activities

- 4-H2O Exploring the Congaree Watershed – July 8-12
- Congaree Riverkeeper Cleanup with Trinity Middle School Summer Camp – July 8
- Enviroscape for Jones Memorial Church Summer Camp – July 22
- GCWA Adopt a Highway – August 10, South Beltline Blvd.
- Summer Celebration of Water – August 24, Riverfront Park
- Presentation for Midlands Master Naturalists – September 7

Ongoing Projects

The Twenty-five Mile Creek Watershed planning grant project continues to make progress. Two public hearings were held, the first on April 17th at the Elgin Town Hall, and the second on April 18th at Kelly Mill Middle School. The final stakeholder meeting was held on June 25th at Sandhill REC. Greg Sprouse spoke to Angela Vandelay with AMEC, the consultant on the project, about the June 25th meeting and was told the meeting went well as far as planning for the site. The next step in the planning process will be completion of the implementation plan for reducing pollution in the Twenty-Five Mile Creek Watershed. Following this, Kershaw County will apply for a 319 Implementation Grant. The application period for the next round of 319 Implementation funding has not yet been announced. Mary will share any and all details of the final plans as they become available.

Year 6 Education Plan of Work Discussion

General Public

Mary began the discussion by distributing a draft of education and outreach programs for the next year. Also distributed was the Three-Year Strategic Plan table of actions. Overall the Consortium is making good progress in the plans. Starting with the general public programs the consortium discussed the different programs proposed for the next year. FOGs were omitted from the Television PSAs activity. Articles in the newspaper were discussed as being a good method of communication with the public about problems in the community. Mary will be writing one or more new H2Oownership factsheets in the upcoming year, and is looking for suggestions for appropriate topics. The subject of storm drain marking was discussed. Bill Stangler proposed undertaking apartment storm drain marking and FOGs campaign. The consortium agreed that the sewage overflow hotline magnets should not be distributed anymore because the number is not helpful (goes to Bree Tribble's voicemail). At present, the calls should be sent to the Ombudsman's office to start the process and then follow up after that to keep the issue from getting delayed (as in Eric Miarka's case of 10 days). Bill Stangler proposed a website that could be used to handle all reports. Mary brought up the point that people still need to be informed in order to find the website. The consortium agreed to brainstorm the matter further for a solution. The Crane Creek Watershed Association was brought up. William Boyd said that this is still a priority for Richland County. Efforts will be renewed to develop the public involvement needed for a watershed group. The difference in demographic as compared to the Gills Creek and Rocky Branch Watersheds makes involvement difficult to achieve. Eric brought up the option of Crane Creek Watershed being a possible 319 grant site. The issue of capital improvement was updated to include a website that tracks and displays completed, in progress, and future projects in this area.

Youth

For youth audiences, the problem of diversifying the offered programs was addressed. School visits, day camps, and Green Steps Schools projects will continue. At present, Green Steps Schools projects are exclusively rain barrel focused activities, and Chanda Cooper would like to expand these to include other types of projects. In 2013-2014, we will look for opportunities to include new partners and programs for youth. However, it was agreed that this audience is already a demographic that the group knows how to reach.

Professionals

Eric Miarca brought up the Gill Creek ideas for bag lunch talks. The events would be open to the general public with specific invitations going to target professionals in the respective fields of discussion. The specialized topics currently being planned are stormwater BMPs and pond maintenance talks. The talks are set to be held in The Cooper Library main branch. LID was discussed as being closely related to the BMP subject of these lunches. This along with an LID Atlas and publicly visible LID installation site were public outreach mechanism discussed. Suggested options for this installation were a school yard display of some kind, a county park (such as Olympia Park), and a green roof on the Central Midlands building.

Elected and Appointed Officials

As far as the elected officials activities, brainstorming needs to take place about ways to get political attention for various activities. Greg Sprouse discussed the presentations and demonstration sites planned for COG. The goal of these presentations is to provide the board members with information about the public attention and participation in different activities. The need to schedule a talk about LID and watershed planning (Gills Creek) was also brought up. The Carolina Yards program was discussed as a way to tie in council member participation into the proposed programs.

Homeowners

The need for exciting promotions for the Carolina Yards program was discussed as only three homeowners are currently enrolled. The FOGs Presentation for HOAs was omitted from the activity chart. However, the need for FOG management for homeowners was discussed as needing to be more understandable and simple. Bill Stangler brought up can lids that make disposal of FOGs easier. The city of Columbia has similar FOGs lids. The idea of having similar lids made and ready for distribution before the Summer Celebration of Water was brought up and approved. The previously discussed Olympia park LID installation was discussed as satisfying the Rocky Branch partnership. Chanda gave information about the OMG program for new homeowners. The workshop series will be looked into as a possible partnership opportunity.

Businesses

The PHF conference for commercial citizens was discussed as needing to be moved to a fall or winter date due to the seasonal nature of the attendees' businesses. The Partners for Healthy Watersheds Program is a program that promotes better land and runoff management by businesses. Mary has all the information and incentive materials prepared all that is needed for launch is contacts and participating businesses. Woodley's Garden Center and Urban Outfitters were suggested as possible pilot businesses for the program.

Submitting Annual Report Data

Mary reminded the group that it will soon be time to start submitting data for the Annual Stormwater Education Report. The end of the reporting year is June 10th. The report is due to DHEC in August, so it is important to submit data as soon as possible following June 10th. Activities can be submitted to the reporting website at http://www.clemson.edu/public/carolinaclear/consortiums/intro_activitydb.html, or emailed directly to Mary.

Conclusion

With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35. The next meeting will be October 9th.