

Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, July 13, 2011
10AM – 11:30 PM
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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10:10-10:25	Outreach Activity Updates	All present
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10:25-11:25	2011-2012 Education Plan of Work	All present
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11:25 – 11:30	Wrap-Up	Mary Nevins
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Visit us online at www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear/rcsc

Notes from the Meeting

Attendance:

Keith Anthony	Richland County Stormwater
Christine Murphy	Town of Arcadia Lakes
Jake Broom	City of Forest Acres
Gregory Sprouse	Central Midlands Council of Governments
Jessica Artz	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Pam Greenlaw	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Quinton Epps	Richland County Planning
Mary Nevins	Carolina Clear

Minutes:

The meeting began with a review of recent and upcoming education activities.

Recent Events

- Blythefest - May 13-14, Stormwater Dept.
- Arcadia Lakes Town Picnic – May 15
- Rain Barrel Display and Enviroscape at Earth Sunday at Forest Lake Presbyterian – May 15
- Public Works Week Kids Day – May 17
- Floodplain Awareness mail-out – to 9,600 residents
- River Rocks Water Celebration – Riverfront Park, May 28
- GCWA Urban Paddle fundraiser - June 12, Lake Katherine Dam.
- Certified Stormwater Plan Reviewer (CSPR) Course – June 22-23, Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
- 4-H2O Pontoon Classroom – Lake Murray, June 13-17
- 4-H2O Environmental Classroom – Harbison State Forest, June 27-July 1

Upcoming Events

- Richland 101 for Kids – Dutch Square Mall, July 28
- Summer Celebration of Water – Riverfront Park, Saturday August 6
- Annual Education Report – September
- Green is good for Business Conference – Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, Sept. 13

Other Announcements

- USC Community Service Day – Aug. 20. Gills Creek Watershed Association was approached by USC to organize a project for students for this event for this (possibly a cleanup). They are expecting about 10-15 students for three or four hours of work. In the past Richland County had 30 students from this program participate in storm drain marking.
- Richland County won an award from the National Association of Counties for its sampling program.
- Richland County's Stormwater Consent order from SCDHEC is now closed. This order was issued in 2006 for non-compliance with the county's MS4 permit. Richland County has worked hard over the last five years to meet the conditions of the permit, bring its program into compliance, and become a positive example of a successful stormwater pollution prevention program.
- Please send any remaining activities for the Annual Report to Mary as soon as possible.

Next we discussed the results of the priority survey for 2011-2012 stormwater education activity planning. This survey was distributed electronically to the RCSC list serve. RCSC members were asked to rate target pollutants, pollution causing behaviors and sources, and target audiences by priority according to the needs and opinions of the organizations they represent, taking into account Richland County's monitoring data, DHEC's TMDL list, personal observation, and public comments they might have received. Eight participants returned the survey, and their responses are summarized in the figures below.

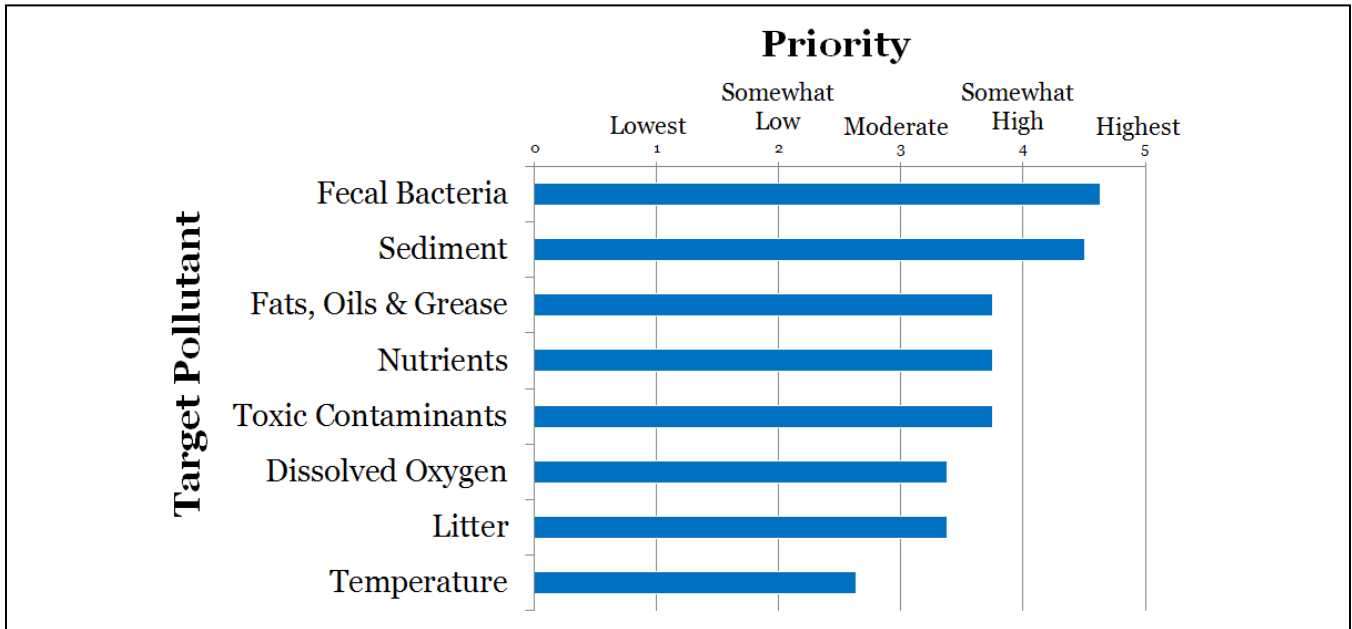


Figure 1. Target pollutants, ranked by priority according to a survey of RCSC participants

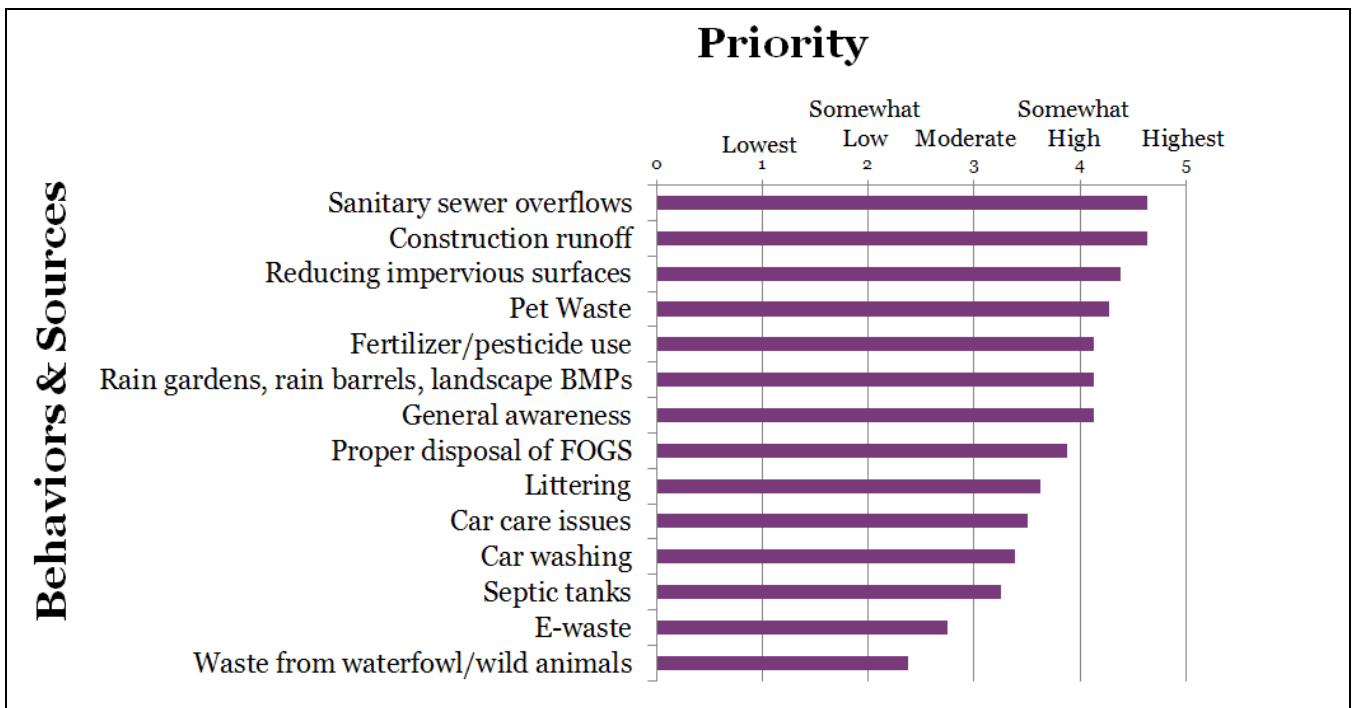


Figure 2. Pollution causing behaviors and sources of pollution, ranked by priority according to a survey of RCSC participants

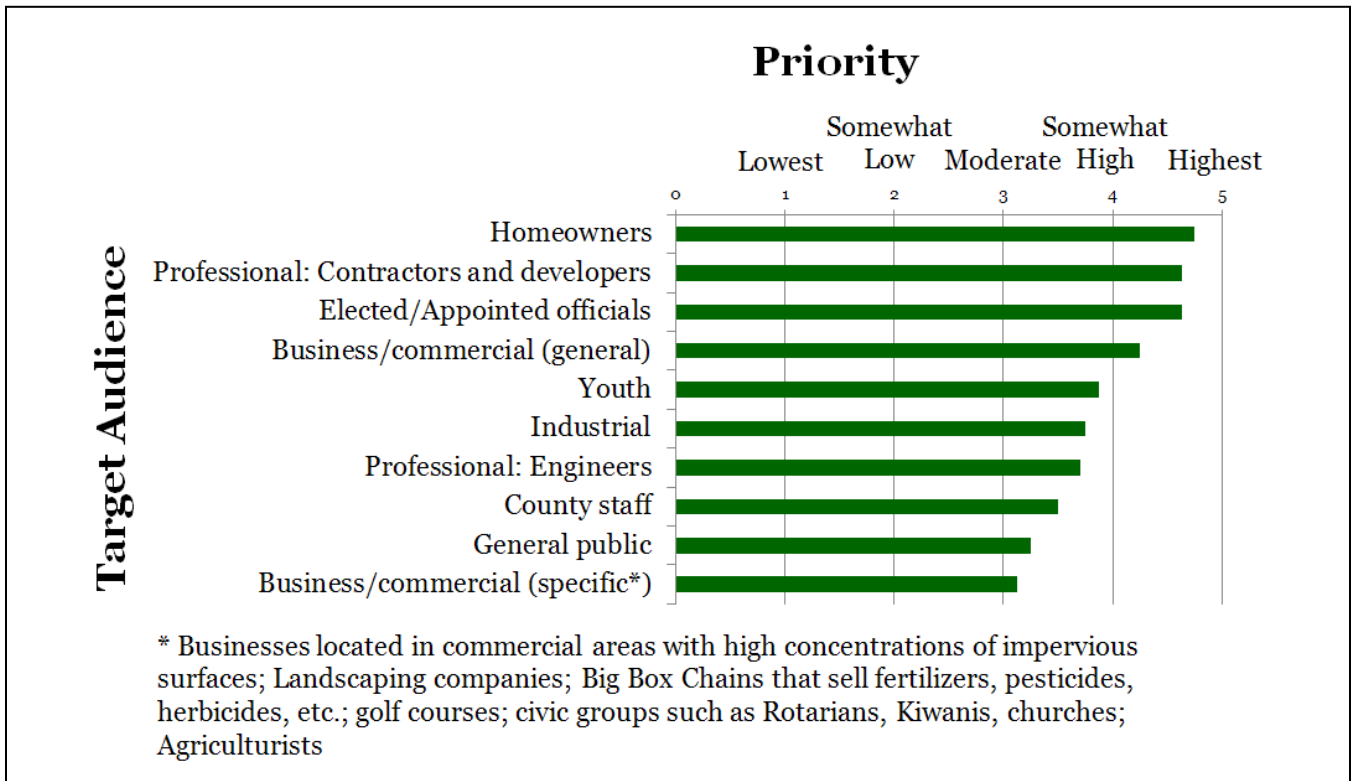


Figure 3. Target audiences, ranked by priority according to a survey of RCSC participants

Discussion

Bacteria and sediment were ranked highest of pollutants of concern. We have several projects already addressing pet waste to deal with bacteria. Related to both of these, for behaviors/sources, sanitary sewer overflows and construction runoff ranked the highest.

Sediment/Construction runoff:

Pam Greenlaw asked about sediment: how to address the issue with SCDHEC guidelines that aren't strict enough and enforcement that isn't thorough enough. We concluded that programs for engineers and homeowners are not the solution. Engineers have enough established programs to provide them with education on sediment control (CEPSCI, etc.), and residential properties, once built, are not a big contributor of sediment. The group agreed the best way to address this is to work with political leaders to establish construction regulations, BMP's and land use planning that will control sediment, and to have more education for contractors and developers. An engineering conference has been proposed in the past for contractors and developers. In addition, inspections may need to be more frequent, and additional training for Richland County staff may be needed. Another related activity would be to continue to promote citizen reporting through the stormwater hotline or the one-stop number. Bank erosion was also brought up in the discussion, but it was concluded that this can be addressed through capital improvement projects, and is not an education issue.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows/Fats, Oils & Grease (FOGs):

FOGs are related to bacteria issues in that they may cause sanitary sewer overflows, and perhaps education efforts on FOGs and bacteria should be combined. Sources of FOGs are primarily residential, according to the City of Columbia's preliminary data. Restaurants have fairly effective grease traps. The main question for discussion was whether to focus on FOGs ourselves or leave this issue to the City of Columbia. We know that they will be starting an education initiative to address this issue soon, and

most of the sewer infrastructure is owned or managed by them. We do not know when this program will begin, or what it will be like. The group was concerned whether the city is going to focus on areas outside city limits. We also do not have any research on whether FOGs are really the main cause of sanitary sewer overflows in Richland County. Keith Anthony stated that he thought we should leave this to the city. GCWA plans to be work with the city on their new FOGs program. What the participants agreed to do for this year's activity plan is to wait and take the time to research the issue and observe City of Columbia's program. If it is decided that the program is adequate for Richland County residents with sewer connections in unincorporated areas, nothing will be done. If not, FOGs will be added to the education plan for 2012-2013, or earlier if deemed necessary. If we do become involved later, Greg Sprouse stated that the Council on Governments can give support on working with sewer providers. Christine Murphy suggested a flyer on FOGs along with water bills.

Keith Anthony mentioned at this point that the county is working on a 10 minute Public Service Announcement, with their Public Information Office. We need to decide what the focus of this should be.

Other sources of pollution:

Reducing impervious surfaces can be addressed by working with the Council of Governments on large scale BMPs, such as the COG's green streets program. Fertilizers and pesticides are another concern that was rated moderately high by the group. The county's inspections offer some education about this, and so does the Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods program, but a training conference for professionals is another possibility we have discussed in the past.

The highest rated target audiences were homeowners, contractors/developers, and elected officials.

Elected and appointed officials:

Keith Anthony suggested a formal meeting with council members and municipal representatives. However, it is hard to get council members to give up the time to participate in something like this. Mary Nevins stated that 5-minute presentations at council meetings were not useful. Pam Greenlaw felt that one-on-one communication was more effective. Quinton Epps stated that when residents contact council members is when they truly takes notice of an issue. Staff comments don't draw high priority. We need to involve residents to bring issues to the council.

One way to do this is through the Gills Creek Watershed Association. The GCWA board has discussed a presentation at County Council. Pam requested help from RCSC on developing resources to make these types of presentations, such as talking points and facts on important issues.

Another possibility was suggested by Keith – use HOA's to target representatives. We could find out which HOA's have council members that regularly attend their meetings. We can plan to target these particular HOA meetings for education presentations with the added benefit of reaching a council member. It was also agreed that certain council members need more education than others. Several are already on board and dedicated to water quality and green issues, while others need a better understanding of the issues.

Greg Sprouse sited the neighborhood improvement program, and suggested we coordinate with neighborhood planners to reach both HOA's and council members. Tia Rutherford would be the contact person for this. GCWA is making presentations to Neighborhood Council in September, and needs assistance planning for this. Keith mentioned that the upcoming decker Mall project may be an opportunity to work with neighborhoods. He also suggested mail-outs as a way to reach people.

General Public:

General public ranked low, and some of our activities for the general public should be re-evaluated for usefulness. One of our main efforts for the general public is attending festivals. Festivals are a big time commitment, but can also be rewarding. While the majority of people do not notice or stop by booths, useful contacts can be made at festivals. For example, GCWA had a representative from the Richland County library notice their booth at an event, and offered to put up a display on GCWA at the library. Give-aways can draw people to a booth and act as education in themselves. Although the county already gives away quite a bit of stuff, we could develop additional RCSC items, and make sure their message is clear.

Schools:

Greg Sprouse asked how we can work with the COG to engage the school districts. The COG would like to work at the school board level to have better management of stormwater on school properties and integrate stormwater education and other environmental issues into the curriculum. Environmental topics are already included in the state science standards. We could use these to develop lessons for teachers, but getting it implemented at a district-wide level may be challenging. Additional brainstorming for managing stormwater at a district level is needed.

3-Year Planning

The last question of the survey asked for comments on RCSC's annual planning process. One comment suggested that we develop a three year activity plan in addition to our annual plan to help us think about our goals with respect to long-term change. The group agreed that this was a good idea but to hold off discussion until our meeting in November. September is a very busy month, and in November our schedules will be less busy and we will be free to put serious thought into the topic.

Mary will use these comments to build an education plan of work for 2011-2012, using last year's plan as a starting point. This draft plan will be emailed to the listserv for review and comments. Once all comments are in, a final version will be sent to the group for approval. Suggestions for specific activities should be sent to Mary as soon as possible.

This concluded the meeting.