

Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

1 PM – 3 PM

USC Green Quad

1216 Wheat St., Columbia, SC

Type of Meeting: Development of Stormwater Education Plan and Decision-Making for the Richland Countywide Stormwater Education Consortium

Meeting Facilitators: Mary Nevins, Clemson Carolina Clear and Keith Anthony, Richland County

1:00-1:10	Welcome & Meeting Purpose	Mary Nevins, Clemson's Carolina Clear
	Introductions	

1:10-1:30	Outreach Activity Updates	All present
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1:30-2:00	Education Plan Round Table Discussion of Stormwater Outreach in Richland County for the 2009-2010 Year	Mary Nevins & Keith Anthony, Richland County DPW
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All should participate!

2:00-2:20	Discussion of Resolution Signing Media Event	Mary Nevins & Srinivas Valavala, Richland County DPW
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2:20 – 2:30	Next Steps	Mary Nevins
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2:30 – 3:00	Tour of USC Green Quad	USC Green Quad Staff
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Meeting Attendance

Srinivas Valavala	Richland County Stormwater
Geoff Smith	BP Barber
Betsy Kaemmerlen	Fuss & O'Neill
Keith Anthony	Richland County Stormwater
Jim Wilson	Richland County Conservation Commission
Joe Kocy	Richland County Planning
David Whiteman	USC Green Quad
Charlie Fisher	Richland Conservation District
Mary Jane Henderson	Richland Conservation District

Ryan Nevius	Sustainable Midlands/RC Master Gardeners
Jessica Artz	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Jason Craig	USC Green Quad
Mary Nevins	Clemson Carolina Clear
Katie Giacalone	Clemson Carolina Clear

Notes from the Meeting

Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium
August 12, 2009 at USC Green Quad

Mary reviewed recent activities:

- Gills Creek Clean up – great media coverage
- Kids Day – 1400 kids reported in the press release
- Community meeting regarding walking trails along Gills Creek into undeveloped piece of property occurred this past week; on agenda for next council meeting
- Srini also announced new stormwater ordinance in Forest Acres

Mary announced that the report will be wrapped up soon; sent to Srini by Friday for his feedback.

Upcoming events:

- Joe Kocy is having 4 public presentations on new stormwater ordinance, every Thursday in September, four different meeting sites from 7-8:30 pm; bagging of leaves and buffers; need advocates for water quality to speak at these meetings
 - Katie will share with Jim Wilson, Ryan Nevius, and Joe Kocy the buffer documents that she has gathered and the article written for the newsletter
 - Mary has committed to attending these public meetings
- Rain Garden Events!
 - Bookman Road Elementary School Rain Garden Workshop – FREE with lunch; City Year folks look for Saturday volunteer activities
 - Richland Master Gardener's have a Rain Garden event at Children's Garden at Sandhill, second edition of this planting. Date TBA.
 - Arcadia Lakes Rain Garden in planning phase; Conservation District grant funded. Potential location at the Temple of Life (member of Green Congregation).
 - David Whiteman announced rain garden planting at Monkey Branch Creek
 - Srini announced Rain Garden at public works building leading up to pond; also installing 18 rain barrels; potential showcase for public education.
 - Ryan Nevius announced rain barrel installation at Sandhill to tie into Children's rain garden; Association has hired an Environmental Educator that will partner with Conservation Station efforts
 - Richland County Parents Commission is installing a rain garden at Exit 12 on I-77
 - Katie suggested having Clemson's Media Writer to do a trend story on all of these rain garden installations.
- Gills Creek Watershed Annual Meeting, members and interested public welcome.
- Stormwater Institute upcoming
- Lobby project at Richland County Administration Building with a follow up rain barrel on fake frontage; October unveiling; 2020 Hampton St.
- Gills Creek Fundraising Event, October 11 from 3-6 with wine and cheese reception following; tickets will be sold for the event; tour of watershed on a bus is the activity
- KMB: several clean ups scheduled for the fall; river sweep coming soon at Riverbanks Zoo

- Stewardship Conference on November 1st at Riverbank Zoo; for faith based organizations in Richland County; promote green congregation initiative which is a countywide program; 2:30 – 6:30 pm
 - Opportunity to have a table at the event (tables are limited)
 - 200 is approx count for audience
- September 1 is a green businesses conference in Columbia; Richland County is a co-sponsor and Katie will be speaking at the conference, therefore these numbers will be included in our annual reporting
- DVD of a 30-second spot on the importance of trees was produced approx two years ago by the Parents Commission, Richland County Conservation Commission and Appearance Commission. Katie will link online as well as share with Clemson's FNR team.

Education Plan for next year – continued from previous meeting:

- Keith announced more than 3,000 storm drain markers placed this summer
 - Continue to promote storm drain marking program
- Beautification Day – Ryan does not believe this is happening this year due to funding problems.
- Rain Barrel sales will continue (KMB rain barrels and composter sale upcoming)
- Can we have articles to HOA's? Mary has made some contacts; Ryan recommended RC Neighborhood Council as the best source for distribution of information; she'll send contact info.
- Tax bill inserts: only annual, so that makes things easier; method of getting information into the home
- Neighborhood Planning Conference – next spring, good opportunity to have a booth and discuss homeowner lawn care; Katie mentioned Carolina Yard & Neighborhood
- Yard of the Month through Master Gardener Association has Water Wise Garden recognition category; applications currently being accepted.
- Jim Wilson mentioned Arcadia Lakes Navy program; Mary gave an update that the meetings are ongoing, need more community buy-in; recommended having him on the agenda to give an update/overview of this program.
- Homeowners: Jessica mentioned a pet waste campaign in a few communities in the Gills Creek Watershed
 - Ryan mentioned putting a pet waste postcard in the dog food aisle at grocery stores; Katie will look into this potential educational avenue
- Commercial Citizens:
 - Joe Kocy said the Greater Columbia Chamber is doing "Good to Great" businesses, Grant Jackson is the contact, VP of Chamber. This would be a great venue for commercial awareness discussions; would welcome the idea of having speakers.
 - Tax bill insert could include a double-sided flyer regarding yard debris getting pushed into the street – one side English, one side Spanish
 - Business Recognition Program: can organize with CEPAC or do an individual program, either way focusing on stormwater and watersheds – those who empower volunteer groups and those who are implementing BMPs
 - Jim Wilson mentioned that he was discussing potential recognition programs for green builders
 - Conservation District could be the one to present this type of award since they already recognize schools, teachers, volunteers, etc. Everyone really loved this idea that Mary Jane suggested.
 - Ryan mentioned the Business License Bureau where you can distribute general stormwater message with folks coming in to renew their business license or get a new license.

The meeting concluded with a tour of the USC Green Quad to look at its innovations in stormwater management, energy conservation, environmentally friendly materials, low impact design, and student involvement in environmental issues. Jason Craig led the tour.