

Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 9, 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 Facilitators: Mary Caflisch, Clemson Carolina Clear & Chenille Williams, Richland County DPW

10:00-10:05	Welcome & Meeting Purpose	Mary Caflisch
10:05-10:15	Outreach Activity Updates	Mary Caflisch
10:15-10:40	Carolina Clear Updates: Telephone survey, mass media and online water resource courses	Katie Giacalone
10:40-11:00	Promoting LID in the Midlands: Updates and discussion	All Present
11:00 -11:25	Pond Management Workshop Discussion	All Present
11:25-11:30	Wrap-Up	Mary Caflisch



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Attendance:

Chenille Williams	Richland County
Jake Broom	Forest Acres
Christine Murphy	Arcadia Lakes
Chanda Cooper	Richland County Conservation District
Erich Miarka	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Bill Stangler	Congaree Riverkeeper
Mary Caflisch	Carolina Clear
Katie Giacalone	Carolina Clear

Minutes:

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

Recent Activities

- Major Summer Events
 - 4-H2O Exploring the Congaree Watershed – July 8-12
 - Summer Celebration of Water – August 24, Riverfront Park. This year’s event was very well done. Attendance seemed lower compared to the previous year due to cloudy weather. The attempted method of tracking attendance with raffle tickets was ineffective, as many people bypassed the table without taking a ticket. 700 raffle tickets were given out, but that was likely just more than half of people present. The highlight of event was being on the water.
 - Conservation District “Where Does Your Water Shed?” Poster Contest – Summer 2013. The winners will be recognized at county council at 6PM next Tuesday. Next year’s theme will be soil (biannual themes).
- Festivals:
 - Richland County Electronics Recycling – Aug. 10, Brookland Baptist Church and Sept. 21, Keenan High School
 - Green is Good for Business Conference – Sept. 10, Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. RCSC hosted a booth on the Partners for Healthy Watersheds program.
 - Carolina Children’s Garden Fountain Dedication – Sept. 13, Sandhill REC
 - Rooftop Rhythms – Sept. 19th, Richland Mall in Forest Acres. Carolina Yards display.
- Cleanups
 - Gills Creek Watershed Association Adopt-a-Highway – August 10, South Beltline Blvd.
 - Keep the Midlands Beautiful River Sweep – Sept. 21st, Saluda at Riverbanks Zoo
 - Congaree Riverkeeper River Sweep – Sept. 21st, Congaree River from Gervais St. to Rosewood boat ramp
 - Rocky Branch Cleanup – Sept. 22nd, Olympia Park
- Presentations for Homeowners:
 - Watershed presentation for Midlands Master Naturalists – September 7
 - Stormwater BMP presentation by GCWA – September 16, Richland Library Cooper Branch. Additional topics to be determined. The next presentation will be in January.
 - GCWA presentation for Palmetto Gardening Club – Sept. 17
 - GCWA presentation for Palmetto Paddlers – Sept. 24
- Enviroscope Presentations
 - Jones Memorial Church Summer Camp – July 22
 - Crooked Creek Park Summer Camp – July 25
 - Brockman Elementary School – Oct. 8 & 10, RCSC and GCWA

- Rain Barrel Workshops:
 - Workshop for Teachers as part of Nature Based Inquiry Summer Institute – July 30, sponsored by Richland Conservation District and USC, 7 barrels made
 - Workshop for SC Conservation District Employees Association training – Sept. 20, Manning, 6 barrels made
 - Workshop for Homeowners – Oct. 3, 13 barrels made
 - Sononco is no longer able to supply barrels. We are trying to identify alternatives. RCSC will pilot a compost bin and rain barrel sale likely this March. Chanda Cooper has volunteered a van that can fit 12 and can transport barrels from Bishopville. We discussed Dak America (formerly Carolina Eastman) as a source, although we would need to be careful about the previous contents. We could potentially purchase barrels from feed supply stores and other retailers.

Upcoming Activities

- Richland County Electronics Recycling – Oct. 12, Zion Mill Creek Baptist Church
- Project Learning Tree Workshop – Oct. 12, USC, sponsored by Richland Conservation District
- Cary Lake Cleanup – Oct. 12, Decker Blvd.
- GCWA Guest Lecture for USC Students – Oct. 15
- Carolina Yards Presentation for Candy Tuft Garden Club – Oct. 15
- Rocky Branch Bash – Oct. 20, Noon-6:00, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Admission is free, but RBWA is selling rubber ducks for fundraising. There will be entertainment, food and wine for purchase.
- Rooftop Rhythms – Oct. 24, Richland Mall, with GCWA display
- Blythefest – Oct. 25 & 26, Blythewood. Richland County Stormwater will set up their booth, and Mary will assist on Saturday.
- GCWA Adopt a Highway – Nov. 9, South Beltline Blvd.
- Enviroscape Presentation for Joseph Keels After-school Program – Nov. 20
- Green Steps training – October 10. Chanda and Mary are both mentors, assisting schools with rain barrels, gardens, and other related projects.
- GCWA Annual Members Meeting – Nov. 14

Ongoing Projects

Stormwater Awareness Commercials

Four commercials were filmed in August and are currently in editing. The topics for the commercials are pet waste, construction runoff, lawn care, and littering.

Partners for Healthy Watersheds

The Partners for Healthy Watersheds program has its first applicant: Forest Lake Presbyterian Church. Mary is currently developing a staff training PowerPoint, and will provide additional education materials for distribution. Mary will be calling businesses to solicit participation over the next few weeks. Chanda recommended Gardener's Outpost as a potential participant. The group discussed the design for the window decals, and agreed to edit to "2013 PARTNER" across top of window decal. Mary also showed the draft certificate. The group decided to edit it to remove "..., South Carolina."

Reducing FOGs

RC is now accepting used cooking oil at two sites (Lower Richland drop off site and the C&D landfill site), and will soon be adding a third site at the Clemson Road recycling center, once they address a staffing concern.

Statewide Updates

Katie presented updates on the on telephone survey instrument, media and online watershed management and protection courses in development.

The telephone survey for the Richland area has begun. Carolina Clear worked with Clemson's Sociology department to develop a set of questions, using the questions that we submitted to them last fall. The survey was presented to a 100 citizen pilot group, and a few changes were made based on the results of the pilot survey. A media release was sent out two weeks ago. The phone calls for our region will be wrapping up by Oct. 24th. Calls are now starting in the other consortium areas throughout the state. The 2013 survey responses will be compared with the responses from the 2009 phone survey, as well as with the responses collected in other regions of the state.

Mass Media: Carolina Clear has a new commercial for the Carolina Yards program. It is currently airing on Time Warner Cable through the end of October. The commercial is a marketing piece rather than an informational piece, designed to sell the Carolina Yards concept and direct people to the many resources available on the Carolina Yards website.

Carolina Clear is developing several online water resource courses. These include Stormwater BMP Certification, Master Pond Manager Certification, Landscaper/Contractor Certification, and Watershed Management.

Encouraging Low Impact Design (LID)

The new Open Space Code was approved by Richland County Council at 3rd reading. This language provides density based incentives for conserving open space and incorporating LID. The code lists LID techniques as the preferred BMPs for stormwater managements. Mary has contacted the Greater Columbia Home Builders Association and Columbia Green Building Council. Bin Wilcenski with the CGBC was very positive about LID and wants to encourage it, but is not sure why developers are not more willing to use LID in projects. He said that he would do some research and get back in touch.

Richland County is planning a bioretention and infiltration BMP installation at the RC Administration Building, headed by Buddy Atkins with the Environmental Planning Division. The timeline for the installation is uncertain. The design has been completed, and now they are waiting to hear from the facilities department which parts of design will be implemented. Erich Miarka informed the group that Richland County is also doing a BMP implementation at Owens Park, to be designed by Fuss & O'Neill. This will most likely include one or more bioretention cells, along with walking trails and signage. The project is supported by a grant that GCWA applied for from EPA. The grant has been approved by SCDHEC, but is awaiting final approval from the EPA. In addition, Chenille Williams reported that as part of implementation of the Crane Creek Watershed Plan, BMPs will be installed at schools within the watershed. As these projects are completed, signage can be installed. Katie showed the group the new rain garden, stormwater pond and ditch signage available to consortium. For already existing projects, Mary is working on getting data entered into the LID Atlas. Many current entries need their photos updated as well.

Mary recently attended the Growing Sustainable Communities conference in Dubuque Iowa. She shared some lessons from the conference. Dubuque, Iowa is a small city with only about 60,000 people, but have done a lot to meet a stormwater consent decree from US EPA. The city has many low-lying neighborhoods near the banks of the Mississippi River which floods frequently.

The redevelopment of Dubuque's Historic Millworks District includes "complete streets" with pervious parking spots along the roadside. Interlocking pervious pavers were also used for the

courtyard of a set of renovated buildings converted to mixed commercial and residential use. Pervious pavement has been installed in alleys in downtown areas. 9 alleys are completed to date, which is solving drainage issues. These have been so successful that Dubuque plans to install 73 more over next 13 years. They found that streets are not freezing, and they are reducing snow removal time and costs. Community pride has increased, resulting in lowered trash accumulation.

To increase stormwater storage capacity and drainage, Dubuque is in the process of a large stream restoration project in the Bee Branch Watershed. They created a constructed wetland/detention area in upper watershed and are daylighting Bee Branch in the lower watershed. The stream daylighting and restoration includes the creation of linear park with multi-use trails and bank stabilization with native prairie grasses and wildflowers. During the planning process, Dubuque sought community input, and got a great deal of support for the project from the citizens of the watershed. For our information, we need to follow up with the city on the cost research of stream daylighting, greenways and green alleys to find out who is doing that study for them, if it has been done.

The take away messages from the conference were as follows. 1. Municipalities still lead the way in installation versus developers. 2. Well-designed LID practices are not more costly than traditional development methods. 3. Focus on profits to encourage developers or create ordinances that mandate LID. 4. Citizens preferred LID for its appearance and recreational benefits.

Going forward in Richland County, Chenille Williams will meet with Will Simon (new development staff in county) this Friday. Mary will join the meeting to discuss introducing consortium objectives with developer audiences.

Pond Management Workshop

Quinton has requested outreach addressing homeowners in the floodplain and pond management. GCWA is wanting to do a lake summit, which would focus on encouraging neighborhoods to lower lake levels to provide increased stormwater storage and treatment time. GCWA is working with Richland County to develop a private pond maintenance policy. This would establish responsibilities for maintenance of privately owned stormwater ponds. They want to quantify stormwater treatment in the Forest Lake watershed, similar to Charlotte's matrix. In other words, what value of service do privately owned ponds provide to the County in terms of stormwater storage and treatment? Can this be used to determine a cost-sharing program for maintenance of these ponds? They are looking to get this policy accepted by council. GCWA is also planning a lake summit, similar to the pond conference being discussed. The RCSC group agreed to wait on the pond conference/lake summit for the time being so that information from the new private pond policy could be included. In the meantime, Mary suggested that the spring Carolina Yards series include a segment on life in the floodplain and shoreline concerns. This would lead into what GCWA wants to do with Lake Summit.

Conclusion

With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50. The next meeting will be January 8th.