

# **Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium**

## **Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, October 17, 2012  
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 & Keith Anthony, Richland County DPW

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10:00-10:10	Welcome & Meeting Purpose	Mary Caflisch
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10:10-10:25	Outreach Activity Updates	Mary Caflisch
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10:25-10:40	Review of RCSC 3-Year Strategic Plan Final Draft	Mary Caflisch
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10:40-11:25	2013 Carolina Clear Telephone Survey – Develop Regional Survey Questions	All present
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11:25 – 11:30	Wrap-Up	Mary Caflisch
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## **Attendance:**

Mary Caflisch	Carolina Clear
Christine Murphy	Arcadia Lakes
Kelli Resler	AMEC
Chanda Cooper	Richland County Conservation Department
Pamela Greenlaw	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Hannah Fox	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Erich Miarka	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Bill Stangler	Congaree Riverkeeper
Jake Broom	Forest Acres
Keith Anthony	Richland County Stormwater

## **Minutes:**

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

### ***Recent Activities***

- Presentation for SPLASH summer program for children of refugees – July 12
- EPA Rapid Bio-assessment Protocol Workshop – July 18-19, GCWA, Riverkeeper, RBWA, and others participated
- Gills Creek Membership Celebration – July 22, Lake Carolina Lake House
- Richland 101 for Kids – July 26, Dutch Square Mall
- Richland County Recreation Commission Summer Programs – July 30, 31 & August 3
- Rain Barrel Workshop for Teachers – July 31 (Richland County Conservation District): 32 teachers, 12 barrels made.
- Presentation for Palmetto Health Prime Time retirees program – Aug. 7, Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital
- GCWA Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup – Aug. 25, South Beltline Boulevard
- Summer Celebration of Water – August 25, Riverfront Park
  - Stage entertainment
  - Multiple food vendors
  - More mass media advertising compared to previous years
  - Hands-on activities by all exhibitors
- Integrated Pest Management Workshop – Sept. 13, 50 attendees from across the state, presented by Richland, Orangeburg, and Calhoun Conservation Districts; targeted to agricultural producers
- Green is Good for Business Conference – Sept. 18, Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
- Rooftop Rhythms – Sept. 27, Richland Mall
- Rain Barrel Workshop – Oct. 4, Sandhill REC, 12 participants, 10 barrels made
- Soil Quality presentations to Horrell Hill Elementary, Oct. 8-9, by Conservation District, approx. 80 third grade participants, discussed erosion
- Enviroscape presentations to Harmony School – Oct. 12, by Conservation District, approx. 50 preschool participants, discussed runoff, pollution, and how students can protect water quality
- Neighborhood Planning Conference – Oct. 13, Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

### ***Upcoming Activities***

- Congaree Riverkeeper Clean Water Act 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Oct. 18, 5:30 – Happy Hour at 2108 State Street Bar and Grill, Cayce
- Soil Quality presentation to Round Top Elementary – Oct. 18, by Conservation District
- Rooftop Rhythms – Oct. 25, Richland Mall, with Gills Creek Watershed Association
- GCWA Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup – Nov. 3, South Beltline Boulevard
- Bookman Rd. Elementary Outdoor Classroom Work Day – Nov. 3, new plants for rain garden, possibly installing rain barrels
- Farmville at EdVenture – Nov. 3, GCWA and Conservation district will both have booths

### ***Ongoing Projects***

- Carolina Clemson Rain Barrel Art Contest
  - Richland County, Lexington County, City of Columbia & Keep the Midlands Beautiful
  - Students grade 6-12 decorate rain barrels
  - Two winning classes will receive \$300 for and eco project or art supplies for their school and a tour of the USC Athletic Facility
  - Deadline to request a barrel Oct. 26
  - Barrels will be auctioned online. Proceeds will go toward KMB Adopt-A-Waterway program and the 2013 Summer Celebration of Water
- Future Cities Competition – Dent Middle School, Fall & Winter 2012
  - Mentors from GCWA, RC Stormwater, Carolina Clear, Conservation District
  - Students redesign their city (Columbia) around solving stormwater issues
    - Computer simulation using Sim City 4
    - Models of city built and recycled materials to build models of their city
    - Essay and oral presentation
  - Stormwater 101 Presentation, Oct. 1
  - Walking tour of stormwater infrastructure, Oct. 31

There were a few additional programming notes. Richland County's Sunnyside Drive project is not completed, because they are still working to obtain easements from the residents. Chanda Cooper requested stormwater bookmarks, magnets, or similar items for distribution to kids when she visits schools. It was mentioned that Columbia and Richland County need clearer protocols for sanitary sewer overflow reporting. A desirable system would be available to take calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and work whether the overflow is in the city or the county. AMEC is working to develop a watershed plan for the Twenty-five Mile Creek watershed, with a 319 grant from SCDHEC. Kershaw County is the primary grant recipient and Richland County is a partner. They will provide more details following the first stakeholder meeting. AMEC would like to be added to the RCSC education partner list.

### ***Review of RCSC 3-Year Strategic Plan Draft***

The group reviewed the draft of the 3-Year Strategic Plan, sent out a few days prior to the meeting. There were a few comments related to the report, but overall it was well received. Partners are encouraged to send additional comments to Mary as they have more time to review the document.

- It should be clear that this plan is flexible and can be modified to reflect changes in opportunities and priorities as they arise.
- It should be made clear that new partners are added continuously.

### ***2013 Carolina Clear Telephone Survey – Developing Regional Survey Questions***

In 2009 Carolina Clear conducted a telephone survey of residents in areas with active Carolina Clear stormwater education consortiums, assessing environmental attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors. In the fall of 2013, Carolina Clear will repeat this survey with modifications reflecting what was learned from the 2009 survey. The goals of the survey are to:

- Compare 2013 findings to results from 2009
- Measure the success of our past efforts
- Gather insights on target audience behavior
- Determine needs and priorities for further efforts

The goal of this meeting's discussion was to develop a set of regional questions to be asked to Midland residents. The length of the survey is a major issue, so keeping questions concise and highly targeted is essential. The group asked if cell phone numbers would be included in the survey. Only landlines were called in 2009. Mary wasn't certain if cell phones were to be added (update-cell phones will not be included in the survey). For a better understanding of what needed to be asked regionally, the group first discussed the main body of questions.

To increase the rate of completion of the survey, two suggestions for made. The first was to add an incentive, such as entry into a raffle for a prize or something small for all participants. There was uncertainty over whether this was allowed, or if it would cause bias. Another suggestion was to tell participants periodically how many sections they had left to help people stay focused and finish the survey.

The following comments related to specific questions as indicated.

- #27 "How often do you...Utiliz[e] natural areas for hiking, walking, hunting?" The group was concerned about including hunting with hiking and walking. They suggested rewriting as "hiking, walking, or hunting?"
- #54 This new question gets at the idea of the link between water, tourism and the economy. The wording is still being worked out. The group was concerned that including so many numbers in this question ("14 billion in total economic impact," "1.1 billion in local tax revenues," etc.) might be leading or might bias the question. Their suggestion was to keep the question general, with phrases such as "Should public money be invested..." "Do you think enough is being done to protect waterways and encourage tourism," etc.
- Should litter be included in question #6? It seems that people tend to think of litter as having a very damaging effect on the environment, and rank it of more concern than other pollutants that actually cause more damage.

For the regional-specific questions for the Midlands area, the following comments were made.

- For the question about how people get their news, include internet, news websites, social media and word of mouth" as options.
- New question: "What sorts of meetings do you rely on for news and information? HOA/NA, local government meetings, professional meetings, social clubs, organizational meetings."
- #56 More clearly define greenways, and change "your community" to "a community" so there is no confusion from whether or not a community already has greenways.
- #57 is awkward and needs to be simplified. Change "directly absorbs" to "directly receives."
- New question: "Who would you contact to report a stormwater or water pollution concern?"

This concluded the meeting. The next RCSC meeting will be Wednesday January 9, 2013.