

Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 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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10:10-10:20	Outreach Activity Updates	All present
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10:20-10:35	Needs for Education Materials	All present
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10:35-11:25	3-Year Education Plan Discussion	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
Pamela Greenlaw	Gills Creek Watershed Association
Mary Nevins	Carolina Clear

Minutes:

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

Recent Events

- Keep the Midlands Beautiful River Sweep 2011 – Sept. 17, Saluda River at Riverbanks Zoo
- Presentation for SC Nursery & Landscape Association Fall Field Day – Sept. 28, Sandhills REC
- Conservation Station – Sept. 29 & 30, Sandhills REC
- Rain barrel workshop – Oct. 8, Sandhills REC
- Gills Creek Watershed Association Annual meeting and Wine for Water Fundraiser – Oct. 20, Rockbridge Country Club
- Display at Touch a Truck event – Oct. 20 Rice Creek Elementary
- Richland County Neighborhood Conference – Oct. 22, Richland County Archives & History Center. GCWA had a display in the kids area (a new feature this year, supervised by City Year volunteers).
- Stormwater management presentation at Summit Middle Career Day – Oct. 22
- Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods Presentation – Oct. 26, Shepherd Center
- Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods Presentation – Oct. 27, Woodlands Green HOA
- GCWA Adopt a Highway – Nov. 5, South Beltline Blvd.

Upcoming Events

- Richland County Recycles Day – Nov. 12, Clemson Sandhills REC
- Cleanups through Sustainable Carolina & Net Impacts – Nov. 13, Rocky Branch & Gills Creek. The Gills Creek cleanup location will be near the old Taco Bell across from K Mart on Devine Street. Reception at Green Quad following.
- Construction General Permit Information Session and Public Hearing – This is not a consortium event, but will be useful information for many of our partners. Mary will send a reminder and link to the draft permit on SCHEC's website.
- Development Symposium: Planning regulations review – Nov. 18 Midlands Tech 9AM – 2PM. Planning department is taking the lead on this event.
- Pet waste brochures distributed to veterinarians and pet supply stores.
- GCWA presentation to County Council on the grant they received from AT&T for their iPhone ranger program – Nov. 15, Richland County Administration Building

Ongoing Projects

- Business Recognition Program – meeting with students from Net Impact club at USC
- i-Phone Ranger initiative – Gills Creek Watershed Association, starting September
- Year 3 Annual Report

A new resource is available: Clemson Extension Pond Management Website, http://www.clemson.edu/extension/natural_resources/water/stormwater_ponds/. This site provides information on common stormwater pond issues, including nuisance wildlife, aquatic weeds, water quality, and other problems. When receiving calls from homeowner associations or others dealing with stormwater ponds, you can direct them to this website for information on correcting their issue.

Needs for Brochures and Other Outreach Materials

Winter is a perfect time for creating new outreach materials, so Mary called for requests from the group. Pre-construction conference brochures had been mentioned previously, but the County already has these, so Carolina Clear does not need to do them.

The group felt something was needed something for landscapers. Richland County has PHF brochure and bookmark, but something more eye-catching might be useful. Pam Greenlaw expressed interest in something encouraging native plants, but the group concluded that is beyond the scope of our work at this time. The Richland County landscaping ordinance already specifies what kind of plants can be used. With inspections and a possible landscaping conference, some kind of summary handout for landscapers would be useful.

In next year's education plan, we will add a "Talking Water Quality" booklet, similar in format to Richland County's "Talking Trash" booklet, a concise but comprehensive guide to pollution prevention for citizens.

No other materials are needed at this time.

3-Year Strategic Plan Discussion.

The group decided at the July consortium meeting that RCSC would benefit from a 3-year strategic plan to clarify our goals, outline steps for multi-year efforts and give direction to our annual education plan of work. At this meeting we began work on the strategic plan by brainstorming elements it should include and where we wanted to be in the next three years. We started the discussion by reviewing the mission and goals statements developed in 2009. The group felt we may need to revisit these at a future meeting. For instance, it makes sense to rephrase the mission to say "support the restoration of impaired waterways and protection of healthy waterways" rather than "support the restoration and protection of healthy waterways."

The purpose of the three year plan was discussed as compared to the goals and mission statement that we already have, and also as compared to the annual education plan of work. The goals statements set up the continuous purpose of this organization, a general direction and strategy, rather than specific objectives. These goals will always be relevant, but contain no specific actions to be taken. They define why and how we will work. In contrast, the annual education plan is an action item list of tasks to be completed within the year. The three-year plan will establish a longer term strategy with goals that will take more than one year to complete that can be then broken down into shorter yearly steps. These steps will be outlined in the 3-year plan, then broken down again into specific programs in the annual education plan.

Priority Pollutants

We agreed that our greatest priority was to produce education and public involvement efforts to address pollutants causing TMDL and 303d listings for water bodies in Richland County. These pollutants include fecal coliform bacteria, low dissolved oxygen, & mercury. The TMDL for dissolved oxygen specifies ammonia and biological oxygen demand as the primary causes of low DO. Mercury does not have any stormwater-related sources. The other pollutants have numerous sources, so our efforts need to be broad to address all possible sources.

Currently, we are dealing with fecal bacteria through pet waste campaigns, and we are beginning a new campaign for sewer overflows. Both involve a number of audiences and delivery methods, and

will be multi-year efforts. Recently, Mary attempted to call one of the major sewer providers for the county to learn if they already provided any information to the public on reporting sanitary sewer overflows, but received a very poor response from the company. Gregory Sprouse with the Central Midlands Council of Governments said that the COG's Environmental Planning Committee includes most of the major sewer providers. He felt one of these meetings would be a good opportunity to speak to them, and offered to put Carolina Clear on the agenda for an upcoming meeting. Richland County will also be having a meeting of the sewer providers sometime in the next 5-6 months, and Carolina Clear could speak at that meeting as well. Our purpose would be to find out what education they already provide, and what opportunities exist to use them to deliver information to the public (for instance, inserts in sewer bills).

Priority Watersheds

Priority watersheds are another area that will take many years to address. Gills Creek Watershed Association has their own strategic plan, and is doing an excellent job providing education and public involvement opportunities. The Crane Creek Watershed was targeted in 2009-2010 but efforts have slowed down due to lack of public interest. Future meetings are currently being delayed, but Keith Anthony plans to create a newsletter to keep citizens informed and show that this initiative has not been abandoned. That may be ready by the first of next year. Srinivas Valavala commented that we should acknowledge the people that volunteered for committees and leadership to maintain their involvement.

Other watersheds to be targeted in the future include Hollingshed and Nicholas watersheds. For the Hollingshed Watershed, the county is currently developing a management plan, and then will look at the creation of a watershed association. Nicholas watershed will be the next watershed to be addressed once efforts for Hollingshed are underway.

It was suggested that an organization be found to oversee and unite all the watershed associations in the area. Jessica Artz expressed concern that as new watershed associations are formed (Crane Creek, Rocky Branch, Smith Creek, etc.) these groups may compete with each other for grants and attention instead of working together towards a common goal of improved water quality for the region. Congaree Riverkeeper, Richland County, DHEC, and the COG, were all proposed as possibly being able to serve that purpose.

Partners

It was mentioned that the Appearance Commission should be brought into the consortium as well. Mary will work to include them in the future, although they already have representatives on the listserv.

We will continue the discussion of the 3-year plan over the next two months via email, so that we are in a better position to continue work at the next consortium meeting in January. Mary will research the strategic plans of similar organizations to better understand the content and development of a 3-year plan. She will also be contacting individual partners for their input on the plan.

This concluded the meeting. The next RCSC meeting will be January 11, 2012.