

Richland Countywide Stormwater Consortium

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

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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	Introductions	
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10:10-10:20	Outreach Activity Updates	All present
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10:20-10:30	Media Update: New TV Commercial	Mary Nevins
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10:30-11:00	Model Projects: Charity Car Wash program, Pond Clinics, Rain Gardens for Professionals	Mary Nevins
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11:00-11:25	Reducing Bacteria: Next Steps	All present
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11:25 – 11:30	Wrap-Up	Mary Nevins
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Notes from the Meeting

Attendance:

Keith Anthony	Richland County Stormwater	Amanda Ley	SCDHEC
Shaun Greenwood	Forest Acres	Pam Greenlaw	GCWA
Christine Murphy	Arcadia Lakes	Mary Nevins	Carolina Clear

Minutes:

The meeting began with a brief review of recent and upcoming activities:

Recent Education Activities

- September 3 & 8 – Enviroscope at the Carolina Children’s Garden
- September 14 – Green is Good for Business Conference
- Sept. 18 – River Sweep at Riverbanks Zoo
- Sept. 22 – “Gardening for Water Quality” for retirees at Sheppard Center
- Sept. 25 – Forest Acres Green Festival
- October 2 – Richland County Neighborhood Planning Conference
- October 6-7 – South Carolina Water Resources Conference
- October 17 – Gills Creek Watershed Association Annual Meeting
- November 2 – Rain Barrel Workshop for Master Gardeners
- November 13 – America Recycles Day

Upcoming Education Activities

- Career Day at Dent Middle School – Nov. 19, 8am-2pm
- Lake Katharine Cleanup – Nov. 20, 9am-12pm
- Rain Barrel Workshop – Dec. 11, 10am-3pm, Sandhills REC
- Presentations for Arbor Day with speaker Tim Wolmack – Dec. 3. (I need to confirm that this will related to water quality)

Extra trees are available from Arbor Day projects that we may be able to use for soil or bank stabilization projects. The problem is that we need to identify sites to plant them in. They need to be watered frequently until they are established. Jim Olson is the primary contact person.

We had planned to watch the draft of the new water quality public service announcement from Carolina Clear (starring Keith Anthony!). Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, the video could not be played at the meeting and instead was emailed afterwards. The final video should be completed soon, needing only a small amount of editing. A billboard image will be created to go along with the new video. Even though we cannot use billboards in Richland County, we brainstormed other ways of using the image. Shaun Greenwood will look into advertising on busses. The benches at bus stations are also a possibility. This is handled through “Creative Outdoor Advertising,” a firm that contracts w/ DOT. Posters are also an option. The group ruled out displaying posters at the public works building because people do not go there frequently enough, but perhaps they could be displayed at the administrative building.

Next we discussed several interesting projects being piloted in other stormwater consortiums that we may want to implement here in Richland County.

- Charity Car Wash program (Lexington County)
 - Encourage groups to not hold car washes

- Local car wash businesses donate discount coupons that charity groups can sell.
- Mass mail to churches and schools
- Considering offering kits to protect storm drains, including low-phosphorous soaps
- Mobile car washes are another issue. These businesses come to your location and wash the cars their. Keith will look into their licensing and what precautions they might or might not be taking for runoff.
- What alternatives can we offer charities where the volunteers (kids, generally) can actually work and do something rather than selling more stuff? Rain barrel building is a possibility.
- Pond Management Workshop (Sumter County)
 - Topics Covered: Types of fish and stocking rates; fertilizer and lime; aquatic weed identification; herbicides
 - Target pond owners, particularly those interested in raising fish
 - Could be modified to include more information relevant to HOA's instead
 - There are over 800 ponds in Richland County that the county is responsible for inspecting
 - Keith could talk about inspections and what the county looks for.
 - We will try to gage citizen interest in pond workshops before we decide whether to offer one.
- Rain Garden Workshop for Professionals (Lexington County)
 - Offered Continuing education credits for engineers, landscape architects, pesticide operators, foresters and arborists
 - 40 attendees, mostly engineers
 - Detailed, technical, particularly in calculating size needed
 - In a related note, the Tree of Life needs volunteers to replace and spread mulch, Carolyn Hudson is the contact for this.

Our last topic of discussion was how to expand our bacteria programs.

- The current initiatives are focused on pet waste:
 - Pet waste brochures: given out at festivals, distributed to veterinarians, mailed with pet registration renewals
 - Pet waste signs at parks and facilities
- We brainstormed about where else we could utilize brochures and signs
 - These could be put up at apartment complexes, animal shelters, adoption agencies, pet stores.
 - The animal shelter on shop road is already being supplied with brochures from the county.
- We also need to move beyond pet waste and target other bacteria sources.
- Septic tanks:
 - Encourage septic tank service companies to offer discount coupons for services? DHEC may have a list of companies licensed to service septic tanks, or we could just use the yellow pages. If we do this, we should coordinate with DHEC.
 - Other ways to reach people with information on maintaining their septic systems might be to go through churches or give literature to businesses to distribute.
- Geese and waterfowl.
 - It was suggested that we find organizations that offer wildlife meat for people in poverty – they might be interested in shooting some of the many geese in the county. However, they probably would not remove enough animals in this way to have much of an impact.
 - Another option is to educate the public about leaving a small buffer of bushes and tall grasses around ponds to discourage geese.

This concluded the meeting. The next Richland County Stormwater Consortium meeting will be January 12 at 10:00.

Thank you to everyone who participated!