



Sumter Stormwater Solutions

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, January 15, 2013
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
North Hope Center
904 North Main St
Sumter, SC 29150

Purpose of Meeting: Continuing Development of Stormwater Education Plan and Decision-Making for Sumter Stormwater Solutions

Meeting Facilitators: Mary Caflisch & Jolie Brown, Clemson Carolina Clear

10:00 – 10:05	Welcome & Meeting Purpose	Mary Caflisch
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10:05-10:20	Outreach Activity Updates	Mary Caflisch
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10:20 – 10:35	Pet Waste Outreach Update	Jolie Brown
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10:35 – 11:00	Spring Activity Scheduling – Festivals, Workshops and Events	All Present
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11:00 – 11:25	Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods Presentation Series Discussion	All present
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11:25 – 11:50	Rain Barrel Art Contest for Schools Discussion	All Present
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11:50 – 12:00	Wrap-up	Mary Caflisch
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Notes from the Meeting

Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
TJ Yarber	Sumter Soil & Water Conservation District
Geoff Smith	URS
Josh Castleberry	Central Carolina Tech
Teige Elliot	City of Sumter
John Merkel	Sumter County Parks and Recreation
Cheryl Johnson	Sumter County
Peter Wilson	Sumter County
Dan Geddings	Sumter County
Claudia Rainey	Sumter City-County Planning
Mary Cafilisch	Carolina Clear
Jolie Brown	Carolina Clear
Katie Giacalone	Carolina Clear

Minutes

Outreach Activity Updates

This was followed by review of recent activities:

- Annual Report Completed
- Rain Garden Volunteer Workday – Dec. 5, Patriot Park
- Pet waste brochures delivered to veterinary offices and pet supply stores
- Doggie bandanas distributed by PetCo
- Crestwood High School Lunch to Learn – Jan. 10

Upcoming activities are as follows:

- Sumter Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting – Jan. 17, presenting pet waste station project proposal
- Storm drain marking with St. Francis Xavier High School – Jan. 30
- Cleanup at Shot Pouch Creek – February 16
- Rain Barrel Workshop – March 7
- Hornaday Award Weekend for Boy Scouts – March 9, Sumter fairgrounds
- Cleanup at Turkey Creek – March 16

Pet Waste Outreach Update

Jolie Brown has been working with the Sumter County Parks and Recreation Department on a plan to install pet waste disposal stations at Dillon Park. Dillon Park already has pet waste stations, and a small sign that says pick up after pets. However, the bag dispensers are broken and need to be replaced. Jolie shared handouts detailing where the stations would be located within the park, as well as options for pet waste stations to purchase. Jolie proposed that Carolina Clear purchase the bag dispensers, and the Sumter Soil and Water Conservation District would be responsible for purchasing the bags and refilling the stations as needed. Park staff would make sure the pet waste was removed often and let the SCWD know when the bags needed to be refilled. Jolie has presented this proposal to the Parks and Recreation Department, and they are in agreement. She will be

presenting the proposal to the SCWD board on January 17th. TJ Yarber, representing the SCWD at the SSS meeting, is supportive of the project.

Dillon Park is an optimal location for pet waste disposal stations because it already gets heavy use by dog owners. There are a number of apartment complexes within walking distance, making it attractive to dog owners. If the installation at Dillon Park is successful, the Parks Department would also like to see pet waste stations installed at Patriot Park. Patriot Park is the county's newest park, and work is currently being done to increase the mileage of walking trails there and encouraged usage. The park is already used by dog owners, and pet waste may be a problem in the future. Plans are also being made to eventually build a designated dog park at Cypress Park. When the pet waste station installation at Dillon Park is complete, Sumter Stormwater Solutions will put together press releases to raise awareness of the new stations and encourage use. It would also be beneficial to organize a grand opening event, including giveaways, such as the new doggie bandanas.

Spring Activity Scheduling

Festivals

Sumter Stormwater Solutions will be attending Earth Day events at Oakland Primary (Jolie) and Cherryvale Elementary (Mary) on April 22. The SWCD will be at Cherryvale as well. In addition, SCWD has been asked to participate in Earth Day activities at Wilder Elementary and Shaw Air Force Base. City of Sumter's Earth Day Celebration will be on April 20 at Swan Lake, in the Bland Garden area. Sumter Stormwater Solutions will have a booth. The Sumter Iris Festival will be May 24-26th. Sumter Stormwater Solutions will have a booth, but most likely only on Saturday.

Cleanups:

Several cleanups are planned for spring. At the River Sweep cleanup event at Shot Pouch Creek in September, there was a significant amount of trash in the middle of the stream that was not accessible. The group agreed to hold a cleanup on February 16, at which we can use kayaks and waders to reach this trash. The cleanup will start where Shot Pouch crosses Guiniard, pending approval from the neighboring business owner (Ozzies at the Rustic Market) to allow us to use their parking lot for volunteers. Advertise palmetto pride hotline for illegal dumping.

The group agreed on March 16 as the date of our SSS Earth Day cleanup. The location will be Turkey Creek near Lamira Elementary. This location was considered for last spring's cleanup. The South Sumter Neighborhood Association will be contacted to help build support for the cleanup in that part of town. This location is within the City of Sumter. Teige Elliot agreed to arrange for the City to collect trash picked up by the volunteers.

An additional cleanup was tentatively planned for May or later for Snake Creek in the county. Where Snake Creek crosses the road is a school bus drop off location for Chestnut Oaks Middle School and Crestwood High School. Katie Giacalone mentioned a new sign idea that she has been working on "Meet your stormwater ditch." The sign would explain to the public the purpose of a stormwater ditch and the important of keeping it clear from debris. The sign would be intended for pedestrians, not to be read from vehicles on the road. This location might be a good spot to test out such sign. Jolie also plans to develop a temporary sign to put up after cleanups, to make the public aware that a cleanup had taken place recently, thanking volunteers, and discouraging future littering.

The Manchester State Forest cleanup and is organized by Sumter County public works. It usually takes place in the spring, but a date has not been set for 2013.

Workshops

The date of the rain barrel workshop was set for March 7, from 4:00-7:00. We can advertise for the cleanup on March 16th at the rain barrel workshop. Mary is still working on a local source for

barrels, because Pepsi is no longer donating them. Any suggestions would be appreciated. Barrels can be purchased if needed, but that would raise the price of the workshops.

Sumter County has finalized a rain garden sign to be installed at Patriot Park. The sign shows the layout of the garden, including plant names. It was designed by Cheryl Johnson, and looks very nice. The sign will be installed sometime in May, with a brief dedication ceremony. SSS will plan a volunteer garden maintenance day prior to the dedication to make sure the garden is looking its best.

The group discussed doing some shorescaping around the pond at Patriot Park. The erosion is pretty bad, and in some places is undermining the sidewalk. One option discussed was planting native grass seeds with a coir erosion fabric to stabilize the slopes. The coir fabric is very expensive, so it may not be feasible to do use it around the entire edge of the pond, but areas most in need of erosion control could be identified. Hydroseeding is another option. There was some question as to whether the native grass seeds could be used in the hydroseed mixture. Other native plants could be used for other areas, as needed. Claudia Rainey stated that she has a source for the seed. This would be an excellent opportunity to hold a shorescaping workshop for the public, targeting private pond owners, homeowners associations, and golf course managers.

Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods Speaker Series Discussion

We had originally planned to hold a Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods speaker this spring, but March and April are already very busy with planned events. We discussed planning the series for May or later in the summer. There was concern that summer would be a difficult time to attract participants, and was also rather late in the year for gardening. The group agreed to wait and move the speaker series to February for next year, 2014.

Rain Barrel Art Contest for Schools

SSS will host a rain barrel art competition for schools this spring. The group decided to open the competition to all grade levels (elementary, middle, and high school) and to both public and private schools. The barrels should be decorated with the theme "Earth Day." This theme is broad enough to allow a great deal of possibilities, but gives the schools a place to start. In order to spread the word about the program, Mary will first contact Heidi Adler, who is the art at Sumter High School. She is a very active teacher and will get other teachers excited about participating. Mary and Jolie will contact the art teachers directly by phone and email. We will also have printed flyers for them.

SSS will provide the barrels to the participating schools, along with the plastic-appropriate paint for the primer coat and a clear sealant coat. The schools will be responsible for the other paint and materials needed to decorate the barrels. We discussed the option of buying barrels, but felt that making them ourselves would be better as long as a source of donated barrels was available and the number of participating classes was not too large. In the past, Roy Todd has gotten barrels from Coca-Cola. The Sumter bottling plant is closed, but there is a plant in Bishopville.

Another important consideration is what will happen to the barrels after the competition. Ideally, the participating classes will install them at their schools. They could also identify another facility to take them, such as a library. Pickens recently held a similar competition, in which they identified locations for the barrels beforehand, mainly county facilities and parks where the public could see them. Not all of the barrels were set up as functioning rain barrels. We decided that if schools elected not to keep their barrels, they would be auctioned off at Earth Day, with the proceeds going back to Sumter Stormwater Solutions for public water quality education. Barrels not auctioned off could be held as prizes for future events.

The judging for the competition will be held at Sumter Earth Day on April 20th at Swan Lake. The schools will drop off the barrels that morning, and the public will vote for their favorite barrels. The school and age of the class submitting each barrel will be clearly displayed. A silent auction for

the barrels that the schools do not want will be held at the same time. Mary will talk to Lynn Kennedy (organizer of the Earth Day event) about storing the remaining barrels at Swan Lake until the schools can pick them up.

The designers of the winning barrels (placing first, second, and third in the voting) will win a pizza party for their class. We will approach local pizza restaurants for discounts, and Jolie mentioned that Dominoes is good to work with for deals.

Conclusion

With no additional business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 11:35. The next Sumter Stormwater Solutions meeting will be in April. Date and time will be determined by Doodle poll in March.