



Sumter Stormwater Solutions

Meeting Agenda

Monday January 23, 2012
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 Facilitator: Mary Nevins, Clemson Carolina Clear

10:00 – 10:10	Welcome & Meeting Purpose	Mary Nevins, Carolina Clear
10:10 – 10:15	Outreach Activity Updates	Mary Nevins
10:15 – 10:45	Radio Public Service Announcements: Discussion	All present
10:45 – 11:45	Activity planning for Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stream Clean-ups• Festivals• Workshops	All present
11:45 – 12:00	Wrap-up	Mary Nevins

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On Facebook? We are! www.facebook.com/midlandsstorwater

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Teige Elliot	City of Sumter	Josh Castleberry	Central Carolina Tech
Elizabeth Ervin	Sumter County	Mary Nevins	Carolina Clear
Dan Geddings	Sumter County	Claudia Rainey	Sumter City-County
Cheryl Johnson	Sumter County		Planning

Notes from the Meeting

Outreach Activity Updates

The meeting began with a review of recent activities:

- Radio PSA with Miller Communications – November, Kat Country 93.3 & Power 99.3
- Pet waste brochures distributed to veterinarians and pet supply stores - November.
- Stormwater Basics Workshop: Establishing Vegetative Cover – Jan. 17, Swan Lake
 - 45 participants. Thank you to Smoak Irrigation and NRCS for their assistance!!

Upcoming activities are as follows:

- Hornaday Award Weekend – March 10-11
 - This is an important environmental award for Boy Scouts
 - Mary will be teaching the Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge
 - It may be possible to incorporate storm drain marking at the fairgrounds
- Cherryvale Elementary Earth Day Celebration – April 20
- Sumter Earth Day Celebration – April 28, Swan Lake

Ongoing projects:

- Rain Barrel Project with Cherryvale Elementary through Green Steps Schools
- Presentations on LID for City/County Council and Planning Commission in planning
- Handouts for Businesses being developed

New online resource

- Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Management website, targeting restaurant owners:
http://www.clemson.edu/public/carolinaclear/what_you_can_do/rest_owner.html
- Pilot project of education materials are available, including stickers magnets and posters that restaurants can use to remind employees to dispose of grease properly. Interested businesses should be told to contact Mary Nevins.

Related discussion:

We discussed briefly the grease disposal issue at the 2011 Sumter County Fair. Although grease disposal barrels were made available at a central location, food vendors poured their cooking grease down storm drains. Next year, the county plans use more barrels, which will be more widely distributed, possibly placed next to every catch basin. Sumter Stormwater Solutions will distribute information to vendors during the fair.

Sumter County asked that education materials be created targeting carpet cleaning companies. Elizabeth Ervin relayed that Peter Wilson recommended also talking to customers, to make sure they know dumping in storm drains (or onto curb so it goes down storm drains) is illegal. Businesses may not be motivated to do the right thing without pressure from the public. The group was uncertain where

carpet cleaners are supposed to take their waste water for proper disposal. Joshua Castleberry said it depends on the volume, and the water may have to go to the head-works at the waste water treatment plant, for which there would be a charge. It was suggested that the City or County require that they keep a log of disposal, and audit them from time to time. The illicit discharge law could be used to justify enforcement actions. Education is probably not enough without increased enforcement, unless we can let them know there are fines and the law will be enforced. Carpet shampoos are full of phosphates and harmful chemicals, and could also be a source of fecal bacteria, depending on the reason for the cleaning. Dozens of carpet cleaning companies are listed in the phone book. Perhaps materials could be mailed to all, the companies. Then Solutions would conduct personal visits to the larger businesses, and try to meet with management, to make them understand the reason behind the law. Claudia will get a list of carpet cleaners from the business license bureau and email it to the City and County.

Mass Media Opportunities for spring

The group discussed the purchasing additional public service announcements from Miller Communications. To review, advertisements for the Riversweep Cleanup were run in September, and a general PSA in was run in November. For spring, advertisements could be used for cleanups or workshops. Mary suggested purchasing more time slots for the existing PSA, but the group felt we should keep the messages fresh to better capture the public's attention. It was not decided whether to record a general message or something more targeted, but Mary will look into pricing and follow up. The stations used in the fall both play country music now. A different station should be chosen to reach urban youth.

ETV radio might be willing to run the existing PSA. However Miller may hold rights to it, since they recorded it. Mary will share the Carolina Clear PSA (viewable on youtube.com) commercials on the City of Sumter Facebook page.

Storm drain marking progress:

Mary has not received any responses from the email she sent to the neighborhood watch groups, and was unable to get additional contact information from the coordinator at the sheriff's department, due to privacy issues. Teige Elliot informed the group that the City manager took markers to install in the Beach Forest Neighborhood. Teige will follow up with the street names and number of drains marked. Claudia Rainey offered to assemble a group to mark historic district. Sumter County has marked all county-maintained roads in their urbanized area. Elizabeth Ervin will follow up with a list of roads and a count of markers used. It may be time to order more markers. Mary will assess the number remaining and order if necessary.

Stream Cleanup for spring 2012

The group brainstormed possible locations for the spring 2012 stream cleanup.

- Previous Cleanup sites:
 - Fall 2010 – Shot Pouch Creek (Broad St. @ Miller St.)
 - Spring 2011 – Hatchet Camp Branch (Cane Savannah Rd.)
 - Fall 2011 – Sumter Mall Stormwater Channel
- Criteria for selecting a cleanup site for Spring 2012
 - In the County (because the last cleanup was in the city), not too far outside of town
 - Visible to public, with plenty of litter, so that volunteers can make a noticeable impact.
 - Safe and accessible (no steep stream banks or busy highways)
 - Public property or right of way
 - Parking available for volunteers

Everyone agreed Turkey Creek is in need of attention. On High Street along Turkey Creek, volunteers could park in grassy area at the cell tower. Sites near Boulevard Road, or Red Bay Road are also possibilities. There are trashy areas with parking near Liberty Street, but those would be in the City limits. The location needs to be past Fulton Street to be in unincorporated Sumter County. Locations are being alternated between the City and the County, and the last cleanup was in the City. There are churches at Boulevard Road and Red bay Road, which could offer parking. The banks along most of Turkey Creek are steep, so the volunteers would need to keep to the top, but there is plenty of trash along the top. Claudia suggested that we might do some maintenance on invasives along the creek bank at the same time. Claudia is interested in coordinating this, but there may not be enough volunteers for both projects. Also, the county has mowed recently, so the weeds should be well cut down. Lemira Elementary is close to Turkey Creek and has an active science club. Harper Baxter is principal, Ms. Carlisle is science club coordinator. They would be a good partner for the clean-up, as would any of the churches already mentioned. They could provide us with parking, and help with volunteer recruitment. Claudia and Mary will scout out the suggested location. The group did not decide on a date for the cleanup. March 22 is World Water Day, so Saturday March 24th, would be a good choice. However, the weather is uncertain in March, but we wouldn't be competing with other earth day activities. Spring Break for schools is April 9-14. Mary will review possible dates with Peter Wilson, and report back.

Additional Spring events:

Festivals – No suggested any appropriate festivals to attend besides Earth Day and the Iris Festival.

A volunteer work day is needed for the Patriot Park rain garden, which could also include a workshop. Claudia recommended waiting and seeing what plants come up and maintain through summer before we do a lot of re-planting. However, volunteers could still rake mulch, pull weeds, etc. Getting more ornamental grasses established would be beneficial to control the flow rate into the garden. Mary will go ahead and get labels for plants that are doing well, which can be ordered from Ben Meadows or Forestry Supply. The labels need to be heavy duty and stick deep into soil so as not to wash away when it rains. It may be better to just stick to labels rather than have a layout of plant names on the permanent display, since they may change over time. The display could include the details of the engineering structure instead.

Mary would like to offer homeowner talks in the evenings at the Sumter Public Library (or similar venue) based on the Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods curriculum. These could be held Tuesday or Thursday evenings, with four weekly talks, from the end of February through March, in preparation for the gardening season. It was recommended summer is also a great time for these types of programs, and they may be repeated if successful. The proposed topics and speakers are:

1. Irrigating efficiently – specialist from Clemson
2. Right Plant/Right Place – Amanda McNulty, if available. Claudia Rainey could also speak on native plants as part of this topic.
3. Controlling pests & correct use of fertilizer – Amanda
4. Gardening for food – This is not a part of CYN, but would be a big draw for folks

The venue could be a problem because the main branch library has its parking totally torn up from construction of the new Judicial center. Mary will consult the library for other options. Other library branches, Swan Lake, or the Civic Center are other possible venues.

This year's Envirothon Special Topic will be Low Impact Development and Stormwater. Mary will be happy to provide Carolina Clear resources to Josh Castleberry, who will be writing the questions. The Envirothon is a statewide youth competition for high school students on environmental topics.

Manchester Forest Cleanup is usually held in the spring, but the date has not been set to the County's knowledge. The City of Sumter will have some neighborhood cleanups. Teige will send information when these happen so they can be included in the annual report.