



Sumter Stormwater Solutions

Meeting Agenda

Monday January 24, 2011
 1:00 PM – 3:00 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 Introductions	Mary Nevins, Carolina Clear
10:10-10:20	Outreach Activity Updates	All present
10:20-10:45	Discussion of 2011 Draft MS4 Permit	Mary Nevins
10:45-11:45	Year 3 (2010-2011) Education Plan Development	All Present
11:45 – 12:00	Next Steps	Mary Nevins

Visit us on the web at www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear/sumter

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Teige Elliot	City of Sumter	Claudia Rainey	City-County Planning
Peter Wilson	Sumter County	Mark Bruce	Santee Riverkeeper
Alfred Conyers	Sumter County	Mary Nevins	Carolina Clear

Notes from the Meeting

The meeting began with a brief discussion led by Claudia Rainey of a possible activity for Arbor Day. She proposed a street tree planting in Sumter, Liberty St. Broad St., and Main St. We would need approval and support from the City. We would also need permission from the businesses along these streets and their commitment to care for the trees. The Master Gardeners and Forestry Commission may also be able to support us in this. Claudia suggested Carolina nurseries as a source for plants. Willow oaks would be a good choice. A bulk shipment would save money.

We reviewed the education activities since the last meeting:

- Pond Management Workshop – Nov. 11. There were 35 participants, and topics covered included fish species, stocking rates, fertilizers, pH, weed control and herbicides
- Year 2 Annual Education Report completed

Several new resources have been developed, including an illicit discharge website, a mail-out piece for auto repair businesses, a sign for the rain garden, and interactive whiteboard lessons for teachers (meeting SC science curriculum standards for 5th-7th grades).

Next we discussed the new draft small MS4 NPDES permit. The education and involvement section of this includes two lists of possible target audiences/pollutants/behaviors, residential and commercial/industrial. The MS4's are required to choose three from each. The most appropriate items for Sumter, based on our current efforts and pollutants of concern in our area are:

- Residential: Disposal of household hazardous waste (e.g. paints, cleaning products); Using techniques that keep water onsite and/or reduce imperviousness (rain barrels, rain gardens, porous pavers, permeable concrete, porous asphalt, etc.); Litter prevention; Public reporting of water quality issues
- Commercial/Industrial: Automobile repair and maintenance control measures; Illicit discharge detection and elimination observations and follow-up during daily work activities; Water quality impacts associated with land development (including new construction and redevelopment)

In preparing the County's Notice of Intent for the 2011 MS4 Permit, we set the goals and milestones for MCM's 1 & 2 for the following educational topics:

- Education & Outreach (MCM 1) - Illicit discharge for residential properties, illicit discharge for commercial properties, land development, and yard waste
- Public Involvement & Participation (MCM 2) - Storm drain marking, community cleanups, rain water harvesting, and illicit discharge reporting.

The rest of the meeting was spent working on the activity plan for 2011, with discussion of the following items. Items related to the goals defined in the NOI were addressed first. A final draft of the Education Plan will be sent with the minutes for your approval.

A cleanup will be scheduled for Spring, close to Earth Day.

- We should coordinate with the South Carolina Litter Control Organization (Mr. Ward is the central region manager), which is a non-profit, separate from Palmetto Pride, but works closely with them. Peter Wilson would like the next cleanup to be in county, and focus on quality/quantity control, not just appearance/beautification.
- Mark Bruce can help organize cleanups through Santee Riverkeeper, by helping prioritize areas to clean and advertising through mailing lists and facebook.

- Shaw Air Force Base can participate. Gary Hallmark is the planner on base and would be the contact person.

To encourage reporting of IDDE issues, the County's stormwater hotline is due to be in operation after April. We will promote its usage and promote the types of things that people should report.

- The county has been working on its outfall recognizance and has identified the following problems: leaves, trash, and debris dumped in streams and ditches; illicit connections from residential properties (presumably washers and dishwashers).
- Monitoring will soon begin, to include baseline monitoring in dry weather and rain event monitoring. Once this data is collected, it will be used to set priorities for education.
- The storm drain marking program will also continue.

The following brochures need to be developed, in order of priority:

- General IDDE Brochure – addressing both illicit discharge and illicit connections. Many people with septic tanks will route their dishwashers, washing machines, etc. in to the storm sewer rather than into the septic tank, out of a belief that their tank can't handle the big discharge of water from these appliances. This is not true and connecting to the storm sewer is illegal.
- Restaurant Brochure to deal with fats, oils, and grease (FOGs).
- Residential education materials on FOGs. Mary will ask the City water dept what they send out on FOGs. They may have some resources we can assist them in distributing. Also, we may be able to count this activity in our annual report to SCDHEC.

We had discussed promoting alternatives to charity car washes in previous meetings, but this was decided to be low priority. The general consensus was that the larger commercial car washes are correctly discharging their waste water to sanitary sewers. However the smaller car washes attached to repair shops, etc. may be allowing water to run into storm drains instead.

The following activities will address land development, for professional audiences.

- Under the new stormwater utility fee structure, credits will be offered for facilities that implement BMPs to treat stormwater runoff. The BMP receiving credit must include infiltration or remove pollutants in some other way, rather than simply being for storage. In other words, ponds do not qualify unless they can be shown to be infiltration at least some portion of the collected water to groundwater.
- County is currently drafting a guidance document for the credits, to be completed by October 2012. The credits work retroactively. Projects being completed right now, or already complete could qualify once the guidance document is complete. We can go ahead and begin to encourage developers to implement projects that will qualify. While the details may not be worked out, we can say tentatively what will qualify.
- Once the credits are in place, we can hold workshops for professionals about the credits, i.e. exactly what counts and what the process is for obtaining them. Related workshops can teach particular BMPs that qualify, such as bioswales, rain gardens, pervious pavement, etc.

Yard Waste Activities

- While inventorying streams and outfalls, the county has seen that many are in need of maintenance. They are clogged with debris and brush, as well as sedimentation. The County and the Planning office still need to establish what the requirements with FEMA are on when they do or not need to notify FEMA of maintenance or changes to the streams. There is no consensus on this. However, this is not really an education issue.

- When maintenance is done, this is an opportunity to educate the property owners who border streams receiving maintenance. Primarily because the maintenance activities will bring their attention to the streams. Education topics can include proper disposal of yard waste, safe pesticide and fertilizer use, littering and dumping, etc.
- Education programs for utility companies. BMP's when maintaining stream crossings. The particular issue noted was that companies are dropping limbs in streams.

For the general public, activities planned include mass media, publications, and festivals

- Television Commercial on Time Warner Cable
- Stormwater Billboards
- Sumter Stormwater Solutions Website
- Sumter water quality video series for [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) & [gogreentube.com](https://www.gogreentube.com)
- Water quality articles written for the *Sumter Item*, *The State*, and the Conservation District newsletters and annual report
- Festivals we have attended in the past: Sumter Earth Day, Iris Festival, Sumter County Fair.
- Other festivals that we could attend: Shaw Air Show and Taste of Sumter.

Pet waste is not a high priority, but there are several items we can implement for this pollutant. Containers for pet waste are currently installed at Patriot Park, and we could add dispensers at Patriot Park. The brochure that has already been developed could be distributed from the animal shelter and incorporated into pet waste outreach for apartments.

For youth audiences, many of the programs were implemented by the Conservation District, which has expressed to me that they will need to reduce their participation due to budget and staff constraints. However, Mary will be giving presentations for a few schools. Peter suggested that schools could get credits on the stormwater utility fee for offering presentations. Mary will contact Mr. Dingle at Sumter High as a starting point.

The City will be having workshops for council on creating a stormwater utility. The plan is for that to go to council during the upcoming year. Both County and City Council received copies of the Annual report. Peter and Teige have not received any specific feedback regarding the report. If they do, this could give us guidance on what type of education the council would benefit from.

In addition to developing and publicizing guidelines for stormwater utility credits, the following items for professional audiences were discussed.

- Mark Bruce suggested a state level training for creating infiltration. Dr. Sawyer with Center for Watershed Excellence and the CEPSCI program would also likely be interested. He was involved in Lexington County's rain garden workshop for professionals, which though not a state level program had a good turnout and participants felt it was worthwhile.
- We would like to show good examples of blending urban landscaping and natural streams. We can look to Greenville, and other parts of the country to find these examples. These should serve as models for engineers and landscape architects in Sumter.

For homeowner audiences, we will offer rain barrel workshops (a goal from the NOI) and the Master Gardener program. We still want to pursue the rain garden at Patriot Park also.

This concluded the meeting.