



Sumter Stormwater Solutions

Meeting Agenda

Monday March 21, 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
10:10-10:30	Outreach Activity Updates	All present
10:30-10:45	Shot Pouch Greenway and Connectivity Plan	Claudia Rainey
10:45-11:00	Clean-up: Hatchet Camp Branch	Mary Nevins
11:00-11:45	Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods Program	Mary Nevins
11:45 – 12:00	Next Steps	Mary Nevins

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

Notes from the Meeting

Attendance:

Mark Bruce	Santee Riverkeeper	Claudia Rainey	City of Sumter
Alfred Conyers	Sumter County	Geoff Smith	BP Barber
Peter Wilson	Sumter County	Mary Nevins	Carolina Clear
Teige Elliot	City of Sumter		

Recent Events:

- Storm Drain Marking – Feb. 22: Girl Scout Troop 5111. Six students marked 39 storm drains, and hung more than 150 door hangers
- Auto Repair Pollution Prevention Guide: Mailed to 103 businesses in Sumter County
- Enviroscope presentation for 4-H Club – March 4
- Soil & Water Conservation Merit Badge – March 12: Taught for Hornaday Award Weekend workshop, attended by 16 Boy Scouts from across North and South Carolina.
- Peter Wilson recently attended a meeting in Darlington about creating a stormwater utility. At the meeting he served on a discussion panel, answering questions for county and city council about permit compliance along with two other municipalities with utilities: City of Hartsville and City of Florence. Questions focused on determining rates, applying rates, pitfalls, etc. This event will be reported in database as an instance of Sumter County setting the example and providing leadership elsewhere in the state.

Upcoming Events:

- Presentation for Source Water Protection for Businesses Conferences – March 30, Manning
- Cleanup: Hatchet Camp Creek – April 9, 9:00-12:00: Along Cane Savannah Highway, near DeLaine Community Center.
- Master Gardener Class – April 11: Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods program
- Earth Day at Cherryvale Elementary – April 26
- Sumter Earth Day Celebration – April 30
- Manchester State Forest Cleanup – May 7
- Rain Barrel Workshop – May 14 (date tentative)
- River Network River Rally – June 3-6
- Santee Riverkeeper Water Body Rally, date not set, May or June. Mark Bruce will provide additional information when it is available.
- Claudia mentioned that the planning office needs more stormwater postcards and would also like Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods handouts.

Next we discussed the Hatchet Camp Branch Cleanup in further detail:

- Park at DeLaine Community Center
- Materials
 - County will provide roll-off container for trash. Mary will take the recyclables to the recycle center.
 - Mary will bring bags, gloves, water for volunteers
 - Peter Wilson can bring road signs for safety
 - Teige Elliot can provide safety vests.
- Promotion
 - Mark Bruce will create an announcement about the cleanup for his email list, and will create an event on Facebook to share.

- Mary will post flyers at community centers and libraries
- It might be possible to add to county and city websites
- Mary will contact Susan Wilde about listing the cleanup on the city Facebook page
- Mary will contact the principle at Sumter High and Wilson Hall to advertise the cleanup
- Another idea is to see if Sign Wave will create a free sign for us. Or we could also pay to have one made. This would go in front of the community center to let people know about the cleanup coming up. Patricia Nelson can advise us about sign permits in the county.
- Need cooperation from homeowners
 - Mary will distribute a letter to mailboxes along the sections we will be cleaning.
 - Cleanup efforts will mostly be along the roadway and not on private property.
 - We should notify the sheriff's department, as we will be working on or near private property, that way if we have any concerned homeowners, they can have their questions answered.

Next, Claudia Rainey gave a presentation on the new Sumter Connectivity & Greenways Master Plan for Shotpouch Creek that she developed.

The plan can be viewed online at http://www.sumter-sc.com/client_resources/departments/planning/misc.%20plans%20&%20surveys/final_greenwayconnectivity_master_plan.pdf

Dillon Park will be the starting point for the greenway. Actually, several trails exist in this area already, but they are not visually appealing and lack amenities and connections. There is a lot of new and existing residential development in the area, so many residents could enjoy and make use of the greenway.

The plan includes a Wetland Interpretive Center at Broad Street. This would be particularly valuable for stormwater education. The center would be created and run as a non-profit. The design of the center would visually mimic Woods Bay and the Wateree River. Around the center, the plan would open up potential on edges of flood plain boundaries for small-scale commercial development. A pedestrian crossing with a light, and a median area with trees would be added to give people a safe place to wait to cross.

A lateral connection to Guiniard, CCTC, Alice Drive Schools, Palmetto Park, and USC Sumter would be created. This could be accomplished as a partnership with the schools and colleges – their students would be able to utilize the greenway to walk or ride their bikes to school. Landscaping and trees in the median at Guiniard would slow traffic. Commercial buildings would be brought up to the street and parking moved to the rear. This would take the structure and often the parking out of the floodplain and make the street more friendly for pedestrians. The walkway would be a wooden boardwalk - a gentler option, environmentally.

The greenway would end at Swan Lake, with a boardwalk continuing from Shot Pouch to the lake. Security is a concern along the greenway – people need to be able to see where they are going and where they can get away to in an emergency. This can be done by clearing out the understory in the surrounding woods, including some lower tree limbs, adding benches, call boxes, etc.

A lateral connection to Second Mill Pond would also be added at this end of the greenway. This might be a good site for a future cleanup. Features would include an overlook for fishing, attractive vines to cover the safety fence, and fencing through the woods for security. A connection to the Sumter Cemetery is also included in the plan with two paths circling the cemetery. A canoeing and kayaking center would be built at the end of the Greenway. Claudia mentioned that Additional proposed future connections have been thought out, but were not discussed at this time.

The next step is to invite public comments and give tailored presentations for neighborhoods. Construction would start with connections from Guiniard to Swan Lake, because good public support

for work in this area is expected. Petitions and grass roots movement could be utilized to raise enthusiasm and support for greenway. Additional steps for the early part of the process are to work with the Chamber of Commerce, look for grants, and research funding from DOT and hospitality tax. Workshops for businesses could be offered to get the buy-in of the business community.

Last, Mary gave a summary about the Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods program from Clemson Extension.

CYN is a recognition program for homeowners, encouraging them to create environmentally friendly yards, with a focus on water quality. Homeowners download a workbook from the website (www.clemson.edu/cyn) that suggests actions that they can take to improve the environmental impact of their yard. Each action has a point value, given in “inches”, and if a homeowner completes enough actions to earn 36 inches, they qualify as a Carolina Yards. Actions are divided into nine basic principles: Right Plant, Right Place, Water Efficiently, Mulch, Recycle, Fertilizing, Yard Pests, Stormwater Runoff, Wildlife, and On the Waterfront. Mary will be promoting this program at the upcoming spring festivals, and teaching a detailed class on it to the Master Gardeners.