



Sumter Stormwater Solutions

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 17, 2014
1:00 – 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 Facilitators: Mary Caflisch & Jolie Brown, Clemson Carolina Clear

1:00 – 1:05	Welcome & Meeting Purpose	Mary Caflisch & Jolie Brown
1:05 – 1:25	Outreach Activity Updates	Mary Caflisch & Jolie Brown
1:25 – 1:45	Statewide Carolina Clear Updates: Telephone Surveys and Billboards	Mary Caflisch
1:45 – 2:15	Overview of New Small MS4 Permit Requirements for Education and Public Involvement	Geoff Smith
2:15 – 2:35	Carolina Yards Initiative Update	Mary Caflisch
2:35 – 2:55	Outreach Materials for Restaurants: Discussion	All present
2:55 – 3:00	Wrap-up	Mary Caflisch & Jolie Brown



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

Attendance:

Mary Caflisch	Carolina Clear
Jolie Brown	Carolina Clear
John Merkel	Sumter County
Geoff Smith	URS

Minutes:

The meeting began with a review of recent and upcoming activities.

Recent Events

- Sumter Backyard Landscaping Series
 - February 18 – Gardening for Wildlife: Sara Green, Director of Education, South Carolina Wildlife Federation
 - February 25 – Rain Gardens: Rebecca Turk, Education Coordinator, Moore Farms Botanical Garden
 - March 4 – Gardening with Native Plants: Claudia Rainey, Senior Planner, Sumter City-County Planning Department
 - March 11 – Pest Management: Tony Melton, Horticulture Agent, Clemson Extension, Florence County
- Carolina Yards presentation to Bland Garden Club – Jan. 16
- Presentation to Millwood Ecology Club – Feb. 6
- Pollution presentation for Wilson Hall High School – Feb. 17
- Rain barrel presentation for Sumter High School Art Class – Feb. 20
- Sumter Soil and Water Conservation District meeting– Feb. 20
- Spring Cleanup – March 8, Sumter Mall
- Rain garden walking tour – March 8, Patriot Park
- Jolie Brown on “Making it Grow” – March 18
- Manchester State Forest Cleanup – March 22
- Boy Scout Hornaday Weekend – March 29, Soil and Water Conservation merit badge earned by 14 students.
- Cleanup with Wilson Hall Students – April 11
 - City site: Market Street at K-Mart
 - County site: Lewis and Cockerill Roads
- Carolina Yards presentation for Master Gardener Class – March 31
- Carolina Yards presentation to Azalea Garden Club – April 3
- Sumter Earth Day Celebration – April 12, Swan Lake
- Cherryvale Elementary School Earth Day – April 15
- Articles for “Keeping Sumter Beautiful”
- Two articles for “Lakeside Magazine”
- Delivered pet waste brochures to vet offices
- Delivered pet waste brochures and bandanas to Petco
- Established new relationship with Wilson Hall School

Upcoming events

- Storm drain marking in Lakewood Links subdivision – Apr. 23rd, May 21st
- Shorescaping Workshop – April 29th, Patriot Park
- Rain Barrel Workshop – May 15th
- Shorescaping Workshop – April 29th

- Jolie Brown on “Making it Grow” – May 6th
- Sumter Iris Festival – May 23rd & 24th
- Kayak Cleanup – June 7th, Second Mill Pond (location tentative)
- Utility Credit Workshop – date and location TBD

The Patriot Park shoredscaping project is progressing well. Shrubs were planted near outfalls in December. Seed for the project has been purchased. Hydromulch turned out to be a cost effective option for temporary soil stabilization, so Smoak Irrigation was hired to do the hydromulching. The workshop has been advertised with a press release, sent to several email contact lists, and promoted on Facebook. Claudia Rainey will prepare a design plan for the seed species. The County will purchase topsoil for the project. Mary Caflisch and Jolie Brown will meet with Steve Hostettler from the Sumter County Parks department on April 24th to review the installation steps and create a maintenance plan. We also need to borrow a seed spreader for the day of the workshop.

We discussed Second Mill Pond as a potential location for the June cleanup. Winston Road was proposed for the site of the fall cleanup.

We still want to hold a workshop to promote Sumter County’s Stormwater Utility Credit system. As we’ve discussed in the past, City of Sumter is working on a utility credit system as well. Geoff just met with the City regarding this. They are looking to develop a credit system that is very similar to the County’s system in order to minimize confusion and discrepancy. Ideally, we would like to schedule the workshop for August. If possible, we will present both the County and City credit systems at that time. Mary will contact Alfred Conyers to set the date.

The pet waste stations that were installed in Dillon park in April 2013 are being used frequently enough that the bags are running out often. There are some issues with park staff replacing those bags in a timely fashion. Jolie will remind Steve Hostettler to make sure those are being refilled promptly.

We discussed the upcoming rain garden maintenance day on May 14. Jolie will invite St. Francis Xavier High School and Wilson Hall School to send teams of volunteers. John Merkel also suggested inviting Delaine Elementary School because it is nearby.

Statewide Carolina Clear Updates

Data collection for the statewide Carolina Clear telephone survey of attitudes, knowledge and behavior is complete. 2400 responses were collected statewide, with approximately 400 coming from our area. The question about storm drain marking added for this round of surveys performed well in the first areas surveyed, and so it was included in the survey for all regions. This was a question SSS was particularly interested in, as we have invested a lot of effort into storm drain marking. The next step is for the data to be cleaned and statistics performed. The questions will be prioritized to compare results with previous survey and across the region. It would be very costly to compare every single question between the two time periods and across all regions, so only questions that will give us the most information will be fully analyzed. Data from all of the questions will be retained so that it can be analyzed at a later time if deemed useful. Preliminary results are expected by mid-summer. The final report should be completed by winter. The telephone survey not only gives us valuable information for planning purposes, it also helps us meet permit requirements for program evaluation and public involvement, including input and targeting.

New billboards have been designed to promote the Carolina Yards program. Clemson will be offering a Carolina Yards Online Course this spring. The new billboards promote rain water harvesting, and low maintenance lawn care. The designs are included at the end of this document. Two billboards will be displayed in Sumter. Locations have not yet been determined.

Overview of New Small MS4 Permit Requirements for Education and Public Involvement

Geoff Smith gave led the group in a discussion of the changes to the new Small MS4 Permit requirements related to education, outreach, public involvement, and public participation, and how those changes will affect our efforts. The new permit requires that MS4s define pollutants of concern that need to be addressed based on impaired waterbodies and TMDL sites. In Sumter County, there are two TMDLs, both for fecal coliform bacteria. From this we determined that bacteria should be our primary pollutant of concern (POC). The permit also requires the MS4 to define target audience for POC and identify three community issues to be addressed by the education and public involvement program. The MS4 must document its regional decision-making process. Under the new permit, the MS4 needs to demonstrate the results (i.e. improvements in behaviors), either quantitative or qualitative, of its education and public involvement efforts. Public involvement is actually less stringent than what was called for in the first permit.

We discussed potential sources of fecal bacteria. Pet waste is already being addressed through our programs. Litter, specifically soiled diapers are a second source, as are septic tanks, including clogged tanks and failed drain fields. Septic failures can be assumed to be dependent on the age of the home. The tax office should have information on the age of houses in the MS4 area. We can investigate and specifically target properties which likely need their septic drain field redone. We can also target HOA's. John will bring a list of subdivisions to the next meeting. At next meeting we will determine more specifically ways to address fecal bacteria beyond our pet waste programs.

Under the new permit, the focus of internal training shift towards training of county staff beyond just the stormwater department. Non-employees of the city/county need to participate in training process. Clemson could assist with training to help meet this requirement.

The MS4 Permit report to SCDHEC will now be due April 1, and the reporting schedule has changed to biannual. Carolina Clear will continue to deliver annual reports, and will prepare its report according to the same deadline. The reporting year will coincide with the calendar year, which may be more convenient. All program data for the report should be submitted to Mary by early January. SCDHEC is releasing a new reporting template, with may be more narrative in format rather than a checklist.

Both City of Sumter and Sumter County have stormwater management plans due to SCDHEC by July 1. For this reason, the group agreed to move the next Sumter Stormwater Solutions meeting to early June. Mary will send out a Doodle.com poll to determine the date. This will give us an opportunity to prepare some ideas to bring to the table as to how we want to address the new changes to the permit.

Carolina Yards Initiative Updates

The Carolina Yards program has undergone a lot of improvements over the last few months, and more updates are planned for the spring and summer. The website has a new layout, which can be viewed at www.clemson.edu/cy. The Carolina Yards workbook has been redesigned, and the new version should also be available soon. There is also a new action checklist which matches the updates to the workbook. Finally, searchable plant database has been added to the Carolina Yards website.

Outreach Materials for Restaurants: Discussion Most in city limits

SSS would like to provide outreach materials to restaurants to encourage them to better manage their FOGs and eliminate illicit discharges. Because of the large number of restaurants in Sumter we need a strategy for prioritizing restaurants and an efficient and effective way to distribute materials. Ideally, we would create or obtain a priority list based on past violations. For example, John cited a

fish restaurant on Liberty Street which he knows is a repeat violator. John did not feel that there are enough penalties and enforcement when violations occur. One suggestion was to give flyers to DHEC Health inspectors, and see if they will distribute them during inspections. We need to find out how many inspectors there are, how often they visit restaurants and how many restaurants they visit in Sumter so we can estimate the number of flyers needed. Geoff Smith recommended that we develop a Green Business program to encourage good behaviors. Mary suggested that this be done in partnership with Sumter Green. A business recognition program has suggested before, so we will strongly consider this option for the future. There is a business on Turkey Creek John knows about that he thinks would be interested in being a partner. If possible, the program should be tied into the Stormwater Utility Credit system. Mary will investigate whether a change like this to the credit system would have to be approved by council.

Next Steps

We will have an in depth discussion of programs that we want to focus on for the upcoming year at the next Sumter Stormwater Solutions meeting in June. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Carolina Yards Billboards



Barrels of Fun.

Carolina Yards are water-wise.
Do you have one? www.clemson.edu/cy



Give It a Rest.

Carolina Yards are low maintenance.
Do you have one? www.clemson.edu/cy





Buffer Zones.

Carolina Yards protect and preserve.
Do you have one? www.clemson.edu/cy



SUMTER STORMWATER SOLUTIONS



Healthy Soil.

Carolina Yards enhance and sustain.
Do you have one? www.clemson.edu/cy



SUMTER STORMWATER SOLUTIONS