



Sumter Stormwater Solutions

Meeting Agenda

Monday May 23, 2011
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 Introductions	Mary Nevins, Carolina Clear
10:10-10:30	Outreach Activity Updates	All present
10:30-10:45	Mass Media Updates	Mary Nevins
10:45-11:00	Patriot Park Rain Garden Project Update	Peter Wilson
11:00-11:45	Reaching Commercial Audiences – Discussion and Brainstorming	All present
11:45 – 12:00	Next Steps	Mary Nevins

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

Notes from the Meeting

Attendance:

Peter Wilson	Sumter County
Teige Elliot	City of Sumter
Mark Bruce	Santee Riverkeeper
Geoff Smith	BP Barber
Josh Castleberry	Central Carolina Technical College
Pearce Atkins	Sumter Soil & Water Conservation District
Mary Nevins	Carolina Clear

Recent events

- Cleanups:
 - Hatchet Camp Creek – April 9
 - Manchester State Forest– May 7
- Master Gardener Class – April 11
- Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods program
- Leadership Sumter – April 13
- Earth Day at Cherryvale Elementary – April 26
- Sumter Earth Day Celebration – April 30
 - Collected 35 lawn care surveys
- Rain Barrel Workshop – May 14
 - 12 participants, 17 barrels built
- Pond Management Workshop – May 16

Upcoming events

- Iris Festival – May 28, Swan Lake
- Santee Riverkeeper Waterbody Rally – May 28, Lake Marion
- Best Management Practices Workshop,
 - The Conservation District will be sponsoring this 2-hour workshop, tentatively planned for July
 - The workshop will focus on establish native vegetation on construction site. It will investigate what is wrong with what contractors are currently doing. (overcompacting the soil, not correcting low pH issues, failing to achieve the required 70% perennial cover on sites to close a job)
 - Bobby McGee and Joey Smoke (Smoke irrigation) will be speakers
- Green Steps Schools Projects with Cherryvale Elementary School
 - Recycling, Rain Barrels, Possible Rain Garden

Mass Media updates

- Bill Boards: boards have been purchased with new design; negotiating for locations.
- Newspaper Articles by Amanda McNulty
 - Sumter Item
 - State Newspaper
- Facebook
 - As the group suggested, the Richland Consortium Facebook page will be changed to a midlands page to include events and information for Richland, Sumter, and Lexington Counties.
- Radio spot opportunity
 - Through Miller Communications

- WIBZ, WDXY, and WWHM in Sumter; WFRK, WOLH, and WSIM in Florence.
- Dual-market stations WWBD and WWKT in both Sumter & Florence.
- Current messages:
 - “Pet Waste” message aired starting in November
 - “Goldfish” message aired starting in March
- New message: What behavior/pollutant should we focus on?
 - The group agreed on an anti-littering message (Peter Wilson’s suggestion), with an emphasis on plastics and recycling (Mark Bruce’s suggestion).
 - Mary will look into the possibility of partnering with Keep the Midlands Beautiful or Keep America Beautiful on this message.
- A new idea was suggested, which is to utilize the church channel on the local cable station (Time Warner Cable). They might be willing to run our stormwater Public Service announcement.

Peter Wilson announced that Sumter County has added two new people to its stormwater staff: Elizabeth (GIS specialist) and Dan (technician).

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program

As the County continues its stormwater infrastructure inventory process, they have found several illicit connections, including one outside the home of a public works employee. Peter Wilson requested training for county employees, including public works, parks department, etc. This would be a general information talk on what stormwater is, what kinds of pollution we are concerned about, and what the laws are regarding storm drains and illicit discharges. Mary agreed to assist with this training.

Illicit discharges are currently a big problem. The city has also found a number of illicit connections during their work on their sewer system. Many of the connections are from washing machines, and we speculate that they are the result of people who incorrectly believe that routing their wash water to their septic tanks will cause problems with the function of the septic tank. This is only a problem when tanks are already clogged with oil and grease, or if the drain field was not properly designed or prepared in the first place.

An IDDE brochure has been created to be distributed, but we want to include the phone number to report issues, and that is not ready to be released yet.

Patriot Park Rain Garden Project

Peter Wilson updated the group on the Patriot Park rain garden project. The current design differs from what was previously discussed in that it will have an underdrain to deal with extra water. This is important as the soil at the site has very poor drainage. The underdrain will divert water into the catch basin near the pond. The County has selected Joe Smokes to do the construction. Construction is scheduled to begin to start latter half of this week, and will take approximately 4 or 5 weeks to complete.

Specifics of the design:

- 150ft long oval shaped, approximately 20ft wide at the widest point.
- Will excavate down 2 ½ to 3 feet
- Bottom layer will be 57 stone for the first 1 ½ feet.
- Under drain of Perforated pipe wrapped with filter fabric.
- Middle layer of a mixture of ¾ sandy loam and ¼ peat moss.
- Top layer of 3 inches of hardwood mulch.

To reduce erosion at the outfall pipe from the parking lot, the swale will be reshaped and sodded. The area around the garden will also be re-sodded. A stone border will not be used, as it was determined it would not be effective in keeping out the bermuda grass, and may pose a danger for children playing.

Because of the underdrain, we need to check the plants recommended for the garden by Claudia Rainey and remove ones with too deep a root system. We need to utilize only plants with shallow root systems so that they do not clog or damage the underdrain.

The group would still like to hold a workshop to educate the public about rain gardens, which will include a volunteer planning of the garden. However this is a poor time of year to plant anything. Since the meeting Mary spoke with Claudia Rainey who recommends waiting until Fall to host the workshop. As long as the mulch is in place it should be alright to wait.

On a related note, Josh Castleberry informed us that an underground retention system being installed at CCTC, in front of the round building.

Reaching commercial audiences.

In February, our first commercial initiative was launched. Brochures on water protection for the auto repair industry were mailed to over 100 businesses in February. A follow-up phone survey, however, reflected that many of the businesses did not remember receiving the flyer at all. This means this is not an effective way of reaching these audiences. The group brainstormed other ideas for reaching businesses with pollution prevention messages:

- Mass media and newspaper articles about IDDE
- Articles in trade journals. Mary contacted the Automotive Service Association South Carolina, on their recommendations for reaching auto service businesses.
- Distribute materials through the business license office, to be given out with renewals.
- Look for an opportunity to speak at the Sumter chamber of commerce environmental meeting. Josh Castleberry suggested this, and thinks these are held every month or so.

Other types of businesses to target:

- Restaurants, focusing on fats, oils, and grease
- clothes cleaners (these may not be too big of an issue because they have their own industrial permit)
- car washes – smaller operations.

Industrial audiences were decided to not be as big of a priority for education efforts at this time. Industries should have their own stormwater discharge permit, and therefore have some knowledge of pollution prevention.

Pearce stated that floor drains were particularly a problem with industries and small businesses because employees assumed that these all go to sanitary sewers, but it is not necessarily the case. Many may be tied in to storm drains instead. Teige will check on language to business licenses, whether we can require them to know where their floor drains go as part of their licensing process.

Mary asked if we should offer a credit on the stormwater fee for attending an informational workshop, but the group did not feel this would be of benefit, because companies would not take it seriously. Currently, the fee system will be based strictly on the volume of stormwater runoff from a property compared to the preconstruction condition, based on impervious cover. Businesses will be able to get credits for reducing impervious cover.

Other Business

The City of Sumter is working on passing a stormwater ordinance. Council will be doing the second reading of the ordinance on June 7 at 5:30 at the opera house.

This concluded the meeting.