



Sumter Stormwater Solutions

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday Nov. 8, 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	Mary Nevins, Carolina Clear
10:10 – 10:15	Outreach Activity Updates	All present
10:15 – 10:45	Stormwater Basics Workshop Planning	Mary Nevins
10:45 – 11:45	Year 4 (2011-2012) Education Plan Development	All present
11:45 – 12:00	Wrap-up	Mary Nevins

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

Notes from the Meeting

Attendance:

Elizabeth Ervin	Sumter County	Claudia Rainey	Sumter City-County Planning
Teige Elliot	City of Sumter	Mary Nevins	Carolina Clear
Pearce Atkins	City of Sumter		

Recent events

- Presentation to Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee, Sept. 22, Sumter Chamber building
- Rain Garden Workshop, Sept. 23, Swan Lake Visitor Center
- Sumter County Fair, Sept. 27-Oct. 2
- Drain marking by county staff. Approximately 50 drains have been marked. Elizabeth Ervin will send Mary the list of streets marked.
- Neighborhood cleanups – A few occurred recently, but uncertain of dates. Teige Elliot will send Mary this information.

Upcoming events

- Radio PSA with Miller Communications – Nov. 15, Kat Country 93.3 & Power 99.3
- Pet waste brochures distributed to veterinarians and pet supply stores.
- Presentations to homeowner associations.

A new resource is available: Clemson Extension Pond Management Website, http://www.clemson.edu/extension/natural_resources/water/stormwater_ponds/. This site provides information on common stormwater pond issues, including nuisance wildlife, aquatic weeds, water quality, and other problems. When receiving calls from homeowner associations or others dealing with stormwater ponds, you can direct them to this website for information on correcting their issue.

2012 Meeting Schedule

Beginning in January Sumter Stormwater Solutions will begin meeting quarterly rather than bi-monthly. Our meetings for 2012 will be in January, April, July and October.

Partners:

The Soil & Water Conservation District was previously an excellent partner, but has not been very involved in consortium work lately. Mary will sit in on board meetings for Conservation District so that they can get to know Carolina Clear better and so Mary can develop a relationship with district members. The Conservation District works in many areas that complement our education efforts, including easements, fencing, livestock management, and training for farmers. Mary will call TJ Yarber and ask for the dates of upcoming meetings.

Rain Gardens

The planning office often gets inquiries about plants that would be appropriate for rain gardens and other landscaping in the Sumter area. Claudia Rainey requested a list of native plants suitable for bioretention that are available in local stores, as well as what is available from wholesale nurseries. Mary will talk to Amanda McNulty for more information on this.

We discussed future work on the recently installed rain garden at Patriot Park. Educational signage would be useful to tell visitors more about the function of the garden. Eventually we would like a display, possibly with a diagram showing what plants were used and design information. However, to start with, we will use in-ground plant labels to identify the plants. However, a number of the new plants have been damaged or died from drought stress, overwatering stress at beginning, or simply not were not suited for a rain garden. Some of the plants ended up not being what the landscape designer, Claudia, had recommended, where either the contractor bought wrong species by mistake, or the recommended plant was unavailable. We will wait until spring and replace plants then. The consortium can help purchase new plants. At that point we will work on installing plant labels and other signage.

Claudia Rainey suggested developing an LID and rain garden design brochure for landscape architects & developers. The brochure would include general design guidelines, reference engineering criteria and point readers toward website for more detailed information. We will use the handout from Lexington County's professional rain garden workshop as a guideline, but make our document much more compact and reader friendly.

Stormwater Basics Workshop: Establishing Grass for Erosion Control at New Construction Sites

Pearce Atkins is heading this initiative. He recently talked to Bobby McGee, who is willing to speak. Bobby will be the lead for the content. All content must be specific to construction sites and grass establishment. The format of the workshop will be a teaching session followed by outdoor demonstrations. There will not be an extended FAQ or panel session as previously proposed. Pearce would like an NRCS agronomist to speak, to serve as an expert on dealing with soil pH issues. Two field demonstrations were proposed. The first would be using a no-till drill. This can be borrowed from the Soil & Water Conservation District, but there will be a fee unless we can get them to waive it for demonstration purposes. A large tractor will be needed to pull the drill. We will see if the county is able to provide this. The second demonstration will be hydroseeding. It may be possible to find a local company to donate the hydroseed mix. We need to find a source for the equipment.

The proposed date for the workshop is Tues. Jan 10, starting after lunch, with two hours inside, followed by two hours outdoors. Participants may attend just one part or the other if they want too. The workshop would be free for attendees. Carolina Clear can provide pamphlets & handouts. Mary will be in charge of design & printing for these, as well as producing an event flyer. We need to put together an email distribution list for the event flyer. Pearce has a contact list for engineers, and we can use the Carolina Clear statewide list to reach municipal stormwater departments, who can share it with their personnel and local contractor contact lists. Quite a few participants from DOT attended the stormwater basics workshop held in 2009, so we will find a contact with DOT to distribute the flyer to their employees.

We discussed asking Dr. Sawyer from Clemson to come and talk, but decided not to as he is not an expert on grass establishment. We can probably find someone from Clemson who is, if needed. A Clemson retiree spoke on grass establishment at SCASM about a year ago, who would be a good speaker. However, if the NCRS agronomist agrees to speak, we should have a good slate of presenters already.

On a side note, Claudia recommended Dwane Jones from NC State who presented at a workshop she attended as a speaker for a BMP workshop later on. He was very good at stressing the economic benefits of using LID. The Planning Department might sponsor a BMP workshop for developers later in the year.

Education Plan Discussion:

The draft education plan presented at the meeting will be adopted with the following additions.

Elected Officials

Claudia Rainey is currently drafting a landscaping ordinance, which includes LID practices. The new Small MS4 NPDES permit will address the need to manage the first inch of runoff, and LID techniques incorporated into landscape features for new construction will be very beneficial for this purpose. County and City council will need education to help them understand the LID concepts presented in the draft, and the purpose of LID. Carolina Clear will look for opportunities to speak to City & County Councils prior to the landscaping ordinance being presented, so that council members have the necessary background to evaluate it. Because the ordinance will be presented within the next few months, Carolina Clear's presentation needs to be given soon. City and County Council meetings

are held every other Tuesday, alternating. Elizabeth Ervin also mentioned that Peter Wilson will be speaking to County Council soon as well. It might be beneficial for Carolina Clear to speak at the same time.

The draft landscaping ordinance will likely be presented to the Planning Commission prior to presentation to council, so Carolina Clear should also try to speak to the Planning Commission. Another option, either now or at a later time would be to hold a workshop on LID for County and City Council together. Council members need education credits during the year, and LID may be more interesting to them than other topics for which they could receive credits.

Businesses

Elizabeth Ervin recommended outreach to food vendors at the Sumter County Fair. After the fair, county staff found that every catch basin at the fairground was full of grease where vendors had dumped their cooking grease, even though grease bins were available. For next year's fair, we will prepare a handout for vendors, better signage for grease bins, and/or other outreach to inform them about proper grease disposal. The American Legion is in charge of the fairgrounds (although it is county property), and we will work with them to distribute this information.

Last year auto repair was identified as a business type with high risk of pollution causing behaviors. The group agreed to continue working with auto repair this year, similar to last year's methods, but with modifications for more effective delivery. Although brochures will again be mailed to all auto repair businesses, materials will be hand delivered to the larger businesses. Carolina Clear has an intern in Charleston currently researching delivery methods for auto repair businesses, and we will use the information gained in her project to improve our efforts. Brochures will also be left at the business license bureau to be distributed to new businesses.

Claudia also informed us that her office receive questions from people wanting to start new car wash businesses. They need a handout to let new business owners know they must route their wash water to sanitary sewers, not storm drains, and why this is necessary. Mary will do some research on the SCDHEC website to see if additional options are available (e.g. reclamation), and include those in the handout if applicable.

The group also decided to set up a display at the business license bureau with information for a number of different business types: Restaurants, car washes, auto repair, landscapers. Carolina Clear will prepare these materials.

Other Education Projects

The new Shot Pouch Creek Connectivity and Greenways plan has been presented to gardening groups since the 2011-2012 activity year started, so this will be included in the education plan. At this point, the greenway proposal needs outside stimulus and public participation to get some action on this from council. We will investigate ways to bring information to the public and gain support for the plan.

Utility bill inserts are another item that we'd like to produce for this year. Unfortunately, we missed the deadline for the county tax bill. The inserts need to be produced by September to be mailed in October. Mary has this noted on her calendar so we won't miss the deadline again. It is still possible to do inserts with city's monthly utility bills. Mary has a contact number for this and will follow up and get rates.

Stormwater reporting hotlines: The county's hotline is ready. Elizabeth has a new version of the IDDE brochure with this number on it. She will send it to Mary to print and distribute. In the city, stormwater issues can be reported to the Public Works office (436-2558).

County has a new sign on high street next to Turkey Creek that says no dumping, but still have dumping occurring in that area. We will investigate other outreach options for this, as illegal dumping is still a top priority in our stormwater plan.