Florence-Darlington Stormwater Consortium Minutes

August 19, 2009
10:00 a.m.
Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments

The meeting opened promptly at 10:00 a.m. with a welcome by Katie Giacalone of Carolina Clear. Representatives from BP Barber, Hartsville City, Clemson Extension, Darlington County, Florence, Florence County, and a local resident were present.

Logos
Our FDSWC Logo is finalized! Katie will distribute to everyone through the list serv.

Speaking of Logos, if you haven’t gotten your camera-ready, high-res logo to Katie please do so in the next couple of weeks so she will have time to get the artwork done for the Press Event.

Recent & Ongoing Activities

Katie has appeared on City Talk with FMU; Kinard and Coffee (water conservation and the rain barrel workshop) twice. She will also be appearing on the FMU radio program, as well.

Florence City held a summer camp for city youth. Katie spoke to more than 60 kids regarding stormwater and environmental impacts on watershed health along Gully Branch at Timrod Park.

Time Warner Cable has given the Consortium airtime in the form of public service spots; there are 20 30-second spots running during the month of September. The commercial is on the CC website.

Kalmia Gardens held the Week in the Wild Summer Camp. Jr. Master Naturalist Camp is scheduled for the near future. Alma will get info to Katie.

The Telephone Survey is currently ongoing. Amanda Pope from Florence received a phone call from the survey and stated that it took about 15 minutes. The Consortium will receive the demographics and outcome toward the end of the year. Katie will distribute when it becomes available.

City of Florence has constructed wetlands and stormwater treatment parks totaling 36.5 acres. The Stormwater conversion area is a part of the Trail system that runs through Freedom Florence, etc. Refer to Florence’s website for further info. Two opportunities for education – youth coming to the park for the first time and a technical training. Technical training would be geared towards engineers, landscape architects, city/county planners, and city/county staff. The topics would include benefits of constructed wetlands, erosion control, maintenance issues and invasive species. Will include in next year’s educational plan.

Florence County will speak at the Homebuilders Association regarding runoff control, erosion control, sanitary sewer overflows, etc. Katie will give Darlington County 50 Construction Stormwater brochures.

Florence City will utilize the Eagle Scout project to post waterways, watershed, trail systems, streams and waterways signage.
Florence City will post watershed signs. **Florence City will get pics and a map to Consortium members. Will be included in Consortium’s website, too.** Eagle Scout currently identifying all stream crossings.

Florence Fountain October issue will feature logo and information about Consortium activities. **Katie already provided information to Amanda.**

Grand opening of the New Tennis Complex on Cashua in Florence in March? This could also be a good opportunity for a workshop. The audience will be mostly technical, but there could be a less technical one, as well for the general public. **BP Barber may be able to conduct training.**

Alma (Clemson Extension) will be hosting educational events through the school year at libraries and schools.

**Rain Barrel Workshop**

The Build-A-Rain-Barrel Workshop will be held on August 28, 2009 in Florence. Information has gone into the papers (*Morning News*), on the Reader Board sign in Darlington, and through email to various people. Spots were still available as of this meeting. Clemson University reported several registrations. Consortium members suggested some Saturday and evening workshops in order to offer alternative times for those who cannot come during the day. Darlington County is sponsoring someone. Tools are paid for by consortium budget and registration costs, barrels are paid for by the participants. The barrels will be delivered on the 27th. Katie stated she needed 4 tables (8’ length), chairs, a table for projector and laptop and a screen. Amanda and Drew will ensure layout.

**Storm Drain Marking**

Storm drain marking: Katie will create a kit for markers, which will contain safety vests, as well. These will be made available through the website for church groups and other groups. Each Consortium member will have some kits on hand, as well. These need to be marketed to groups such as civic and church groups. The markers will need to go on cast iron drains, not concrete. **Katie will bring sticker design options to next Consortium meeting.**

**Upcoming Events/Festivals:**

City of Florence can now host videos on the public access channel. **Katie will send video link once the file type for the channel is identified.**

The Eastern Carolina Regional Agricultural Fair will be five days in October. Kids Day will be the day before opening day. **Carolina Clear will do an Enviroscape (Kids Day) and have materials at the Master Gardner booth.**

Sponges with the Consortium logo were suggested as giveaways at these events. **Katie will get information and send to members.**
**Jeffries Creek River Sweep** is **September 19**. It is held in conjunction with National Beach and River Sweep Week, and the Sierra Club will be involved. Would like to have more communication and connection with Jeffries Creek group.

The **Fall Flower Show** will be held in **October** at the Pee Dee Farmer’s Market between Darlington and Florence. Possible outlet for materials at Master Gardener booth.

The **Sweet Potato Festival** will be held in Darlington **October 10**; Katie is not available to work a booth, but **Clemson Extension (Alma) will have a booth and can distribute materials. Katie will supply.**

**Lynches River Park Festival** will be held at Lynches River State Park in lower Florence County on **October 24**. The Consortium will plan for a presence next year.

The **Pecan Festival** will be held in Florence in **November**, and the Consortium will place materials there with the City of Florence’s table. There was a suggestion to hand out magnets, because they are inexpensive to produce, but that was tabled until next meeting.

Public meetings in the evening to discuss stormwater was also proposed and tabled.

**Press Event**

*Please get resolution modifications and names who will be signing to Katie by mid-September.*

Katie handed out talking points for the leadership to use in constructing their speeches, a sample Press Event agenda, and a copy of the joint resolution.

Kendall Wall of the Florence Civic Center is going to donate space for the Press Event. The Consortium voted to make the time and date contingent upon availability of the Civic Center. Water, tea, and afternoon desserts will be served, depending on the time of day and allowance of the facility. **Katie will advise Consortium and offer three different available dates from the Civic Center calendar.**

Members of the Consortium suggested Ben Zeigler for the keynote spot. **Florence Consortium members will contact Mr. Zeigler to see if he is available.**

**Hartsville City Council and Planning Commission** should be invited, but will not be seated. **Katie will send invitation.**

Everyone needs to contact their County Council, the Chair, Administration, Clerk to Council and their Planning Commission. **Katie will get the invitations to members to modify if needed and distribute to those who should be invited and in attendance. Katie will distribute letters from the Consortium inviting local organizations and agencies:**

DNR * DHEC * Sierra Club * Master Gardeners * NRCS/ Soil & Water Conservation District * Black Creek & Pee Dee Land Trusts * Conservation Voters (Carolyn Jebaily)
Consortium members should contact additional groups in their areas that they know, and forward the invites – for example, League of Women Votes, Science South, Stormwater Advisory Boards, and so on.

The Room Setup will have a backdrop map of the MS4 areas and the Consortium logo. There will be individual “banners” with Consortium and Partner logos, as well as a table top display. If you have additional items to display – posters from your organization, trail maps, posters of waterbody photos, etc. please plan to bring them and an easel for display.

Reporting

August 31 is the end of year. Katie will be reporting at the end of September. Please get all information to Katie ASAP. Utilize the database to include information on your city/county/organization’s outreach, for example discussions with homebuilders, watershed organization meetings, and stormwater advisory council meetings. Photos to add to the report should be sent directly to Katie with a short description identifying what event/activity the photos belongs with.

Next meeting will be in September prior to the Press Event.

Meeting adjourned approximately 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Ritz