Florence-Darlington Stormwater Consortium
Minutes

January 19th, 2012
2:00 p.m.
City of Florence Surface Water Plant

The meeting opened promptly at 2:00 p.m. with a welcome by Terasa Young, FDSC Program Coordinator. Representatives from Darlington County, City of Florence, Florence County, Kalmia Gardens, and Geoff Smith, P.E., URS/BP Barber were present. Visiting was Roy Todd, Florence Soil and Water Conservation District.

Permit Update
Geoff Smith reported that the South Carolina NPDES General Permit for SMS4 is still on hold. The new SMS4 permit was scheduled to take effect December, 2011. South Carolina has decided to wait until approval of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Stormwater Rule. The EPA is expected to have the stormwater rule approved by March 2012. Given that, the SC NPDES General Permit is projected to be approved by late summer or early fall of 2012.

The Construction General Permit (CGP) came off of public comment on November 11, 2011. There were a limited amount of comments from the regulated community. Unless the permit is challenged it could become effective as soon as March, 2012.

Pesticide General Permit is now effective. If you meet conditions listed in the permit you need to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with South Carolina Department of Health And Environmental Control (SCDHEC). It was suggested that if your vector or weed control is done on a contractual basis you need to make sure your contractor is in compliance with permit conditions.

A question was asked about certification classes for noncommercial pesticides applicators. Terasa said the core and category study materials are available from Clemson’s PSA shopping mall or through local Extension offices.

Terasa will send out information on ordering the study guides, test dates, and testing locations.

Outreach Activities
Dan with Kalmia Gardens reported he is coordinating storm drain marking with Coker College and The City of Hartville Public Works Department has offered to assist in the efforts.
Dan reported the following:
• Scheduled to mark storm drains on January 25, 2012 (Coker Campus).
• Duck cup races are March 31, 2012.
• Earth Day is April 14, 2012.

The City of Florence will conduct curbside pickup of scrap metal during March 26 – 30, 2012.

Keep Florence Beautiful (KFB) 2012 Great American Cleanup will be Saturday, March 24, 2012. The staging area will be in Timrod Park, Florence.
**Reporting**
Terasa asked that everyone view the information in the activity database. She encouraged everyone to enter their activities as soon as possible. Mid-year reporting should be completed by February 28, 2012. There are several events that are omitted from the database:
- Missing numbers from KFB efforts at the pecan festival. (Terasa)
- Missing numbers from the City’s dog biscuit give away at the pecan festival. (Alvin)

**Old Business**

**School Partnerships**
Terasa reported that she contacted the public information offices of Florence School District One, Pam Little-McDaniel, and Audrey Childers, Darlington County School District, about the FDSC getting involved with stormwater educational programs. Ms. Childers indicated she forwarded Terasa’s message to principals and those interested would contact Terasa. Ms. Little-McDaniel suggested Terasa contact individual principals.

**Storm Drain Marking**
Terasa reported that 37 storm drains were marked in the Deerfield Subdivision area in Florence. A total of 80 door hangers were placed which included a link to a survey. To date, no surveys have been completed.

A request for volunteers to mark storm drains was posted on the government access channel 11.

Terasa spoke to Rotary West seeking volunteers for storm drain marking. She learned that the youth organization of Rotary is known as Interact and there are several Interact groups in Florence.

Moore Intermediate School is working as a Green Steps School. The school is active in recycling and would like to mark storm drains February 25, 2012. Alvin will collect information on the drainage system within walking distance of the school with stormwater inlets appropriate for drain marking.

Michael Hemingway will get contact information for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). It was suggested that the BSA could assist in storm drain marking to achieve merit badges.

**5 Star Grant Update**
Terasa indicated she gave an update at the City’s UDO meeting regarding the project which will seek to restore a segment of Gulley Branch located in Timrod Park. The project will consist of re-grading to establish a two-stage configuration and planting of benches, banks, and slopes. The education component of the project will install new kiosks and pet waste stations at the park and involve the Timrod Park Neighborhood Association in marking storm drains. The deadline for submittal to Clemson’s Grants Office (GSS) is February 2, 2012. The submittal date to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is February 15, 2012. Terasa reported all the supporting partners such as NRCS and KFB have committed resources to the project. Notification to awardees will be in June.
319 Grant Update
Geoff reported that regulated SMS4’s can now apply for the 319 Grant. Geoff proposed two possible options.

Option 1:
We could apply for the grant to work in conjunction with the 5 star grant and expand on the number of linear feet to be restored along Gulley Branch. Geoff reported the upper segment could be included to increase flood plain area and maybe create a meandering channel in order to absorb some of the waters energy to lower the erosion factor.

Option 2:
With the recently approved Black Creek TMDL, we could apply for the grant as a consortium approach with Darlington County being the major sponsor for water quality in the MS4 watershed. The deadline for the proposal is February 13, 2012. The proposal cannot include activities that are part of a SMS4’s permit requirements. The grant could include activities as follows:
- Smoke testing to identify and eliminate cross connections
- Septic tank replacement
- Educational components

The members felt that both plans were beneficial; however, there was not enough time to secure partners and submit a proposal before the deadline.

A question was asked about Hartsville and Lake City becoming a regulated SMS4. It was reported that Hartsville will become a regulated SMS4 in the year 2013. It is uncertain when Lake City will be regulated.

HOA Presentations
Terasa has tried to contact the HOAs provided by Alvin so speak at their meetings. She is scheduled to speak to the Maple Park Neighborhood in February. It was recommended to contact Elijah Jones and Ron Harrelson (Sonshine Management) to set up possible future meetings. Both have been receptive and will contact Terasa upon approval by the HOAs they manage. The Tarleton HOA has expressed interest and Terasa is to contact them in March if she has not heard from them before then.

Doug recommended possibly contacting Palmetto Shores, HOA. Doug will try to provide contact information.

Alvin will check with Scotty Davis to get a contact list of local HOA’s and Neighborhood Associations.

FOG
There was a published column by Terasa Young in the Florence Morning News on January 8, 2012 concerning the effects improper FOG disposal can have on a septic system. The article offered proper disposal methods to avoid sanitary sewer overflows that have a negative impact on our environment.
Doug suggested coordinating a summer workshop to target homeowners about proper septic system maintenance. The workshop could be extended to include commercial food service establishment (FSE) about proper FOG best management practices (BMP’s).

**Landscape Series**
Terasa and Dan will be working to plan the 2012 series after today’s meeting. A different time and venue will be selected based on previous discussion.

**Paint Collection**
Terasa reported that last year’s efforts collected approximately 50 gallons of usable paint. KFB has asked if we wanted to continue this campaign in 2012. Terasa researched how other cities collect paint and found the Paint Exchange located in Charleston, SC. The company collects usable paint and recycles it into paint that is then sold. They also donate paint to charitable organizations such as Habitat for Humanity. They worked with Richland County for America Recycles Day. The company has a pallet rate structure and the cost to Richland County was $1200 for 6 pallets which equated to about 900 gallons of paint. Terasa inquired about utilizing them at the Great American Cleanup with the cost split by Consortium partners. She indicated we would not expect nearly that volume, perhaps 1/3 or 2 pallets which may be about $400 depending on their fee scale. Darlington collection centers accept paint so Doug did not think they could participate. Brian said he could not speak on behalf of the County. Michael stated they could assist with cost. Terasa is to contact David at The Paint Exchange to determine the minimum required for them to be at an event and provide that to the City to determine if the cost is acceptable.

**Urban Waters Small Grant**
Roy Todd (retired from Santee-Wateree Resource Conservation and Development Council) volunteered to work with Florence Soil and Water Conservation District. He has submitted a grant proposal that will target the Jeffries Creek watershed and the Northeast section of Florence. The proposal is to have “Edible Rain Gardens” (Community Gardens). The grant is for $60,000. It will include a public educational component such as storm drain marking and informing the public about non-point source pollution. Roy provided his contact information to the group. Cell 843-992-3836 or FSWCD office 843-629-8783 ext 3.

Michael announced the Jeffries Creek Blue Trail will begin at Naturally Outdoors and extend to Freedom Florence.

**Recap Action Items**
Terasa - send out information on ordering the study guide, test dates, and testing locations for pesticides certification.
Terasa- provide information about Paint Collection (Cost).
Alvin - collect information on the drainage system, within walking distance of Moore School, appropriate for drain marking.
Michael – provide contact information for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).
Doug – provide contact information for Palmetto Shores, HOA.
Group- Ideas for summer workshop for FOG Management.
Mid-year database reporting should be completed by February 28, 2012.
KFB- Great American Cleanup event March 24, 2012.

Next Meeting
March 15, 2012 at 1:30pm

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:00 p.m.