Florence-Darlington Stormwater Consortium
Minutes

February 24, 2011
1:30 p.m.
Wastewater Treatment Facility Meeting Room, Florence, SC

Meeting began at 1:40 p.m.

Representatives from BP Barber, Carolina Clear/Clemson Extension, Darlington County, Environmental Discovery Center in Florence County, Florence City, Florence County, and Davis & Brown were present. Attendees: Alvin Ard, Jennifer Boyles, Drew Griffin, Dana Hamilton, Michael Hemingway, Dan Hill, Drake Loflin, Jennifer Majors, Amanda Pope, Doug Reimold, Julie Ritz, Benjie Smith, Geoff Smith, Forrest Whittington, and Terasa Young. Katie Giacalone participated via telephone.

EAO Workshop

The workshop is scheduled for March 17, 2011. Elected and appointed officials from the consortium area have been invited to attend. The meeting will also be open to the public. Darlington County is sponsoring and will provide lunch. Terasa volunteered to bake goodies for the snacks and dessert for lunch.

All invitations went in the mail on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 to all of the people on the lists given to Terasa. The number was about 50, not including the consortium representatives. Doug had mentioned in an email that some might want to forward the email (especially to those that are not consortium members such as Hartsville). Terasa provided an electronic version for that suggestion, and that is available for all members. There was still time to send out printed versions.

Geoff asked if the Consortium should consider putting a cap on attendance. Drew stated that we should make room if more than 60-75 people should come. Julie stated that her sources at PDCOG stated the room could hold 75-100 people. Drew suggested we use discretion. Julie suggested that if there were that many people, the Consortium could possibly consider a second date and offer that to the attendees, instead.

The draft agenda was presented. Terasa passed copies of the general NEMO presentation, and stated it could be tailored for local presentations. Terasa suggested the consortium partners take them back to their office and review them. Katie stated that this was an overview of stormwater management. Katie stated she would make it available to consortium partners. Drake suggested it could be put on the website. Terasa stated it would be better to put it on ftp site, as the content is not entirely Carolina Clear’s. Katie concurred. Drew felt it was too long, and Doug concurred. Terasa agreed and stated that it would be pared down. Doug stated it needed to be simplified for most in attendance would not have much background, and it should be much more of a Stormwater 101 intro rather than a regulatory focus. Drew volunteered the presentation power point presentations from the City of Florence to be used, as they had worked toward a simplification of the materials. Alvin stated there was some good material from when they started their utility. Terasa stated that she and Katie had struggled with the content. Drew stated he understood where Doug was coming from, and the City of Florence slides bring the concept
of water falling out of the sky to pollution and then the why of the program – simple and straightforward. Drew suggested that Doug, Katie, and Terasa could all view them and work together to come up with something. Drew stated that the body could be applied with the Consortium logo. Geoff stated that there was a Carolina Clear rain garden workshop that was done in Lexington. He stated that presentation was probably what Doug was looking for. **Katie will obtain that presentation and email it to the Consortium.**

Geoff’s presentation was discussed next. Geoff stated he would present the basic and dry version of the regulations, requirements, and ramifications. Katie stated she had spoken to Arturo and Jill, and neither can make it. Katie drafted the major changes in manpower, authority, and watershed management from the last permit cycle to this one and submitted it to them. Geoff stated that Arturo and Jill were swamped and may not be able to review it before the workshop. **Katie will forward to Geoff asap.**

Doug reported that lunch was planned. He also reported that Darlington County would provide plates, utensils, cups and drinks. Terasa inquired about snacks and volunteered to bake break snacks and provide lunch dessert. Katie and Terasa talked about a promo item, and Rice Krispie treats could be used to represent pervious surface wrapped and sealed with a sticker. Doug reported that there would be a DHEC presence. He stated that Ann Clark is tied up in Court, as is Buck Graham (New EQC Director). Buck Graham recommended someone, and he is scheduled to come. Geoff asked if Doug had checked with Banu or Mihir for a presence. Doug had not, and Geoff stated it might be advisable, although he did not want to get sidetracked on the TMDL issue. **Doug will check to see if someone can make it.**

Terasa pointed out that the Q&A sessions were lumped together. She also stated that all invited to the Round Table have been contacted and accepted. Terasa needs questions for the Round Table participants. **All Consortium members please get your questions to Terasa by March 1st so that she can get them to Katie and the Round Table participants.**

Terasa and Katie thought that a one-page handout would be useful. Geoff stated he could put together a hand-out for Hartsville and Sumter utilities. The City of Florence could put together something on the historic perspective of their utility. Geoff felt it was important to dialogue and that the handout would not facilitate a good discussion. Consortium partners felt that it would be good to have to hand out after the presentation.

Drew stated that the new permit requires an explanation of the funding mechanism and the amounts being spent on activities, reporting along the lines of cost accounting. He stated that EPA demanded a breakdown of how activities were funded, not counting bonding for construction projects. This cost includes personnel. Drew stated that EAO would respond better to the federal mandate side of the issue and the steps necessary to meet those mandates. Doug stated he would like to get beyond the mandates and address drainage issues of their constituents, thus combining federal mandates and giving back to the community. Drew stated there were three prongs to their utility: capital, operations, and regulatory. He stated that it took about 5 years to create it, after council approved the concept.

Geoff stated that since Sumter had created their utility, they had hired 3 people and bought a street sweeper. Drew stated that the utility could reduce general fund costs. Doug stated that this was the goal. Drew stated they had transferred over $500,000 from general fund to utility.
Doug felt it could also reduce Roads & Bridges budget, somewhat, as well as Planning/Stormwater.

**Doug will handle Closing Remarks.**

**HHM Disposal Event Discussion**

Terasa stated she had been working with Michelle Bailey of Keep Florence Beautiful, taking advantage of the Great American Cleanup. There will be a paint recycling event during the Great American Cleanup at Timrod Park on March 26, 2011. Terasa sent letters to local businesses asking for help in the form of 5-gallon buckets, money, or mixing the paint into uniform color after the event. She stated one company stated they did not participate in things of this nature, but the representative stated the biggest challenge would be mixing to a uniform color. The paint will be used for the “Paint the Town” – giving to those who need assistance.

Terasa asked if Darlington County or Florence County would like to add to the discussion. Terasa had talked to Rodney Freeze (Darlington County Recycling Center) without result.

Terasa asked about advertising for the event. Amanda stated that the next water bills would have a message about scrap metal recycling and Great American Cleanup, and **she could include something about the paint.** Amanda stated she could put it on the website.

**Terasa will include it in her article for the paper.**

**Pervious Surface Workshop**

Set May 12. Venue is Florence Water Treatment Facility, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Terasa stated she had planned for Dr. Brad Putman from Clemson. General education with problems and solutions would be the focus. She also asked for a representative from NDS, gravel and grass paver system (Hobcaw Barony). She also asked Jason Wimberly from Concrete Redi-Mix Association of SC to talk about porous concrete, as well as a representative from an asphalt company. Comparison of prices will also be discussed. Terasa will check on CE credits. **Consortium members are to get invitation list (developers and contractors) to Terasa, as well as any particulars needed to be discussed.**

**Outreach Efforts**

Backyard Landscape Series is starting. It is also on the online calendars, Channel 11, website. No registration required. Offering pesticide CE’s for certain dates.

Terasa is working on an Earth Day coloring contest. Florence and Darlington Conservation Districts may sponsor prices, 3 age groups, 3 prize levels. Budget is $127 for each county. Florence accepted. Darlington requested formal request for next meeting. Allison Latham is the Conservation District rep for Darlington County. Hopefully, Terasa will display entrants in the libraries in their respective counties for a week.

Rain Barrel Workshops: April 2, Environmental Discovery Center. Terasa has brochures. April 9, Kalmia Gardens in conjunction with Earth Day Festival. May 7, Barnes Street Rec. Center, Florence. Terasa found a new place for rain barrel supplies (HD Waterworks Supply).
Earth Day Festivals (actually 22nd): 16th at Rural Heritage Festival @ Pee Dee Rec. Center and Williamson Park in Darlington. Terasa will go to Rural Heritage. She needs someone to go to Williamson Park, either a talk or a table, from 10-2. Doug volunteered to do a 2-hour stint with a table.

Water Magic Festival at SWIM project - Moore is interested, but there is not enough time. So, we’ll plan for next year.

5-Star Challenge Grant

Terasa asked for ideas. Julie brought an article with ideas. This article is in the latest issue of the Planning mag. These grants are due in February. A consortium team will be put together to apply for this grant in the next cycle (February 2012). These ideas could target an area for restoration that has run down. Match is 50/50. Contributions could be in-kind or cash, with at least a 1:1, if not 2:1 match. Equipment and time can count, as well.

Terasa stated that Keep Florence Beautiful has agreed to be an education partner, and their logo will be on the website. They are looking at a green space project downtown next to fountainhead. This would be a beautification project. There was a quick soil perc test done, and part of the ground did perc at about 1 in. an hour. However, there are areas with standing water. Katie will look at it when she comes down.

Terasa, Jennifer, and Alma are going to meet with Brenda Brown regarding a green space project in the South Darlington area. This will be an area dedicated to the community.

There were no other ideas at this time.

Geoff stated that once the permit came out, that the consortium would need to get together to discuss the particulars. The permit is not available yet, and there is not an expected date. Geoff stated DHEC is trying to get it to public release and comment to meet a fall deadline. Terasa stated we could wait for the next meeting until we get that information.

Next meeting was not set at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Ritz