Murrells Inlet Constructed Wetland Site Visit
Tour led by Tracy Jones, Georgetown County. A two-page overview of the site was provided to attendees during the meeting.

Welcome
Introduction from Lisa Swanger.

Attendees present: Dave Fuss, Horry County; Tracy Jones, Georgetown County; Linda Strickland, Myrtle Beach; John Adair, Surfside Beach; Jay Beeson, North Myrtle Beach; Lisa Swanger, CCU; Susan Libes, CCU; Maeve Snyder, NI-WB NERR; Hannah Sarver, NI-WB NERR; Beth Thomas, NI-WB NERR; Meredith Millen, MI 2020; Amy Scaroni, Extension - Clemson Carolina Clear; Hamed Majidzadeh, SC Sea Grant; Brett Morgan, Waccamaw COG; Shauna Stevens, SC DHEC; Bob Steffens, MI volunteer water quality monitor; Katie Altman-Goff, Clemson Extension; Joe Fersner, Thomas & Hutton; Kaley Towns, CCU graduate student; Andrew Crance, CCU graduate student; Madeline McKenna, MI 2020 student intern.

SMS4 & education provider representatives missing: Kevin Chestnut, Conway; Brian Palliser, Briarcliffe Acres; Ben Quattlebaum, Atlantic Beach; Cara Schildknecht, Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER.

Housekeeping
- Lisa noted that the 2018 Half-Year Activity summary was provided via email. Please contact her with questions or concerns.
- Minutes from December 2017 meeting were approved – minor revision requested by Beth Thomas (add “North Carolina” to note about future NERR hydroponics project expansion).
- In an effort to maximize meeting productivity while reducing the total duration, lunch will be served during the education providers’ updates in a “working lunch” format.
- An electronic evaluation will be emailed out via Survey Monkey following the meeting.

Ed Provider Highlight: “How Volunteer Monitoring is Supporting Watershed-based Management in Murrells Inlet” by Bob Steffens, Murrells Inlet volunteer water quality monitor
- Special sampling performed to assess new BMP’s.
- Woodland Drive Pond monitoring site - have to adjust sampling downstream to intercept flows that moved through the wetlands. HS monitoring site - issue with synoptic sampling.
- MI 2020 - Some past checking had indicated water quality was pretty good. Very nicely vegetated. Gary Weinreich (volunteer monitor) decided to take samples to get an assessment of the wetlands. It’s a complicated issue, though, since there must be other sources of water
coming in. Plus, there is a timing issue. Last Tuesday, it was cleaner at the pond then downstream in the wetlands.

- Any trend? Stormwater causes E. coli to increase, but this could be from raccoons. It’s hard with sampling just twice a month. Did some upstream sampling to try to track sources.
- Really surprised there is not more contaminations from fertilizer runoff. At Point Drive Canal, tidal side of inlet is on a septic tank.
- Will filters be replaced? Eventually, but a big rain will overtop them regardless.
- Are any VM sampling sites with trends? Yes, E. coli rises with rainfall.
- Related to SCDHEC.

**MS4 Round Table Discussion**

- Dave: SC DHEC confirmed no changes have been made to the reporting template.
- Lisa: Will provide another guidance document on CWSEC activities for MCMs 1 & 2 for member SMS4s to include with their report if they choose. A draft will be distributed June 25th. Please review and provide feedback by June 27th so that I may make any necessary revisions and send the final version by the 29th. All SMS4s agreed to the timeline.
- Next NOI needs to be submitted through e-permitting although the permit itself says the report serves as the NOI. The report will be included as an attachment to the e-permit submission.
- Existing permit expires at the end of this year. Arturo wants to switch to individual permits for each SMS4 rather than a general permit. Alternatively, split into coastal and non-coastal county permits.
- Dave Fuss mentioned that the Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Inspector Program (CEPSCI) Recertification deadline is coming up (2019) and is planning to submit a request to Clemson to offer a local training location. They may be more willing to consider a closer venue if additional entities request this, so if any MS4s have inspectors / are aware of 3rd party inspectors that may need recertification, let Dave know.
- Dave Fuss: Next Wednesday a vendor is coming to deliver a “lunch and learn” on shoreline stabilization products from Presto Geosystems. 12:00 to 1:00 at Privetts Lane.
- Jay Beeson inquired about the good housekeeping video library. He is interested in new ones. Lisa offered to look around for what options may be available if he can let her know what he needs.
- Lisa mentioned that CWSEC’s strategic plan was last updated in 2011 and suggested that the group revisit it to make any necessary updates once the new permit is issued. She also asked if the SMS4s would like for her to meet with DHEC at that time, similar to what the previous CWSEC coordinator had done prior to drafting the strategic plan, or if they are comfortable with continuing to get updates via SCASM.
- SC DHEC is working to get out a construction general permit as the current one is expiring in December 2018. Last time - 1.5 years into development with the new permit.
- No information was provided at the last SCASM meeting as to any major changes to the permit and time window to do any major seems too tight. Any education requirements might at most be in the Good Housekeeping MCM.
- Lisa asked if everyone is content with the CWSEC annual report format (content and style). All nodded. John Adair mentioned that he has had no complaints. Jay Beeson: We don’t need to re-invent the wheel.
• Lisa asked what, if any, social media platforms SMS4s may use and if they want/need help crafting stormwater-related education posts. While CWSEC doesn’t have a separate account, except for the Grand Strand Canines for Clean Water spokesdog FaceBook, multiple education providers do and have established a following. She asked if it would be beneficial for the education providers to compile a list of posts for all to respectively share. Multiple thought it was a good idea, so Lisa plans to reach out to the education providers to begin developing a list.

**CWSEC Core Education Provider Updates**

- **CCU/CWSEC - Lisa Swanger**
  - Recently awarded funding by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in collaboration with NOAA Marine Debris Program to conduct the Grand Strand Litter Reduction Project. Monitoring at 3 study sites. Includes raked and unraked beaches and a river landing site. Receptacle installation with interpretive signage and public education campaign. Cigarette butts will be recycled via TerraCycle. Student engagement on the project includes graduate students, ENVI 399 students, and potentially CCU Environmental Sociology and Eco-Rep students.
    - Joe Fersner noted that at state level cigarette butts are considered litter. Surfside has banned smoking on their beach. Discussion ensued on plastic bags – problem at Horry County Solid Waste recycling facility and landfill.
  - Developing guidebook for Be WELL (Water, Emissions, and Litter Learning) school pilot program.
  - Streamlined the Conway River Friendly Business Program application. The WQDC began conversations with the Chamber to help increase member buy-in.
  - Plan to host another Georgetown County Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop sometime this fall.
  - CMWS 621: Interpreting Science for Non Scientists: Strategies, Tools and Careers

- **NI-WB NERR Education Program - Beth Thomas**
  - Teacher workshops (Seeds to Shoreline) continue. An advanced training for previous STEAM teachers trained over the past 10 years. Discovery cruises. Bunnelle Foundation grant funds real-time water quality monitoring station in the Winyah Bay with a display in the Discovery Center. Regular public programs. SCMEA 30 year Anniversary annual conference will be held during the first weekend in November at the Charleston Museum. Hannah is the membership coordinator. Shared CDMO handouts on trends in water quality health for each NERR. On portal page for national NERRS. Noa.coastal.gov.
  - Maeve Snyder, new CTP Coordinator, requested ideas for workshops. Her contact information is in the June 2018 CWSEC newsletter.

- **Murrells Inlet 2020 - Meredith Millen**
  - Monthly clean ups, Fall Haul, July 5th special clean ups.
  - Screening of “A Plastic Ocean” in partnership with Surfrider.
  - Inlet to Intracoastal Multipurpose Path in permitting phase. Construction will hopefully start in a few months.
  - Volunteer water quality monitoring.
- Pet waste station. Also recycling sites and coloring books.
- Enviroscape demonstration model used at schools, festivals, and other events.

- Clemson Extension, Carolina Clear - Amy Scaroni
  - Hybrid Courses (online/1 field day): Master Rain gardener debuted in April 2018. Homeowners got a certificate. Professionals took exam. Very popular and had a waiting list. Will likely repeat frequently.
  - Clemson home garden information center has water resources online under “Landscape / Water” section. Shorescaping maintenance, meet your storm water pond and adding more stormwater ones all the time. New ones include chemical spills, floating wetlands, FOG poster and door hanger.
  - New FOG magnet designed by Katie Altman – Sumter Extension agent. Has some she can give out. CC can print door hangers.
  - Mass media – billboards on pet waste. Using a social marketing approach to development of signage. 2013 survey showed that education alone does not result in behavioral change. Also have to remove barriers to change. Show the action you want folks to take. Target pet owners. Establish social norms (shaming opportunity). Three billboards by July August. They rotate to open spaces as these are free.
  - Statewide survey - last done 5 years ago and new one is in development. Will now include cell phone numbers. Postcards will be mailed to audience as reminders. Pairing surveys with focus groups to find out why people do what they do. What would it take for you to change behaviors – what incentives are needed? This info will be used to direct future education efforts. CWSEC specific questions need to be reviewed. Dave and Lisa have agreed to help review. Amy will ask for more feedback later.
  - WBTW Media campaign – do you want to continue this? Full package – banners, tips, community segments (air Fridays and repeat Sat/Sun). Get 1 million views last time. Do the SMS4’s want to continue this shorescaping/pond maintenance (shoreline planting and follow over the season) or switch to bacteria that complements the billboards? All - yes to the latter. Tracy asked about rain barrels and rain harvesting (rain garden). Dave – hold a segment at the billboard and talk about survey results. Lisa – “interview” CWSEC’s spokesdog. Amy – street interview series in a dog park. Pet poop “flagging.” Georgetown residents don’t get WBTW anymore - get Charleston station instead. Charleston ed consortium engages with hurricane hunters.
  - We need to look at compostable pet waste bags. These still need to go to landfill. Biodegradable bags biodegrade optimally only under certain conditions. Biodegradability might just mean break down into small pieces.
  - Bagged poop stays out of the waterbody so that is a win.

- WWA - Dr. Susan Libes
  - Volunteer Monitoring.
  - Presentations at SCWRC.
  - WWA/EQL staffing that impact services.
  - Switch to grad students.
  - Space changes to CSC.
  - What to do about the EQL Director position.