CWSEC Dec. 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Karen Fuss, CCU; Susan Libes, CCU; Christine Ellis, Waccamaw Riverkeeper; April Turner, SC Sea Grant; Lindsay Thomas, NI-WB NERR; Beth Thomas, NI-WB NERR; Katie Giacalone, Carolina Clear; Sue Sledz, MI 2020; Tracy Jones, Georgetown County; Dave Fuss, Horry County; Steve Moore, Myrtle Beach; Janet Wood, Myrtle Beach; Kevin Blayton, North Myrtle Beach; Jay Beeson, North Myrtle Beach; Nancy Edelman, Briarcliffe Acres; John Adair, Surfside Beach; Ken Harth, Surfside Beach; Dan Newquist, Waccamaw COG; and Joe Fersner, Woolpert.

Karen Fuss welcomed everyone and brought up vote to approve minutes from June 20, 2012 meeting. Tracy Jones made a motion to approve minutes, and Janet Wood seconded. Minutes from June 20, 2012 were approved.

Karen also handed out an update on Year 8 Activity Plan.

I. Future Plans from Educators
   A. Beth Thomas, NI-WB NERR Public Education
      a. World Wetlands Day - February 2nd
      b. Pluff Mud Teacher Workshop for Georgetown & Horry County Teachers – March 22-24
      c. SCDNR Discovery Education Vessel @ Hobcaw Barony for Georgetown & Horry County School Districts – April 22-26
      d. NERR Environmental Discovery Series - 4 Spring dates TBD; swash project/stormwater for future program topic
      e. TOTE Teacher Workshop for middle & high school teachers-Estuaries 101 Curriculum-TBD
   B. Leigh Wood, NI-WB NERR CTP, was unable to attend the meeting, but provided a slide about Coastal SC LID manual development
      a. Project Leads- ACE Basin CTP, NI-WB CTP, Center for Watershed Protection, and SC Sea Grant Consortium
      b. September 2012-September 2014
      c. Collaborative process to develop the manual with input from intended users
      d. Workshop 1: January 16th, Fort Johnson, Charleston
      e. To learn more, visit www.northinlet.sc.edu/LID
   C. Christine Ellis, Waccamaw Riverkeeper
      a. Water Quality Monitoring - Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring (NC, SC); Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling; CCU Student Monitoring Project; RIVERKEEPER® Challenge - youth water monitoring
      b. River Cleanups - Adopt-a-Landing Program; SC Beach Sweep River Sweep/NC Big Sweep; Great American Cleanup
      c. Waccamaw River Blue Trail - application Submitted - National Water Trail designation; application in process – Blueways designation; focus on riparian protection (acquisition, easement, buffer)
      d. Waccamaw Conference – January 19, 2013; need site for conference
D. Sue Sledz, MI 2020
   b. Goals: Preserve the aesthetic, recreation & economic value of the salt marsh; meet the pollutant load reductions outlined in the fecal coliform; reverse shellfish harvesting restrictions
   c. Overall goal - Create a community-based vision and a scientifically-based management plan that combines the interests of economic development and the protection of our singular most important natural resource, the Murrells Inlet estuary

E. Susan Libes, Waccamaw Watershed Academy, CCU
   a. Volunteer monitoring - distribute new cards; develop one pager on data use; in Murrells Inlet extra monitoring for source tracking with WPD funding; funding search for NC end of Waccamaw River; rain data portal page - rain database in development might be useful for NPDES construction permit; need to contact Jill Stewart to confirm; plankton monitoring; CCU on campus
   b. Other Outreach - groundwater monitoring data online; piers
   c. Technical Advising - Murrells Inlet watershed-based plan; CMB Sustainable Cities Committee; and stormwater committees in Conway, Surfside and Horry County
   d. Presentations - SC Environmental Conference (March 2013) on groundwater; and StormCon 2013 (August 2013) on collaborative monitoring

F. Katie Giacalone, Carolina Clear, Clemson
   a. Continued cable purchases and piloting of online banners and video pre-roll to increase awareness of consortium
   b. Bioretention install and workshop with Horry County & NCSU; Bill Hunt and/or Bill Lord potentially present; Katie wants to ask Leigh to participate in holding this workshop
   c. New commercial on watershed-friendly landscaping practices; call Katie if you would like to know more; based on award from Clemson Extension, matching cable buy costs
   d. New webpages on resident Canada Geese management and creating a living shoreline soon to be released
   e. Developing a Carolina Yard Plant List with faculty and agents; involves communication with garden centers and growers, booth at Hort Industry tradeshow, Myrtle Beach; the plants that will be included require little to no fertilizer/pesticides/watering (overall low maintenance), are attractive, fitting for regions of SC, can last in a pot for sales period, and add wildlife habitat or food to SC landscapes; this list will be delivered by agents and others across the state, which hopefully increases demand and market for commercial side.
   f. Spring 2013: Pilot survey questions and finalize; telephone survey will include 2009 to 2013 comparisons; expand the survey across the state – might be larger than any other effort nationwide; need to prioritize questions; have already distributed questions with request for feedback. Survey will begin in fall of 2013.
   g. Finalizing Auto Repair Shop materials and restaurant outreach materials (FOGs)
   h. New 4-H2O Curriculum – can be used by other informal and formal educators, emphasizing summer of 4th-5th
G. April Turner, SC Sea Grant
   a. LID Manual for SC - there will be a series of workshops to develop the manual; PE and planning CEU’s will be available; April had a copy of the agenda for attendees to view; this is the kick start meeting; she assumes that the series will be done in different parts of the coast, although Charleston is central; there is a component to this on climate & sea level rise; these will be moving up and down the coast; expects to be done in two years with funding from NOAA NERRS Science Collaborative; Leigh is trying to hire an intern by Jan 2013; eight workshops to get lots of feedback; SC DHEC has been invited and is involved including Shannon Hicks.; there might be a date conflict with upstate meeting on NPDES construction permit

H. Karen Fuss, Waccamaw Watershed Academy, CCU
   a. Storm drain marking – Chelsea out sick next semester; hired new student intern for spring
   b. Good Housekeeping Inspection forms – will get feedback from SMS4s
   c. HOA/Property Management workshops – none currently planned, but Horry County is interested in targeting 2 different areas – Carolina Forest and other up towards Little River; geared for HOA boards
   d. Stormfest 2013 – Alicia Sanders, Emergency Management for Horry County, at Pelicans stadium; CWSEC booth and activities; new intern will be helping with this; let Karen know if you want something included at this display
   e. StormCon 2013 – Stormwater on Wheels; let Karen know about any new installations in area; will need support on site
      i. April asked everyone to please enter new installation in the LID Atlas. Katie provided brochures on how to upload to the LID atlas.
   f. Pet waste campaign by PT EE assistant; hire CMWS student as her internship through June 30, 2013; contingent on approval by CMWS; will have assessment program and review of other programs
      i. April – bothers me that some of the pet waste stations are not used correctly, especially at Isle of Palms
      ii. Jay – Eagle scouts made wooden boxes for beach
      iii. Steve – dubious about how well any of this will ever work
      iv. Sue – scraping up poop from marshwalk
      v. Katie – city in Florida partnered with Eagle scout; GPS map with feces locations from park that is heavily used; published article to kick off campaign with explanation of how feces not picked up and disposed of properly impact on water quality; for several weeks, continued map and press feature on location of piles of dog waste; documented a decrease in droppings; couple of years ago

II. CWSEC Assistant Position
   A. Karen - Circulated budget, revenue scenarios, and job description with estimates of time expenditures. Karen is still spending more than 50% of her time on CWSEC even with PT Megan. If we can’t get full time help, we need to punt back on activities, especially without Megan.
   B. Karen - Proposal is with FT at annual salary of $35K with the hopes of getting some qualified candidates that can take the job and run with it independently.
a. Steve – what am I looking at here? 2013 salaries include?

b. Karen briefly reviews budget with group.

c. John - this is the way of the world.

d. Steve – how about it Georgetown, what do you think of this increase?

e. Tracy – I’d rather not.

C. Core educators exited the room so that the SMS4 members could discuss in executive session.

D. After executive session without educators, report out from stormwater managers: “Still working on it and still friends”.

III. StormCon 2013

A. Panel: History of CWSEC and monitoring efforts. Served as a forum of discussion for anything about stormwater. Attracted researchers to address issues. Get scientific research focused on the things we’re interested in.

a. Dave read panel presentation list. Short 10-15 minutes spots that will later be featured in 30 minute presentations later in the conference. Meant to attract attention from national attendees.

b. Steve used to go to this conference every year.

c. Tracy has never gone nor has Kevin.

d. Several agreed that it is cutting edge of the best.

B. Stormwater on Wheels tour. Karen has sent a flyer to advertise in booklet and Storm Con website. Four-hour timeline. Will ask for speakers along the way. Pervious pavers and concrete. Also in-ground BMPs that are harder to see. Bioretention cells and assessment monitoring (Dan and Ani). Please suggest sites.

a. Floating islands - Jay and Kevin reported that turtles and fish ate them all.

i. Janet reported that two are gone from Futrell. Eat from bottom and start sinking. Nest for ducks. People are feeding ducks and turtles at these locations. Dog park ones (in Market Common) are not problematic because dogs are keeping waterfowl away. Shoreline vegetation is doing well.

ii. Dave suggested letting Stu (from Charleston Aquatics) know as he is going to adjust design. Jute is getting eaten. Horry County’s was foam boat flotation.

iii. Katie will follow up with Stu on this.

iv. Dave – some other group is using recycled plastic.

b. Buses hold 22. We’ll have to see if we get lots of interest and possibly two buses and two leads. Try to keep conversation going on the bus during the driving. Karen is working out all these logistics.

c. Sue - will you come down south? Karen – hopefully to Murrells Inlet.

d. Steve – we have lots of sites in Myrtle Beach and in 15 min, you can see trash racks, CST box, snout, flo guard and stormflo. Filterra at Grand Dunes. Can use ladders and take folks underground. Rain gardens, grass pave, impervious.

e. Sue - are you showcasing monitoring, MI needs to be represented on this tour.

f. Karen responded that there might not be time for reviewing water quality monitoring, but monitoring of LID examples, i.e. Dan and Ani’s monitoring at bioretention cells will be discussed.
g. John added that Surfside has large pervious parking lot using pavers.

C. Tracy – when will registration info be available? Response – early spring probably.

D. Sea Grant support for registration for panel. Submit as seed proposal. Coastal community’s grant with concept letter and budget to April. National conference, we’re going to be showcasing things here. Package as group effort.
   a. Ken Harth: who recruited Storm Con to come to MB? Shouldn’t local people want us to show up? How about Chamber of Commerce sponsor attendance fee? (Who might need assistance? Erik, Susan, Mike = $425 x 3 = $1275).

IV. Open discussion over Lunch

A. Katie: H2Ownership: water resource fact sheet. New water resources team production. Fact sheets undergo peer review. She presented the first three to be published. Press release in Carolina gardening magazine. Tool to education. Can print out and put on display, use in workshops. We are going to be building more topics. Some of you have donated pictures. Thanks!
   a. Sue - I have an easement in my backyard and need plantings to stabilize. Erosion and sediment control – need to not scoop out ditches.
   b. Steve said that Myrtle Beach no longer scoops ditches.

B. Future LID Training: Karen went to Restore Estuaries conference and saw LID track. Karen has a CD of all ppts from this track and can provide copies. She spoke with Larry Coffman and NC Coastal Federation director. They did a session on coastal NC to brainstorm with stakeholders how to facilitate implementation of LID. Engaged NC DENR, stormwater managers and engineers to figure out how to move forward with promoting LID and getting it implemented. Talked to Hunter Freeman (engineer at Withers & Ravenel) about LID EZ tool. It is an option to give a location training workshop on. Our communities have received general workshops, but we need more detail on how to put LID in the ground.
   a. Janet - There has to be a push from developers’ side to use LID. Even with the best manual and specs, if the owner doesn’t request this to be designed in, it will not happen.
   b. Dave – no one wants to learn something new even if it is cost effective because it requires a different mindset.
   c. Steve – how many EE firms are actually good at doing LID?
   d. Karen – workshops got LID on even footing with conventional development such that developers are now considering using it. Karen has examples of a car dealership and PUD that she can share. Maybe manual will serve the purpose of moving forward. What do you want to do?
   e. Dave - engineers don’t feel confident about implementing it when they’re squeezed between regulators and developers. So they don’t want to risk it. Environmental engineers are interested. They are scared of making a mistake in the developer’s eyes. They probably need some more hand-holding to prevent ending up with a mistake on their hands. We will continue educating through planning and review process. We advise on how to fix mistakes. Someone is going to discover there is a gold mine in green development from pent-up consumer demand and then the tide will turn. We’re missing the holistic site design because the engineers are used to using cookie cutter approach.
   f. Katie – preliminary sketch plan design. Meet on site to conceptually sketch out green design that factors in features of the landscape that should be preserved.
g. Kevin - we need regulatory backing on this to make it a reality. Prelim design review is optional.

h. Steve – don’t think the political climate to do this is right now mostly because politicians don’t know LID.

i. Tracy – Beaufort is ahead why?
   i. Steve- they’ve been beat up really hard on water quality so they’re willing to try.
   ii. April – they need to find commonalities that everyone could get behind, like oyster factory. Find things they can all get behind, like shrimp in Beaufort County. Community groups helping.
   iii. Joe - They started 20 years ago with SAMPs.

j. Katie – can you use beach closings? Have we been to the chamber?

k. Steve and Kevin: NO.

C. New construction general permit – Joe shared info. about DHEC workshop in Columbia
   a. Tracy and Dave were at DHEC meeting. Colossal waste of everyone’s day.
   b. Jill explained changes in construction general permit.
   c. Seven new forms will be used. None are final – only drafts are available. Joe has them all and will circulate them. Went through the forms in detail.
   d. David went into detail on buffer requirements.
   e. Held questions until 4 PM. Most of the big players had left by then.
   f. DHEC had an opportunity to get feedback from SMS4s but didn’t. Charleston UA is probably going to send a letter of complaint regarding how these sessions were held.
   g. Dry run for engineers and contractors in Jan. Another session is for the general public.
   h. Working with Homebuilders Assn for single lot development requirements. SMS4s won’t be able to answer any questions. These will have to be forwarded to SC DHEC.
   i. Dave – this is likely going to be a difficult transition period for the next 6 mo to 1 year.
   j. Who’s responsible for insuring the utility corridors? This works for water and sewer but not for cables, since this isn’t known ahead of time. Not sure if local districts are going to relay this information. If a utility is working in a subdivision they are working under the SWPPP of the subdivision. Have to submit at beginning of year; have to submit a request for blanket coverage to be covered. No co-permitees anymore. Contract certifications only.
   k. Joe – my concern is that except for Georgetown, all SMS4s in QLP have to insure compliance with general permit. SC DHEC is going to expect as of 1/1/13, each SMS4 is going to ensure compliance. Most construction companies have no idea this even exists. They’re going to have to give a wide window of compliance to allow for ordinance changes. Don’t know how logistically this is going to be handled.
   l. When Construction Gen Permit was issued, Charleston and Berkley Co appealed this vis a vis the QLP language. SC DHEC took out of appellants’ certificate of coverage the QLP language.
   m. Although SMS4s here have good programs, you still don’t know the details in buffers.
      i. CEPS CI class said that the SM4s have authority to establish these details, but must be at least as stringent as DHEC’s.
   n. This is a statewide program that the local SMS4’s can’t implement for SC DHEC. SC DHEC is going to have to allow some adjustment time. Next audits won’t be for another 5 years as most of the SMS4s have been audited. Georgetown Co has some SMS4 area. There is no way that SC DHEC is going to inspect these sites.
i. Katie-EPA region IV showed up at a construction site last year to review documents.

o. Tracy is asking Richard Geer to confirm each permit. SC DHEC’s new permit compliance office is Susan Yates. About to do Berkeley County audit. Myrtle Beach Urbanized Area auditor is Matt Krofcick.

i. Steve - Myrtle Beach audit went well. Matt – acknowledged City of Myrtle Beach is doing well.

p. Are you expecting SMS4s to review individual lot NOI's. DHEC response is that we would like you to do this but you can send us a letter stating that you are declining to do this. SC DHEC doesn’t know how they’re going to implement this. They are just trying to get the program implemented by 1/1/13.

q. Joe – they know that there are EPA requirements that are still in flux, such as the non-numeric effluent limits, so they need to just get going on the new permit.

r. The development meetings had drafts that did not resemble the final product.

s. Cal had only seen the new forms 10 min before yesterday’s CEPSCI training started.

t. Buffers – 30 to 35 ft. It’s not a taking because the construction buffer is temporary. It comes out. But to do anything in the buffer will require a new land disturbance permit that still requires a 30 ft. buffer. So this has de facto stopped construction in a buffer zone.

u. Cal and John did a great job at CEPSCI training. There are so many watch words, like “infeasible”.

v. Other hot items. Surface dewatering. It is going to require skimmers in sediment basins. ½ acre had to have several (50) patented skimmers in it. Joe can share some details on how this analysis was done.

w. Dave – metered water out for riser pipes. This has not been adequate for 80% reduction in sediment. So switching to floatation device to lead water into tube. Outlet can only withdraw water from surface. Must deal with flows from 10 year, 25 yr. storm event.

Assessment sheets were distributed and meeting was adjourned.

Minutes taken and submitted by Susan Libes.