CWSEC Biannual Meeting – June 3, 2008

Members Present

Barbara Blain-Olds (City of Conway), Kevin Blayton (City of North Myrtle Beach), Marcia Conner (Town of Atlantic Beach), Jan Davis (WRCOG), Joe Dignam (City of Conway), Nancy Edelman (Town of Briarcliffe Acres), Christine Ellis (Waccamaw Riverkeeper), Karen Fuss (Waccamaw Watershed Academy), Tom Garigen (Horry County Stormwater), Zollie Green (Georgetown County), Ken Harbin (Surfside Beach), Victoria Kramer (SCDHEC), Chris Laude (Georgetown County), Susan Libes (Waccamaw Watershed Academy), Stephanie Miller (Coastal Carolina University), Steve Moore (City of Myrtle Beach), Benjamin Powell (Clemson Extension), Nicole Saladin (NI-WB NERR CTP), Cal Sawyer (Clemson University), Sue Sledz (Murrells Inlet 2007), Jackie Taylor (Horry County Stormwater), Beth Thomas (NI-WB NERR), Lindsay Thomas (NI-WB NERR), April Turner (SC Sea Grant), Janet Wood (City of Myrtle Beach)

Introductions by Karen Fuss

- Approval of December 7, 2007 minutes

CWSEC Education Providers Update (Education Provider Updates)

- Nicole Saladin (Coastal Training Program, North Inlet-Winyah Bay NERR)
  - Getting to Know Wetlands and the Rules that Govern Them (1/17/08)
    - Highly successful workshop ~70 participants
    - 2 more scheduled for July 2008
  - Stormwater, Water Quality, and You (2/6/08)
    - Presented to 350 7th graders at Forestbrook Middle School
    - CWSEC-collaborative event with NIWB CTP, Beth Thomas and Lindsay Thomas of NIWB Community Education Program, and Karen Fuss of Wacc Watershed Academy
  - Southeast Regional Diamondback Terrapin Conference (2/27/08)
    - Collaboration with Southeastern NERRs
  - Design & Development: Stormwater & Your Bottom Line (5/28/08)
    - Seminar for developers, designers, planners on LID
    - In partnership with Georgetown County Stormwater Division
  - Best Practices, Best Results (5/28/08)
    - Seminar for contractors and project managers on IDDE and BMPs
    - In partnership with Georgetown County Stormwater division
  - NIWB CTP & M12007 abstract accepted to Southeast Watershed Forum’s “Building Sustainable Communities for the 21st Century” conference in Charleston, SC for Fall 2008

- Beth Thomas (Community Education Program Coordinator, North Inlet-Winyah Bay NERR)
  - Environmental Awareness Week, McDonald Elementary School
    - Presentations from various environmental groups (including Keep Georgetown Beautiful), included water quality testing, pervious/impervious demos, pet waste bag distribution
  - Waccamaw Elementary School presentations
Focusing on human impacts and development on Florida Everglades based on curriculum/publication; did water quality testing and talked about local examples as a follow up

- Project WILD Aquatic (3/24/08)
  - Teacher workshop at Kimbel Lodge on Hobcaw Barony, led by Jack Hancock of SCDNR with 15 teachers from Horry, Georgetown, Charleston and Berkeley Counties
- Hosting 4-day intensive teacher workshop at and in partnership with ACE Basin NERR to teach about the Reserves, environmental issues, wetlands, etc
- Planning teacher workshop in September based on “A Day in the Salt Marsh”
- Estimated over 1100 people reached with stormwater information

Christine Ellis (Waccamaw Riverkeeper, Winyah Rivers Foundation)

- Education and Outreach Activities
  - Festival Participation – Winyah Bay Heritage Festival (1/19-20/08); North Myrtle Beach Earth Day Festival (4/22/08); Round the Fourth Festival (6/28/08)
  - Waccamaw River Conference (3/1/08)
  - River Clean-ups (3/3, 3/9, 5/5, 7/19, 9/13)
  - Volunteer Monitoring Program – served as field leader, coordinated volunteer get together and training for ecoli testing (3/26)
  - Media – working to get stormwater info into Coastal Observer’s Green Issue (June 08)
  - Waccamaw River Boat Cruise (6/14/08), sponsored by Coastal Conservation League

Committee Work

- Horry County Rivers and Wetlands Protection Committee – led by Dave Fuss at WWA to find solutions to water protection issues in Horry County; focusing on carrot/stick approach, incentives for developers, and floodplain development
- Economic Development Strategic Plan for Horry County
- CoastMatters
- Pee Dee Scenic River Advisory Committee – developing management plan for scenic river designation, trying to establish heritage trails along the river
- Evelyn Snider Memorial Paddle Trail – working with Steve Tanner at City of Conway to get paddle trail incorporated into city’s green trails plan

Training

- Citizen education and awareness through “River Watch”, a river awareness case – 6-week spring class with 13 students (another scheduled for Fall 2008)
- Service learning with Steve Roff of Service Over Self in Georgetown
- Muddy Water Watch – in partnership with NC Riverkeeper to get training programs in NC portion of watershed, to be done fall 2008

Sue Sledz (Murrells Inlet 2007 and Beyond)

- Public awareness at many events and in quarterly newsletter (March 08 issue focusing on marine debris)
- History and Wildlife Day at Huntington Beach State Park – info on water quality, marine debris, etc
- Spring Tide – 17th annual litter pickup based on land and water, 270 volunteers picked up 5.7 tons of trash during day; “Business 17 Holiday Sweep” - land-based cleanup in Nov 07
- Since 2003, MI2007 hosting pet waste stations at Morse Park, going through 500 bags/year; Georgetown County also providing pet waste stations along MI Marsh Walk
- Pervious Pavement installation in bike path project, which now provides 12 continuous miles of biking/walking path
- Rain garden/stormwater wetland replanting planning going on, planting will probably happen fall 2008; reinstalled rain garden will complete Morse Park demos of stormwater BMPs in addition to swales and pervious pavers that are already in place

Karen Fuss (Waccamaw Watershed Academy, Coastal Carolina University)
- Field workshops for adults: Public Involvement – beach sweep on Waties Island, March 2008
- Lifelong Learning course with Ben Burroughs at CMWS (April 08) – historic and environmental river adventure on pontoon boat out of Wacca Wache Marina
- Over 240 students on various trips to Waties Island between Jan-May 2008
- 28 participants from Georgetown middle and high schools in Service Over Self pontoon boat trip co-led with Riverkeeper and water quality monitoring volunteers
- Adult group presentations
  - Homeowner Tips for Ecoliving on the Grand Strand - Lifelong Learning orientations (57 participants)
  - “Waties Island: Does Undeveloped Mean Litter Free?” presented to Keep North Myrtle Beach Beautiful
  - CWSEC & Water Quality Monitoring exhibit at MI2007 Chowder Talk (February 08)
  - North Myrtle Beach Rotary Club – stormwater presentation
  - National County Government Week display and presentation, in partnership with WWA, NIWB NERR, Waccamaw Riverkeeper, and Georgetown County Stormwater Division
- Installation of rain garden at Socastee High School, funded by Wal Mart with participation by Georgetown County Stormwater Division & Horry County Stormwater
- Property Management Seminar (5/21/08, 38 participants), in partnership with City of Myrtle Beach, Clemson University, and Waccamaw Watershed Academy; seminar included property managers, realtors, SCDHEC, maintenance personnel, and homeowners (Cal Sawyer had suggestion of adapting the photographic stormwater activity that was presented at this workshop to a web-based activity to go on the new CWSEC website)
- Steering Committee for City of Conway Comprehensive Plan
- Presenting at American Public Works Association Conference, July 2008, in North Myrtle Beach
Susan Libes (Waccamaw Watershed Academy, Coastal Carolina University)
  o Retooled WWA and KLEAN websites
  o Kingston Lake Watershed Project – working to develop a watershed management plan for Kingston Lake
  o Crabtree Restoration Initiative (with Tom Garigen, Horry Co. Stormwater), meeting with property owners along Crabtree Canal to start demonstration projects (agreement with 1 property owner for a 2-stage pilot project to mimic natural floodplain design and function)
  o Interview session with Ben Abercrombie at Playcard Environmental Education Center for Forever Wild TV Show
  o Presentations at: Waccamaw River Conference, Myrtle Beach Shell Club, Murrells Inlet 2007 Chowder Talk, Round the Fourth Festival in Conway
  o Withers Swash Community Collaborative – watershed-based restoration effort with Janet Wood (City of Myrtle Beach)
  o Sterritt Swamp watershed planning efforts
  o Ad Hoc Committee on Floodplains and Wetland Protection
  o Volunteer monitoring
    ▪ Waccamaw River program now in 3rd year
    ▪ Murrells Inlet program just started in April 08
    ▪ Withers Swash proposal in the works
    ▪ Training volunteers in easy-gel method of testing for ecoli
    ▪ Trying to expand monitoring into NC
    ▪ Website revised, database online
    ▪ Follow-up with property managers on IDDE, some from USGS sensors set up in Crabtree → illustrating that water quality monitoring data being actively used
    ▪ Regional Monitoring – regulatory monitoring and research on Waccamaw River, Atlantic Ocean, Crabtree Canal, stormwater ponds, and others in coordination with USGS, SC DHEC, and Clemson University
  o Advisory and Committee Roles
    ▪ Horry County (Horry County Comprehensive Plan and Natural Resources Element; Ad Hoc Wetlands Committee; Parks and Open Space Board; Stormwater Advisory Board)
    ▪ Conway (Comprehensive Plan Natural Resource and Land Use Elements; Downtown Visioning; Water Quality and Drainage Commission)
    ▪ Myrtle Beach (Comprehensive Plan; Planning Commission; Withers Swash Community Collaborative)
    ▪ SC DNR Great Pee Dee River Advisory Committee
    ▪ Winyah Rivers Foundation Science Adviser
    ▪ US ACOE Stakeholder Group for coal fired power plant – impacts on Pee Dee River
    ▪ CCU Stormwater Management Plan
    ▪ Apache Family Campground and Pier – coastal oxygen and nutrients study to look at impacts of land-based pollutants; last year of external funding for this project; low DO and ecoli issues persist

Ben Powell (Clemson University, Horry County Cooperative Extension)
Radio PSAs for general public – 4 stations, 40 spots/week for 8 weeks, estimated 1.1 million people hearing the message; all part of spring campaign on stations 103, 106.5, 93.9, 98.5
• Cal Sawyer interviewed on NPR’s “Your Day”, specifically mentioning CWSEC & roles of regulations in municipalities
• Working with Next Media’s Go Green Guide - annual publication for homeowner activities to improve wildlife habitat, etc.
• Responding to Pond Calls – about 35 pond calls, 15 pond visits, 3 HOA presentations; developing protocol for how to develop and respond to pond calls
• CEPSCI Course – Dec 6, 2007 – 68 attendees, 80% passed, working on future course planning
• Continuing Phytoplankton monitoring network
• Compiled Draft FY03 Report
• October 2008 – South Carolina Water Resources Conference sponsored by Clemson University’s Center for Watershed Excellence
• TV Advertisements needed and are high priority – working on developing them
• 4H20 Summer Day Camp at Wildlife Action in Nichols, July 28-30
• Working with Gary Forrester to address water conservation related to landscaping

- April Turner (South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium)
  • Long Bay Project
  • Open Space Committee – Prioritization of open space and pilot project funded with Sea Grant’s SC Coastal Communities Minigrant Initiative
  • Tidal creek research done over 10 year period – created new publication on tidal creeks, available from Sea Grant for distribution
  • Coastal Heritage Magazine – Spring 2008 issue focusing on stormwater

CWSEC Update

- New CWSEC website revealed
  • Nicole Saladin revealed new site, www.cwsec-sc.org
  • Discussed use of new website to improve communication among Ed Providers and Members by keeping it updated with new events, news items, etc

- Draft FY03 Annual Report
  • Some issues with database remain, but becoming very effective long term tool for members, ed providers, and for generating reports
  • MS4s need to submit by July, so finalizing report within next few weeks is high priority (Ben Powell working on this)
  • MS4s more concerned about getting final report, with database issues addressed later
  • Karen Fuss working with CCU employee to finalize database modifications

- Brainstorming Year 4 activities
  • Chris Laude – wants to look at grants and be prepared for the many grants that are available each year that require collaboration and provide opportunities for regional stormwater management initiatives.
  • Suggested pulling resources together in order to quickly capitalize on grant RFPs with quick turn-around times
- Chris Laude and Georgetown County Stormwater already discussing with Dan Hitchcock and Clemson University, and would like to get others involved.
  - TV ads and PSAs are high priority for members I
    - Incoming Carolina Clear/Clemson statewide employee with TV ads as top priority upon arrival;
    - looking at NC ads, DHEC ads, and others
    - Ben Powell with two appearances on Southern Style that mentioned CWSEC with estimated 106,000 viewers per episode but not a targeted PSA campaign
    - Ben met with Fox broadcasting and assessing scenarios that will be most effective
    - could refer to stormwater videos and live shows that are prevalent in Wilmington NC for examples
    - Important to have these done by Clemson so that CWSEC has ownership of ads, versus having these done by local radio station or other entity which costs more money and doesn’t result in ownership.
  - Getting into Schools
    - Want to set goal of getting into each school at least once per year
    - With rain garden installations and other ed provider efforts, generally agreed that we are well on our way to achieving this goal
  - Consider additional local Ed Provider – Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge – given their programs and partnerships with other Ed Providers for programs done at Cox Ferry Lake site in Conway (suggested by Beth Thomas)
  - Capitalizing on BMPs/LID installations for demonstrations
    - Those who are reviewing plans or know of projects otherwise that are using “innovative” practices should flag these projects and make a point of letting ed providers know about it
    - Can then use these as training opportunities for others by talking to engineers or others involved in the project
    - Starting to see a lot of rain harvesting and underground storage systems
    - Seems to be high willingness for communicating engineering specs for BMPs and other practices b/c helps companies to sell their products and/or services
    - Possibility of filming short videos with a 1 minute overview from engineer, project manager, or other to go with demonstration and put these clips on website – Cal Sawyer and Clemson can help get the right people to each event to film this and process it at Clemson to make available to the public
  - Map of local BMPs/LID
    - Renewed previous discussion of having an index of BMPs around Horry/Georgetown
    - Possibility of incorporating this into Google Maps, with a brief blurb, pictures and links to more information for each site

Member SMS4 Updates
Kevin Blayton (North Myrtle Beach)
  - Including participation from CWSEC ed providers Karen Fuss and Nicole Saladin
  - Increasing on-site stormwater inspections as part of permit compliance; over 1000 small private stormwater management systems; instituting fines and repairs as necessary
  - Compliance Review with DHEC – had great praise for public education and outreach component of program (called it “robust”); need to strengthen fines and penalties in ordinance, but overall good review

Chris Laude (Georgetown County)
- Settled state lawsuit
- Updating GIS to show water and sewer lines and stormwater facilities
- Updating outfall inventory and stream map for SMS4
- Installing pet waste stations (3 total on Murrells Inlet marsh walk)
- Contractor and Developer seminars on May 28 with Coastal Training Program
- Follow up assistance and education based on requests from May 28 seminars; requests for good housekeeping and pollution prevention seminars with local businesses
- Working on Rain Garden at Morse Park
- Lowes Home Improvement has a site on rain gardens – suggested working with Lowes (and Home Depot) to help improve rain garden sites with info specific to where people live, how to select plants, etc
- Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring in Murrells Inlet
- Updating ordinance and design manual – what to do about wetlands, forestry exemption, and BMPs will be included
- Working with Centex Homes on BMP installation and issues – many practices not in compliance; exposing them to quality and quantity issues (Jackie Taylor mentioned that Centex has had training on this in Horry County already)

Tom Garigen (Horry County Stormwater)
- DHEC Evaluation (same as NMB) – biggest hurdle was IDDE program b/c of huge mapping area, but working on it
- Almost finished revising the SW ordinance
- Changing pond standards is big component of the revised ordinance – flatter banks, littoral shelves, pond retrofit standards and issues with fences, access and drowning risks; how to retrofit existing ponds; how to change HOA requirements that require homeowners to mow grass all the way to waterline
- Discussion of buffers for classified waters – would support rationale for this in ordinance – possible topic of interest for a future workshop
- Designing and installing infiltration systems on the beach – some overflow in large storms but will mostly address discharge onto the beach
- August 2008 – installation of UV treatment on pond to test practice for SW treatment
- Working with City of Conway on Crabtree Canal to reduce sediment loading; similar thing being done at Raccoon Run on Hwy 701
o Expressed concern that when individual MS4 does an education activity, that it is not being captured by CWSEC.
  - E.G. essay contest sponsored by Horry County Stormwater that had participation by every classroom in 6th & 7th grade in the county.
  - E.G. Horry County and NC State IDDE and Good Housekeeping workshop for local staff
  - Need a way for CWSEC to capture these MS4 efforts.
  - Ties into needs for improved communication and coordination on efforts in planning
  - Karen Fuss will send monthly reminder/request on “what you’ve been doing and what’s coming up” to help members keep Ed Providers informed – this will be reflected in changes and updates to the website
  - Discussed adding “MS4” option under “Ed Provider” on database where one of the CWSEC Ed Providers (probably Karen as CWSEC Coordinator) can add a member activity such as the aforementioned events; discussed also having separate category for MS4s

➢ Steve Moore (City of Myrtle Beach)
  o IDDE and Good Housekeeping Seminar in partnership with Horry County and NC State
  o Property Inspections
    - About 30 inspections since October, most have needed correction notices to deal with grates, drains, ponds, structural integrity etc.
    - Given 60 days to correct issue, must start something within 30 days; extensions granted if needed depending on availability of contractors to do required work, etc
    - Follow-up is important – if everyone is making the corrections, this is important to document as success
    - MB also collecting cost information and invoices to get an idea of how much these corrections are costing (most expensive so far was $17K for pond restoration to initial condition after no maintenance for 20 years)
  o Property Management Seminars – May 21, 2008 – Janet Wood
    - Started b/c of inspections and realizing that property owners aren’t present, but that property managers are the ones who the stormwater inspectors deal with and who need to know what local stormwater issues are about.
    - A lot of issues with pool plaster companies made it apparent that education needed on these issues
  o On site inspections documented with before and after pictures to show corrections needed and made – discussion amongst everyone that this was a valuable resource that could be added to the website, or incorporated into a Google Maps product similar to the one mentioned before that documents LID & BMPs
  o Ordinance rewrites completed to comply with DHEC
  o Issues arising with building department over demolitions – previously, something was demolished and redeveloped immediately but with market slowdown, things aren’t being built back and demolition lots left vacant for long periods, sparking the need for site stabilization
- 70% coverage difficult to achieve and stabilize at the beach b/c silt fences are not a permanent or semi-permanent option (consider mulching?)
- Could offer to reduce stormwater fee if site is stabilized (if not stabilized, have to pay original fee based on prior asphalt coverage before demolition)
- Suggested double or triple shredded hydromulch – developing a procedure for this

- Joe Dignam (City of Conway)
  - EIS mapping and stormwater inventory
  - Rewriting ordinance for consistency with Horry County; strengthening the ordinance because Conway is more urban than Horry County overall
  - Working on Crabtree Canal design work, demonstration and restoration projects

- Nancy Edelman (Town of Briarcliffe Acres)
  - New on town council and concerned that so far, nothing has been done and time limits to take action are imperative
  - Would like to see other ordinances that have been passed that comply with permits
  - Currently no stormwater ordinance for Town of Briarcliffe Acres
  - Requested that everyone send copies of stormwater ordinances to post to CWSEC website, and to specify whether this is a new version or if an updated one will soon be available
  - Concerned over how to deal with non-functioning septic systems – variances issued for those in compliance, but 22 are not in compliance; receiving resistance from homeowners who do not want to switch to public sewer
  - Generally getting resistance from others who don’t get the urgency of other stormwater issues that have to be addressed in order to comply with permit or risk being fined

- Ken Harbin (Town of Surfside Beach)
  - Many of same issues as Town of Briarcliffe Acres
  - A lot of turnover in municipal staff – new public works administrator, town administrator, new mayor, 3 new town council members (only 1 existing member still on council), 4 new stormwater committee members, only 1 returning member to Planning and Zoning board
    - Would like to get a general information workshop for new staff
    - Would also like workshop for those with “chainsaws and bulldozers” and those supervising them to help with on site practices
  - About to dredge 4 lakes, concerned over what to do with dredge material – potential for UV treatment? Others?
  - Prior decision of town for a 50/50 match to help homeowners tile ditches so there will be no filtration until water reaches an end point – now there are concerns over this after hearing about the importance of infiltration into swales
  - About 18 months ago, town council was going to require each homeowner to tie their driveway into the street if it was unpaved b/c of concerns over crumbling asphalt, with no discussion of increased impervious surfaces; would like to have a seminar or something to bring them up to speed on these issues as well.
Overview of TMDLs and Introduction to June 9 training

- Susan Libes gave overview and background of TMDLs, what they are, why they are an issue, and the background of the CWSEC’s decision to hold a TMDL training (based on member feedback at prior biannual meeting)
  - Members posed potential questions to ask at Monday’s training
  - General agreement that Susan’s overview was useful
  - Decided that water quality monitoring, and developing TMDLs as a preventative (rather than reactive) measure to keep waters off 303d list was an important topic but too much for one day with all the other topics scheduled for discussion on June 9th – should be saved for another workshop

Meeting Adjourned with options to stay behind for any further discussion on topics of interest