

## CPAC Meeting Comments on Elements 5 and 8 of the City's Initial Stormwater Management Plan



June 21, 2010

**Meeting Date:** June 1, 2010

### Comments about Element 6 – Pesticide, Herbicide, and Fertilizers (PHFs)

#### Application

1. A participant suggested that integrated pest management could be incorporated into certified applicator training to reduce pesticide use.
2. There was a question asking if the City stormwater ordinance touched on integrated pest management.
3. City staff responded that the stormwater ordinance is still undergoing revision.
4. A participant suggested that gardening supply stores (i.e. Lowes and others) want to sell more pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, not necessarily reduce their use.
5. A participant noted that even some mulch has chemicals added to it.
6. A participant suggested that a large source of nutrients comes from yard debris left on curbs and grass clippings that get washed down stormdrains.
7. Resident education was seen as important to address this.
8. Master Gardeners in Richland County have given a centipede grass workshop.
9. Lexington County wants to use workshops but believes they should be called something other than “stormwater workshops” to interest residents.
10. S.C. DHEC has a Smart Gardener program.
11. Master Gardners have a turf grass demonstration area.
12. City staff asked if they have a mobile demonstration for hands-on work.
13. They may look into making it mobile.

### Comments about Element 7 – Illicit Discharges and Improper Disposal

- *Note: Charity (fundraising) carwashes and irrigation are among those discharges allowed by EPA and S.C. DHEC.*
1. A participant commented that charity car washes are very visible to the public; instead of having them wash on hard surface we should encourage them to be done on grass.
  2. There was a question asking if charity car washes needed to get a permit.
  3. City staff responded that such car washes typically do not need a permit.
  4. There was a suggestion that brochures may be helpful in encouraging charities to have car washes on grass.
  5. A participant observed that irrigation may be washing pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers into stormdrains.
  6. There was a suggestion to use churches/ green congregations to educate about irrigation and PHF.
  7. Richland County exempts homeowner car washing, not charity car washing.

8. Richland County does not allow homeowner car washing within 50 ft. of a storm drain.
9. Richland County gives out Notices of Violation for homeowner complaints.
10. Richland County gives out Notices of Violation for charity carwashes.
11. Richland County does not have outreach on car washing for charity fundraising.
12. Richland County has spoken with some churches about charity car washing.
13. Richland County “mom and pop” carwashes need an oil/water separator.
14. Lexington County makes charity carwashes an outreach audience.
15. Lexington County encourages local carwashes to work with charities.
16. Lexington County is developing a carwashing kit with Phosphorous-free soap and a sponge/filter for stormdrains.
17. There was a question asking if an ordinance exempting charity carwashes from business requirements is legal.
18. City staff responded that DHEC allows such exemptions, but they do not know if it is otherwise legal to treat charity fundraising different from businesses.
19. Lexington County’s experience is that DHEC needs MS4 permission before they permit swimming pool discharge.
20. City is starting with City-owned/ public pools to determine how to handle discharges; because of the different types of pools and different ways facilities are set up, this needs to be done on a case-by-case basis.
21. There was a question about whether or not private pools were allowed to discharge.
22. City staff responded that it depends on if the water has been dechlorinated by the time it reaches a storm drain or waterway.
23. There was a suggestion that the City develop education for private pool owners.
24. Richland County has a new ordinance requiring they be notified of SSO’s when DHEC is notified for all sanitary sewer providers in the County.
  - *Note: The City of Columbia was notifying S.C. DHEC of all SSO’s prior to this ordinance whether or not the SSO was large enough to require reporting. The City began informing Richland County of all SSO’s as a courtesy prior to this ordinance.*
25. Lexington County’s biggest complaint is fats, oils and grease (FOG).
26. City staff noted the City’s FOG program is tied to the City’s industrial stormwater program.
27. Richland County has a checklist for outfalls, inspects outfalls by region, requires SSO reporting, has spill prevention control, and inspects county and private facilities that use PHF.
28. There was a concern about SSOs and creek over-banking after rain events.