

# WATERSHED INSTITUTE 2009

## FINAL AGENDA

(Updated August 17, 2009)

Clarion Hotel Downtown, September 22-25, 2009

Columbia, South Carolina



Tuesday, September 22, 2009	
7:30 – 8:30	<b>Registration</b>
8:30 – 9:00	<b>Session A: Welcome</b> Receive a warm welcome to South Carolina from Richland County Planning Director Joe Kocy, meet the CWP staff, and learn all you need to know to get the most out of your 2009 Watershed Institute experience.
9:00 – 10:30	<b>Session B: Why Watersheds?</b> Why are we here? Why do we care about watersheds, and what are we doing about them? Tom Schueler and Fred Holland, PhD will try to answer some of these questions.
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Break</b>
10:45 – 11:45	<b>Session C: What is watershed management?</b> This session outlines our steps to small watershed planning, including a variety of efficient desktop analysis, field assessments, and public involvement techniques designed to maximize your changes for successful implementation. We will explain how these steps will be applied in the Crane Creek Watershed over the course of the week, and how to ensure your efforts meet EPA's 9 recommended watershed planning elements.
11:45 – 12:45	<b>Lunch (provided)</b>
12:45 – 1:45	<b>Session D: Getting Started on Your Watershed Plan</b> Congratulations on taking the first step to develop a watershed plan! But, before you go into the field, wade in streams and count the grocery carts, the watershed planning process begins with an orientation about your local watershed and defining goals. This session will introduce you to your watershed planning team and the Crane Creek watershed case study that will be used to develop a mini-watershed plan throughout the Institute. The process begins with the goal setting process and emphasizes the need for establishing partnerships and building relationships with key stakeholders.
1:45 – 2:15	<b>Break</b>
2:15-6:00	<b>Session E: Watershed Assessment Tools</b> Finding and evaluating watershed data can be overwhelming! In this session we will introduce a variety of assessment tools to evaluate current and future conditions in your watershed. It will allow you to gain experience with examining data to answer the following questions: What do you know about current watershed conditions? What don't you know about watershed conditions, but should? How will future land use decisions affect watershed conditions?
6:30 – 7:30	<b>Happy Hour and Hors D'oeuvres</b>

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Wednesday, September 23, 2009	
8:00 – 8:15	Load Buses for Day of Field Work
8:15 – 8:45	Travel to Field Sites
8:45 – 11:15	<p><b>Session F: Field Station 1, Unified Stream Assessment (USA)</b> There is more to stream assessments than macroinvertebrates and physical habitat. Many communities are taking a more comprehensive approach to evaluating conditions and identifying restoration and conservation opportunities along the stream corridor. This session introduces the Unified Stream Assessment (USA) – an adaptable stream walk method for watershed practitioners that integrates outfall mapping, infrastructure maintenance, and illicit discharge detection with stream restoration and buffer management planning.</p> <p><b>Session G: Field Station 2, Neighborhood Source Assessment (NSA)</b> Upland assessments are a critical, yet often overlooked, component of a comprehensive watershed assessment. This session introduces the Neighborhood Source Assessment (NSA) to determine which neighborhoods may be contributing high levels of pollutants to streams. This assessment can be used to identify opportunities to minimize water quality impacts and to tailor watershed stewardship programs to the appropriate practices. Come gain an appreciation of the water quality impacts associated with how we manage lawns, rooftop drainage, common areas, and driveways, sidewalks, and curbs.</p>
11:15-11:30	Travel to Sesquicentennial State Park
11:30-12:15	Lunch (provided)
12:15-12:30	Travel to Field Site
12:30 – 3:00	<p><b>Session H1: Field Station 3, Retrofit Reconnaissance Inventory (RRI)</b> Proper planning can do a lot to protect our watersheds from the impacts of future development, but what about existing development? Stormwater retrofitting is one way to go back and fix what has been done before. In this session, we'll investigate a site to find ways to improve existing stormwater practices or install new ones where none exist.</p> <p><b>Session H2: Field Station 4, Hotspot Site Inventory (HSI) and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)</b> In addition to the NSA, the Hotspot Site Investigation (HSI) is an upland assessment that is a critical component of a comprehensive watershed assessment. This session introduces the HSI to determine which stormwater hotspots (i.e. gas stations, municipal yards, strip malls) may be contributing high levels of pollutants to streams. Richland County Dept. of Public Works will also be providing a demonstration of their IDDE program.</p>
3:00 – 3:30	Return to Classroom
3:30 – 4:30	Group Work Debrief from the field work and evaluate restoration opportunities.
4:30-6:30	Dinner (on your own)
6:00 – 7:00	<b>Session I4: Optional WTM Session</b> Learn all about CWP's Watershed Treatment Model – a spreadsheet-based program for tracking pollutant loads in a watershed, accounting for the impacts of land use and practices, and restoration efforts, from public education to stream restoration.
6:30 –7:00	Cookies and Refreshments Available

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7:00 – 7:45

**Session I: Optional Evening Sessions**

**I1: Stormwater Best Management Practices** - Brush up on your knowledge of all things stormwater, from green roofs to dry ponds, and everything in between. A special investigation into rainwater harvesting will be included as well.

**I2: Better Site Design** - As part of the watershed planning process, it is important to review a community's development codes to ensure the protection of natural resources and minimize the creation of impervious cover. Often, development codes require wide streets, large parking lots and wide cul-de-sacs. This session will introduce the principles of Better Site Design that provide a roadmap for changing development codes to encourage environmentally-friendly development.

**I3: Erosion and Sedimentation Control** - Learn how to implement an effective soil erosion and sedimentation control plan for construction sites.

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Thursday, September 24, 2009	
8:00 – 9:30	<b>Session J: Implementation Part 1, Developing an Implementation Plan</b> No piece of paper ever saved a watershed! To kick start on-the-ground action, it is critical to include an implementation strategy to meet your watershed goals. This session will cover how to prioritize projects and create an implementation plan.
9:30 – 9:45	<b>Break</b>
9:45 – 11:15	<b>Session K: Implementation Part 2, Measuring Improvements and Funding</b> The pretty pictures in a watershed plan do make a nice coffee table book perhaps, but a watershed plan is most useful if it is implemented. Implementation of a watershed plan will likely take many years and it is important to continue to engage stakeholders in the process. This session will cover tools and techniques to measure progress towards meeting your watershed plan goals in order to sustain stakeholder involvement. As a group, we will discuss tips on overcoming common hurdles to implementation with a focus on the different funding opportunities and mechanisms for implementation in the short and long term.
11:15 – 12:15	<b>Session L: Agricultural Practices</b> Watershed management efforts typically focus on urban and urbanizing areas, but residential and commercial development is not the only land use that impacts our watersheds. Agriculture often accounts for large proportions of our watersheds, and agricultural practices can have significant effects on our water quality. This session will focus on this often overlooked aspect of watershed management.
12:15 – 1:00	<b>Lunch (provided)</b>
1:00 – 1:30	<b>Travel to Saluda Shoals Park</b>
1:30 – 2:30	<b>Session M: Field Station 1, Wetlands</b> Collectively, wetlands provide many benefits, including pollutant removal, flood storage, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge, and erosion control. However, they are seldom integrated into local watershed plans and are instead regulated on a site-by-site basis. This session will briefly describe how to integrate wetland management in the context of watershed planning efforts. Bring a critical eye and be prepared to participate in a wetland functional assessment.
2:30 – 3:30	<b>Session N: Field Station 2, Forestry</b> Trees are nice but how much canopy cover is needed to protect water resources? Where and what are the opportunities to conserve and restore forest cover in urban watersheds given the structural variety of the urban tree canopy (e.g. conservation areas, woodlots, riparian buffers and street trees). This field-based session will introduce the concept of urban watershed forestry and methods to evaluate the opportunities to conserve and restore forest cover in developing watersheds. Through this evaluation, future watershed-based forest cover goals can be established and water quality will be enhanced.
3:30 – 5:30	<b>Group Work</b> Put together implementation plans and prepare for group presentations on Friday.
5:30 – 8:30	<b>Picnic Dinner (provided) at Saluda Shoals Park, including the first-ever Watershed Olympics!</b>

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### Friday, September 25, 2009

<b>8:30 – 9:30</b>	<b>Session O: Involving Key Stakeholders</b> A major roadblock to putting plans into action is lack of political will, inadequate community support, and a dearth of dedicated implementation partners. Having a strategy to involve key stakeholders throughout the planning process can pay off when it comes time to putting projects in the ground. This session will discuss how to identify key partners, get them to the table, and maintain their involvement over time.
<b>9:30 – 10:00</b>	<b>Group Work/Break</b> Put the finishing touches on your plans before presentations and/or take a quick break.
<b>10:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Session P: Presentations</b> Each group will present a portion of its mini-watershed plan. Show us your creative side and how you've taken what's been taught and applied it to the Crane Creek watershed.
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>Session Q: SC Watershed Plan in Action: Community-based Watershed Management Plan for the Waccamaw Basin</b> Dr. Susan Libes will discuss the Kingston Lake Watershed Plan.
<b>12:00-1:00</b>	<b>Lunch (provided) with Watershed Institute Awards and Institute Evaluation</b>