

City of Griffin Watershed Advisory Council Meeting
Minutes for March 16, 2009 at 5:30 pm
City of Griffin Public Works Conference Room
100 South Hill Street

Those present were: Secretary and Stormwater Deputy Director Chris Edelstein.
Members: Consulting Group Representative Brian Upson, Environmental Representative Wade Hutcheson, Heads Creek Watershed Representative Harold Williams, Potato Creek Representative Tom Bair and Education Group Representative Ellen Bauske

Those absent were: Watershed Advisory Chairman and Public Works & Utilities Director Brant Keller Education, , Keep Griffin Spalding Beautiful Representative Kevin Barkley, Manufacturing Representative Robert Paige and Rental Housing Representative Jon Baird

The Secretary called the meeting to order.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Minutes from October 22, 2008 meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Watershed Program Assistant Update by Wade Hutcheson:

The City of Griffin is teaming with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and Spalding County to fund a Watershed Program Assistant. The Watershed Program Assistant taught watershed education programs to 317 students in the month of November and 851 students in January. An additional water conservation program will be taught in April and all 851 students will receive a water conservation kit including: a low flow shower head, a kitchen faucet aerator, two bathroom faucet aerators, a toilet fill cycle diverter, toilet leak detection tablets, a flow meter bag and a water conservation wheel (see Watershed Education in Spalding County attachment). In addition, the Watershed Program Assistant has been planning a Water Festival to take place at Wyomia Tyus Park with Cowan Road Middle School sixth graders. The event will be held on May 6th the event will utilize Project WET and Project WILD curriculum (see Water Festival attachment). There is current discussion to offer the program to Caver Road Middle School sixth graders on May 6th with additional days for the seventh graders of both schools on May 14th and 15th.

3. Review of the 2008 City of Griffin MS4 Report:

The City of Griffin MS4 2008 report was available for each of the Council Members to be able to review. Each of the six minimum control measures were discussed along with each of the activities the City completes on an annual basis to meet the requirements of the permit. A short summary was given out to each of the members (see City of Griffin Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Report).

4. Section 319(h) Delaware Sand Filter Grant:

The City and PCG have revised the Quality Assurance Project Plan and resubmitted the document to the State and EPA. Once the QAPP is approved the City will start sampling on a quarterly basis to determine the effectiveness of a fiberglass like media and different aggregate combinations. The sand filters have been installed and have gone through slight modification due the units twisting slightly and becoming uneven. With the units

being uneven, water would not flow through the sand filters correctly. Sampling equipment will be installed and tested either Thursday, March 19th or Friday, March 20th.

5. City of Griffin Annual Stream-Clean-Up Event:

The Stream-Clean-Up event will be held on Saturday, March 28th at 9 am in the old Wal-Mart parking lot. This year the City has received volunteers from 11 different groups totaling nearly 200 volunteers. The members then viewed the T-shirt design applicants and helped select the winning design.

6. City of Griffin Watershed Internship and Scholarship:

The City received seven applications from Griffin High for the two internship openings. Spalding County High and the private schools in the Spalding County did not submit any applications. There were two qualified applicants out of the seven. The City will make an attempt at contacting the science teachers in the public schools and give them a new deadline of March 27th if they have any students that might have an interest in applying for the internships.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place on May 18th, 2009 at 5:30 at One Griffin Center in the Director of Public Works and Utilities conference room.

There being no further discussion or comment, the meeting was adjourned.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Chris Edelstein, Acting Secretary

ATTEST:



Dr. Brant Keller, Chairman

TITLE: Watershed Education in Spalding County

AUTHOR: Alexa Robinson

CATEGORY: Watershed Education

IMPACT YEAR: 2008-2009

COUNTY: Spalding

SITUATION:

There are six major watersheds in and around the city of Griffin. There are approximately 24,000 residents of the city. Non point source pollution is the major source contamination in these watersheds. In order to combat the amount of pollution caused by run-off, erosion and sedimentation, the City of Griffin has implemented several programs designed to educate the public about their local watersheds. One of these programs was collaborative effort with the UGA Cooperative Extension to bring watershed education into the local school systems.

RESPONSE:

One method of reducing the amount of pollution going into our local waterways is to educate the public on water quality and their impact on that water. The 4-H program has designed several programs to take into the schools and educate the fifth grade students of Griffin about their local watersheds. During the months of November and January, watershed education programs were taught during club meetings in 14 schools in Griffin. In November the program focused specifically on what a watershed was and how the students themselves could impact their environment. A total of 317 students were taught this program. In January, the program focused on oral presentation and the demonstration that was performed in the classroom by the program assistants focused again on what a watershed was. Approximately 851 students were exposed to this program. The watershed program assistant acted as a facilitator at a Project WET teacher workshop at Mainstay Academy, which involved demonstrating some of the Project WET curriculum. There were 9 members of the faculty that participated in the workshop and became certified Project WET teachers. 4-H was also involved in promoting the T-shirt design contest for the upcoming Stream Clean-up in March. Handouts and emails about the contest were sent out to students and teachers at all 4-H club meetings.

RESULTS/IMPACT:

During the month of February, 4-Hers participated in Project Achievement, which involved researching and presenting a project to 4-H program assistants and their classes. There were eleven 5th grade students that focused their projects on conservation and the prevention of pollution.

Future programs include a drought/conservation program for April club meetings, which includes water conservation kits to distribute in the schools. This program will reach approximately 851 5th graders in Spalding County. A take home question and answer sheet will be sent home with the students for their families to fill out and send back to teachers to gauge effect of the program on water usage within their homes.

Another program in production is a Water Day at Wyomia Tyus Park, educating the 6th grade students of Cowan Road Middle School. Further plans for this project include having all the Middle Schools in Spalding County participate in the program. Carver Road Middle school has expressed an interest in participating in this program at a

future date. The first dry-run of this program will take place on April 21st, utilizing the middle and high school students involved in 4-H. Volunteers for the project will be educated in Project WET curriculum and will act as instructors for the program.

PROGRAM AREA: Extension/Outreach

COLLABORATOR(S): Wade Hutcheson, Cherry Hovatter, Tesa Watson, Lisa Kelley and Wendy Sauley-Simmons

Program Title: Water Festival

Grade Levels: 6th grade

Subjects Incorporated and Georgia Standards: Science – S6CS4, S6F3; Language Arts – ELA 6R2

What we wish to accomplish

This is a pilot program with Cowan Road Middle school this year, which we hope to expand to all 6th grade students next year. What we want to accomplish through this day of activities is to inform the 6th grade students about the world around them, specifically water education. This would be an opportunity to get the students outside to observe important parts of their environment, such as the watershed in which they live and go to school. In using the Project WET and Project WILD aquatic curriculums, we will be able to impart this knowledge using hands on activities and cooperative learning. These curriculums are specifically designed to use different subject areas like math, science, literature and social studies in a manner that also teaches an environmental lesson.

How we will accomplish this

We would need the students to be grouped by homeroom teacher and if possible that teacher could bring a helper. An 8th grade 4-h'er would work well for that position. The activities are organized and broken up by stations. Each station will have at least one person there to teach and conduct the lesson. There will be guides to assist the teacher and take the group to its next station. Each homeroom teacher will have an itinerary showing where they will need to be and at what time. Four 4-H staff will act as the organizers and handle any issues that may arise. Materials will be provided. The lunch staff of the school would also have to prepare sack lunches for the entire 6th grade.

Estimated timeline: From 9:00AM to 1:50PM

At 9:00AM homeroom classes will arrive in pairs at the pavilion at Wyomia Tyus Park. Each homeroom group will listen to an introductory lecture and then will be assigned a station number and proceed to that station for the first activity of the day. The activity will take up to 30 minutes; once the students are finished they will rotate to the next station on the itinerary. They will continue to move from station to station until they have reached the last station on their list. At around 11:30AM the classes will complete the current lesson and take a 30 - 45 minute break for lunch. The students will sit down with bag lunches in and around the pavilion. After lunch they will continue to the next station on their list. After completing the final station, the teacher will take the students back to school at around 1:50PM.

Each station's lesson and location

1. Pavilion 1 and 2 – “Piece it together” Project WET - The water cycle
2. Grassy area around Pavilions – “Just Passing Through” Project WET – runoff, erosion and sedimentation
3. Pond area – “Watershed” Project WILD Aquatic - studying a watershed
4. Large Classroom and Ernie's Trail Entrance – “Sum of the Parts” Project WET - pollution
5. Waterfall and Animal Viewing Station areas – “Reaching your Limits” Project WET

There are 10 homeroom classes and each class will visit five stations each. The classes will leave the school, two classrooms at a time so that when they arrive at the park, the earliest arriving class will go to the farthest station in the park. That way by the time the final pair arrives; all the classes will be in place and ready to start. As they arrive the pairs of classes will hear an introductory lecture and then split to head towards their stations. The stations have been arranged so that they mirror each other with five on one side of the park and five on the other. The map we have provided shows the stations starting with 1a and 1b at the pavilion, and then moving to 2a and 2b on the grass hill. They will travel from there to 3a and 3b where the watershed activity will take place next to the pond. Then they will head towards the Ernie's Trail Entrance and the Large Classroom that make up station 4a and 4b. Finally the classes will arrive at stations 5a and 5b, located at the waterfall and viewing areas.

At each station the classes will meet with a trained instructor that will guide them through the lesson. Team leaders will act as runners and guides between the groups so that teachers may concentrate on guiding their classes. We have a few reminders for both teachers and students. Both teachers and students will need to wear comfortable closed toed and heeled shoes. Students may wish to wear sun block and bug spray and they must bring with them a pencil or pen and a flat surface to write on, such as a folder or binder.

The Schedule is as follows:

Arrival at Park – Introduction 9:00 – 9:40 A.M.

Station 1 9:40 – 10:20

Station 2 10:20 – 11:00

Station 3 11:00 – 11:30

Lunch 11:30 – 12:30

Station 4 12:30 – 1:10

Station 5 1:10 – 1:50 P.M.

Each activity will cover certain subjects; “Piece it Together” is the first and it will cover science, language arts, and social studies. Number two is “Just Passing Through” which will cover science and ecology. The third activity is Watershed which goes over environment education and mathematics. “Sum of the Parts” is the fourth activity and will cover science and government. “Reaching Your Limits” will be the fifth which covers science, government and mathematics.

City of Griffin Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Report

MINIMUM CONTROL MEASURES

1. Public Education and Outreach

- a. Commission report
 - i. Commissioners were updated on the Nov 11th workshop.
- b. Water sourcebook
 - i. Supplemented the existing Water Sourcebooks utilized by Griffin-Spalding County School System with 10 educational posters.
- c. Website update
 - i. Website is continually updated throughout the year.
- d. Utility bill flyer
 - i. Illicit discharge mailer was sent out in November utility bills and floodplain education pamphlet was mailed out in December to all City of Griffin Utility customers
- e. Griffin Daily News annual report
 - i. Annual report was published on November 9th.
- f. Brochures
 - i. Eight brochures are replenished monthly at the following locations: Welcome Center, City Hall and bookmarks are distributed to local libraries.
- g. Large educational display
 - i. Display was updated to include information on illicit discharges and was moved from Cowan Road Middle School to the Welcome Center to the City of Griffin Customer Service Center.
- h. Ecomasters
 - i. 500 copies of Ecomasters were distributed to the Griffin-Spalding County School System.
- i. Contractor training
 - i. E&S Day was held on October 20th with over 160 attendees.
- j. Education workshop
 - i. Stormwater and FOG presented information to the Griffin Citizens Academy.

2. Public Participation and Involvement

- a. Curb marking
 - i. 501 curb markers were installed by Girl Scout Troop 24 and Boy Scout Troop 2.
- b. Watershed Advisory Council
 - i. Quarterly meetings were held.
- c. Customer surveys
 - i. No activity required for 2008
- d. Stream-Clean-Up
 - i. 2180 pounds of garbage, 1,000 pounds of old tires and 200 pounds of recyclable metals were collected by roughly 100 volunteers.

3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Minimum Control Measure

- a. Commercial brochures
 - i. Fats, oils and grease mailers were sent out to 158 local food service facilities.
- b. Website reported problems
 - i. No problems were reported on the website.
- c. Outfall inspections
 - i. 351 stormwater outfalls were inspected nine had flow, seven were due to drinking water leaks.
- d. Curb marking
 - i. 501 curb markers were installed by Girl Scout Troop 24 and Boy Scout Troop 2.
- e. Level of service
 - i. 366 culvert inspections were completed in 2008 with 14 reported problems.
- f. SWPPP inspections
 - i. Quarterly monitoring with annual inspections were conducted for the six industrial sites.

4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

- a. Construction litter violations
 - i. All active construction sites are inspected weekly for erosion and litter.
- b. Construction plan review
 - i. Nine plans greater than one acre were reviewed in 2008.
- c. Construction site inspections
 - i. All active construction sites are inspected weekly for erosion and sedimentation control issues.
- d. Website reports
 - i. No reports were submitted to the website in 2008.
- e. Pre-construction meetings
 - i. Preconstruction meetings are held whenever a project is greater than 1 acre.
- f. Education workshop
 - i. Stormwater and FOG presented information to the Griffin Citizens Academy.

5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management

- a. Detention pond inspections
 - i. Inspected 239 detention ponds
- b. BMP evaluation
 - i. The Stormwater Department installed a green roof on the O&M building.
- c. LSPC program
 - i. LSPC model distributed to developers when requested

6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

- a. Street sweeping
 - i. Swept 700 miles of streets
- b. Storm system cleaning
 - i. Cleaned 2,973 catch basins and 12,181 feet of storm drains.
- c. Municipal training

- i. Training of Public Works employees on illicit discharges
- d. Capital improvements
 - i. Nothing to report for 2008
- e. Retro-fits
 - i. Sub-basin delineation of the Potato Creek watershed.
- f. SWPPP inspections
 - i. Quarterly monitoring with annual inspections were conducted for the six industrial sites.
- g. Benchmarks
 - i. Inspected all 85 benchmarks in the city user
- h. Service requests
 - i. Electronic tracking of all service requests submitted to the Stormwater Department.
- i. Trees
 - i. 135 new trees were planted and 28 were removed.
- j. Watershed assessments
 - i. Sub-basin delineation of the Potato Creek watershed.