

## Town creates Stormwater Management Division

Posted: May 3, 2011 - 7:59pm

By [Lisa Sulka](#)

MAYOR'S MEMOS

The town of Bluffton has very strong ties to its local bodies of water. The local rivers provide the town with historic, cultural, and economic resources that rank among our most prized.

The May River is our amenity and the reason so many people move here and call Bluffton home. During oyster season, it is also the source of income for so many long time residents of Bluffton.

To improve and focus our town efforts, we are consolidating our broad array of initiatives and activities under a Stormwater Management Division within the Engineering Department. This division will be focused on stormwater quality and responsible for all stormwater related initiatives and activities.

This division will also be tasked with absorbing additional future programs not currently supported by the town, such as the implementation of the May River Watershed Action Plan and compliance with future Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) permit.

This new division is also the beginning of what I hope will be supported by our County Council in having a place where all information pertaining to the May River watershed (and others) can be gathered and disseminated to all interested groups.

Today, we have many priorities when it comes to our May River. There are some initiatives that you may see the town undertaking, and wonder what it does to help when the project is so far away from the river.

Simple projects like ditch maintenance along our side roads are very important in keep the flow during heavy rainfalls. Below are current priorities in place as well as future ones in the process on coming on line.

Current stormwater management priorities include:

- I Complete May River watershed action plan development

- I May River watershed pilot project design

- I 319 grant administration

- I Water quality testing program

- I Septic repair and replacement program

- I Engineering plan review

- I Construction site inspection

- I Update town of Bluffton's Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) with Beaufort County.

Future additional stormwater management priorities include:

I Implement May River watershed action plan

I Complete May River watershed pilot project

I Implement May River watershed structural BMP projects

I Develop town of Bluffton water quality model

I Beaufort County coordination for a regional stormwater approach

I Municipal separate stormwater sewer system permit compliance.