May River Watershed Action Plan (MRWAP)

December 7, 2011

Background

- Fast paced development
- Degradation of May River headwaters
- Primarily reactive approach in the past
- Large amounts of data collected
- Coordinated proactive campaign needed
  - Strategies and projects for sustainable watershed (toolbox)
  - Dynamic and adaptable document, future calibrations
  - Provide measureable goals
  - Partnerships and Funding

History

- Town Council Approved the hiring of consultant for MRWAP completion (August 10, 2010)
- AMEC contract executed (November 12, 2010)
- MRWAP Kickoff Meeting (December 10, 2010)
- Draft MRWAP released for public review and comment (July 18, 2011)
- Public review and comment period over (August 17, 2011)
- Draft MRWAP presented to Town of Bluffton Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee (August 30, 2011)
- Draft MRWAP presented to Town of Bluffton May River Waterbody Management Plan Implementation Committee (August 31, 2011)
- Public Workshop and Draft MRWAP presentation (October 12, 2011)
- Draft MRWAP Planning Commission Presentation (October 26, 2011)
- Town Council Presentation and Adoption (November 10, 2011)

Public and Stakeholder Participation

- Public Comment Period (July 18, 2011 – August 17, 2011)
  - Document belongs to the Town and stakeholders.
  - Purpose to seek feedback from public and stakeholders, found to be successful
  - Over 250 total comments and suggestions (email / written / verbal)
    - Top Comment Categories:
      - TDR / Conservation Easements / Land Use (41)
      - Impervious surfaces / Modeling efforts (35)
      - Funding / Grants / Partnering (23)
      - Informational (20)
      - Proposed Projects / Locations / Rankings (17)

The Goals & Expectations……

- **Now:** *Get Everything on The Table*
  - Partial budgeting, lay a foundation.
  - What steps can we take now – should we?
  - What do we need to discuss more – with who, when?
  - Stakeholders: What do <u>you</u> think?

- **Later:** *Implement, Stay Flexible*
  - This is a living document.
  - How to address the PUDs?
  - How do we prioritize projects better – more data?
  - Funding…
  - Modeling…

Two Parallel Efforts……

- **Restoration measures:**
  - *How do we address current development?*
  - *engineering-based* solutions...

- **Prevention measures:**
  - *How do we address the PUDs and existing Development Agreements?*
  - *planning-based* solutions…
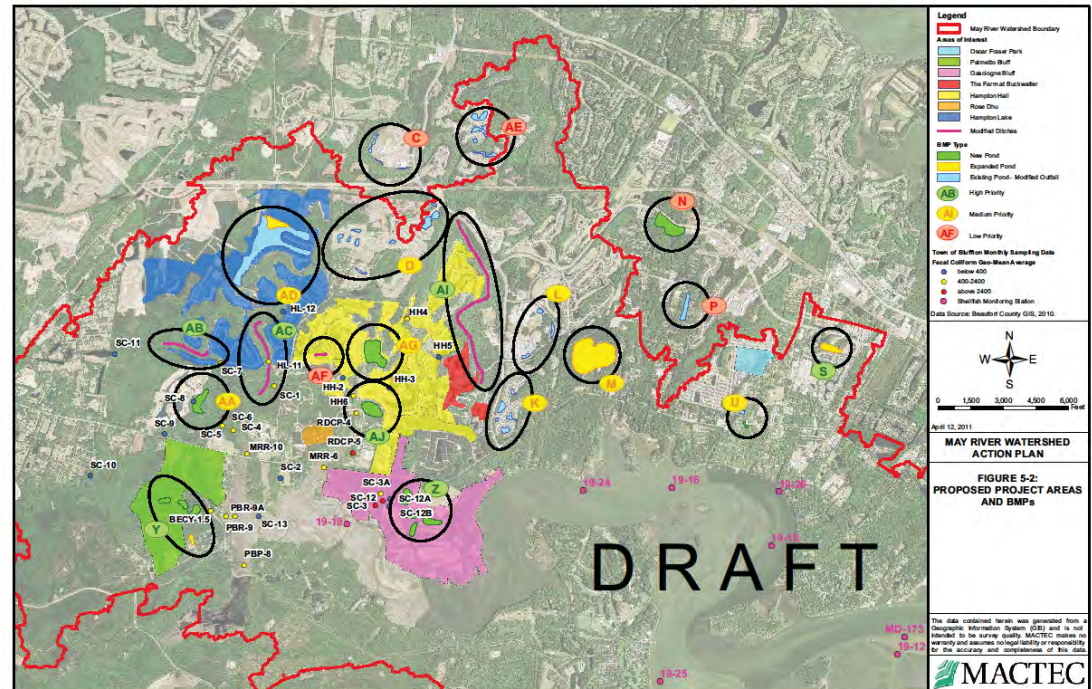
Two Parallel Efforts……

- **<u>Restoration measures:</u>** *engineering-based* solutions, to mitigate impacts from existing development.
    - "Low hanging fruit" projects:
        - Reasonably high confidence in their effectiveness
        - Coordinate with existing CIP programs to save time and money.
    - More elaborate structural practices:
        - Presented as conceptual project locations
        - General project types, sizes, and locations to envision.
    - Prioritization
        - Based on rough-order-of-magnitude (ROM) costs and benefits
        - Used planning level information (i.e. GIS maps).
        - More details (models, design, cost) needed before committing.

- Proposed BMP projects and associated rankings
  - Status of the Town's impervious analysis
  - Imperviousness limits for new development
  - More details on the reasoning behind the project rankings
  - Determining runoff volumes
  - Modeling efforts

MAY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

FIGURE 5-2:
PROPOSED PROJECT AREAS AND BMPs

- **<u>Prevention measures:</u>** *planning-based* solutions for the PUDs, requiring long-term discussions on complex topics.
  - Changes to traditional development practices
  - Transfer of development rights (TDR)
  - Policy updates
  - Incentives

  Fair and effective tactics to be developed in short-term to avoid long-term ecological impacts and economical hardships.

Miscellaneous

- Available grants and funding opportunities
  - Broad set of options
  - Quarterly assessments – opportunities change over time
- Marketing and communication
  - New Outreach Campaign – build on existing programs
  - The "May River" brand
- Intergovernmental coordination…
- Community partners…

Path Forward

- Latest Draft updated on website:

  http://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/Pages/mayriverwatershedactionplan.aspx

- Ongoing Implementation…

Question / Discussion