

**Beaufort County**  
**Stormwater Management Utility Board (SWMU Board)**  
*Meeting Minutes*

January 2, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in County Council Executive Chamber  
Final Draft January 11, 2008

**Board Members**

Present	Absent
Donald Smith	John Youmans
Brad Samuel	
Allyn Schneider	
Ronald McKenney	

**Ex-Officio Members**

Present	Absent
Scott Liggett	
Jeff McNesby	
Erin Griep	
Bob Gross	

**Beaufort County Staff**

Daniel B. Ahern  
Eddie Bellamy  
Robert Klink  
Lori Sexton  
Renee Brown

**Visitors**

Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League  
Laura Lee Rose, Clemson Extension Service  
Ben Pillow, The Beaufort Gazette  
Liz Mitchell, The Island Packet  
Billie Lindsay, BC Planning  
Amanda Flake, BC Planning  
Earl Dietz, The Marsh Association  
Lolita Huckaby, Bluffton Today  
Tim Bennett, Town of Bluffton  
Patty Kennedy, Palmetto Bluff  
Brandon Waring, May River CP  
Alice Massey, Clemson Extension  
Laura Floyd, Citizen  
Doug Plank, Ward Edmonds Inc  
Jan Sherwood

**Visitors continued**

Dave Payne, DHEC  
Jimmy McIntire, May River CP  
Peter Lamb, May River CP  
Bob Millikan, May River CP  
Ben Turner, Citizen  
Stephen Bischoff

1. Meeting called to order by Mr. Donald Smith.
2. The December 5, 2007 SWMU Board meeting minutes were approved.
3. **Initial Opportunity for Public Comment** – There were a series of speakers representing the May River Comprehensive Plan committee and other citizens advocating May River protection. The main request was for the County to consider adopting the Town of Bluffton Stormwater Ordinance for the May River. The comments had two themes. One was for the county to increase inspection and enforcement in the unincorporated portion of the May River and another to consider initiatives in the ordinance. The Board then decided to modify the agenda and move up the discussion on the Ordinances.

**4. BMP Manual Update and Ordinance Comparison** - Bob Klink discussed his November 28, 2008 memo comparing the County and Town of Bluffton's requirements. This memo was based on discussions between County and Town staff at a November 7, 2007 meeting. There were 7 items identified in the memo and there was considerable discussion on each of them. Some of the notes on the items are as follows

- Treatment vs. Infiltration – County recommends infiltration and ToB requires it on A&B soils. It was noted from work by the County as part of discussions with the Low Country Institute, that there is limited area in the County for infiltration. Many of the A&B soil areas are not available for infiltration based on ground water levels and hydric soil conditions.
- Anti vs. Zero Degradation- There was considerable discussion on how the ToB will be trying to implement their requirement that post construction loadings equal pre construction (Zero Degradation). The County Staff had concern about monitoring required to document pre existing conditions. The ToB has not started construction of any project under the new ordinance. The town hopes to tweak models used by County and Town as their monitoring requirements provides data.
- Beaufort County targets more pollutants (Phosphorus and Bacteria vs. only Phosphorus) than ToB and is planning to address nitrogen in new BMP update. The ToB said they will be monitoring for these. Staff will be discussing the new BMP Manual with consultant on January 16, 2008
- Pervious Pavement – ToB requires 50% on commercial development and County recommends pervious pavement use. There are limited areas where pervious pavement can lead to infiltration.
- Turbidity requirements – ToB has adopted a level of increase that is used as a tool to assure proper erosion control efforts during construction. This is something the County will consider.
- Water Quality Modeling – ToB requires new modeling on larger projects but the County already has standards developed based on previous modeling work.
- Water Quality Modeling – ToB requires 36 months of monitoring and the County uses design standards to determine expected results. There was some question on when the monitoring would start since many facilities are not fully built out in 36 months and earlier results could impact decision on adequacy.

The county staff noted that we also have concerns about our inspection/enforcement efforts and both ordinances seem to have pluses and minuses. The county is exploring ways to improve our inspection. It was felt that cooperation between staffs would be the best way to share results of initiatives by ToB and County.

**5. Future Presentation of Staff Reports** - Staff requested that future staff reports and agenda items be presented according to Master Plan Program Elements. A template was presented to the board for their consideration.

**6. Project Status Reports** – Staff reported on 18 projects that had projects summaries completed.

The Board wanted to limit the amount of paper used in developing these reports and asked that only projects over \$1,500 be presented to the board. Staff will be preparing Project Status Reports on all projects, but will only copy and report on those over the set limit. Staff was also asked to report smaller projects that were controversial. Staff is targeting February Board meeting to be caught up on these project status reports.

- 7. Military Base Collection Update** – Camp Lejeune legal contact reported that they are checking status of response letters in both command pipelines and are considering coming down to Beaufort for a meeting in the first half of January.
- 8. A& C Manual** – Mr. Bellamy reported that, as requested by the Board, he contacted the county attorney, Mary Lohr, and was told that the current Stormwater Ordinance does not allow a credit greater than the fee paid. Therefore the Board could not change the A&C Manual until the Ordinance was changed. The Board chairman asked if there was a motion to pursue changing the ordinance so the A&C Manual could be changed. There was no motion to do this.
- 9. 2009 Budget Discussion** – Staff requested that this item be delayed to the February Board meeting. The Board expressed concern that we may not be leaving much time to have input. Scott Liggett said that Municipalities needed time to consider County requests for participation in the county-wide efforts. Mr. Bellamy committed staff in two weeks to get letters requesting participation in county-wide program elements. The Board asked about the Utility Inspector position and this position will be filled but the scope of duties will depend on participation by the municipalities.
- Don Smith said that he sees a major need for inspecting and handling small projects and cited his experience with a buffer violation where the county took action to correct but no action to protect erosion from occurring because the violation. Mr. Bellamy explained our coordination with the Low Country Institute to provide training to County staff on the importance of protecting our county watersheds. He mentioned that Public Works, Engineering, and Codes Enforcement managers and supervisors would be attending the short training by Dr. Marsh of the Institute. Don Smith mentioned the State Site Inspection Training that is available. He also feels basic checklists can be used to highlight areas for further action. Dan Ahern is to investigate incorporating this training into the Low Country Institute presentations.
- 10. Clemson Extension Report**– Laura Lee Rose volunteered to delay her scheduled presentation to February Board meeting in consideration of the late time. She has a power point presentation that she will make available to the Board.
- 11. Regional Cooperation** – Erin Griep reported that there is some interest in cooperation and recommended semi-annual regional meetings. She suggested getting somebody from the State to talk about regional cooperation. Mr. Bellamy can support a staff to staff level meeting and might try to get Dr. Marsh involved in presenting. It was decided that the four counties in LCOG (Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton and Colleton) would be target and possibly be called the Regional Stormwater Cooperation Meeting. Some Board members wanted to invite area politicians and this would be something that the Board would need to organize.
- 12. Final Opportunity for Public Comment** – Reed Armstrong recommended that the Natural Resource Planner should include the Infiltration and Wetland maps that were developed by the Utility. Earl Dietz said that the Board could have initiated changes to the Ordinance that would allow for changes to the A&C Manual.

**13. Next meeting agenda** – The Board decided to utilize the template format for the February 6, 2008 meeting and identified individual items to be included under the program elements. These were then formatted into the template.

- Stormwater Control Regulation
  - o BMP Manual update
- PSMS Enhancements
  - topic discussed in 2009 budget discussion
- Water Quality Controls for Existing Development
  - topic discussed in 2009 budget discussion
- Water Quality Monitoring
  - o GEL Report
- Annual Maintenance
  - o Project Status Reports
- Additional/Ongoing Study and Analysis
  - no topic this month
- Public Information
  - o Clemson Extension Report
  - o Low Country Institute Initiative
- Utility Administration
  - o Military Base Collection Update
  - o Regional Cooperative Initiative
  - o 2009 Budget Presentation
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**10. Meeting adjourned.**