

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

April 2, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in County Council Executive Chamber
Final Draft April 18, 2008 PM

Board Members

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

Ex-Officio Members

Present	Absent
Scott Liggett	Bob Gross
Jeff McNesby	
Jan Paul Sherwood	

Beaufort County Staff

Daniel B. Ahern
Eddie Bellamy
Robert Klink
Lori Sexton
Saleem Khattak

Visitors

Rich Wagner, CDM
Nancy Schilling, Friends of the Rivers
Amanda Flake, BC Planning
Billie Lindsay, BC Planning
Frank Morris, Bluffton Today
Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League

Denise Parsick, Beaufort S&W Conservation Dist.
Jimmy McIntire, May River CP
Chris Marsh, Low Country Institute
Damon Williams, Sun City Assoc. of Realtors
Tim Bennett, Town of Bluffton
Liz Mitchell, Island Packet

County Council

1. Meeting called to order by Mr. Donald Smith.
2. The March 5, 2008 SWMU Board final draft meeting minutes were approved.
3. **Initial Opportunity for Public Comment** – Jimmy McIntire of the May River CP said he was happy with quick county action on BMP improvement and expressed concern for fecal coli form measurements in Rose Dhu and Stoney Creek that will be discussed at an April 3 meeting.
4. **Stormwater Control Regulations – BMP Manual Update** – Rich Wagner of CDM gave a Power Point presentation on the history of BMP development in Beaufort County starting with initial efforts in 1998. The initial work in 1998 set the pattern and goal for the program. One of the key points of this work was the setting of an ant degradation goal and its 10% impervious equivalent limit. Other of the changes was development of a BMP technology criteria matrix and worksheets for the indicator pollutant (Phosphorus).

In 2003 the BMP manual was updated with additional structural BMP options and an additional indicator pollutant was added (Bacteria) with additional worksheets.

The 2008 proposed additions included adding a new indicator pollutant (Nitrogen) and certification requirements to protect receiving waters from impacts during construction. The changes also incorporated additional in-series BMPs from the Town of Bluffton ordinance and applied additional non-treatment requirements to county projects in the May River watershed. Mr. Wagner reviewed the revised (Fig 3.5) and new figures (Fig 3.6 and 7), and some of these will allow impervious corrections for implementing certain BMPs. The implications of making Nitrogen an indicator pollutant is significant on high density development and could have the impact of reducing maximum impervious areas on commercial sites to 50 to 60%. The impact on residential development is not as great and most can meet the requirements with some additional BMPs.

Rich Wagner then proposed three possible options to consider concerning Nitrogen as an indicator pollutant. First was adopting new indicator pollutant; the second was delay adoption and conduct further study to determine the need; and finally would be adopt nitrogen as an indicator at a higher equivalent impervious factor, till further study demonstrated need for lower levels.

The board then asked if there was a staff recommendation and Eddie Bellamy said while we don't have a nitrogen problem as far as we know, nutrients killed Chesapeake Bay and he is recommending adoption of first option.

The board was then asked to comment on the Nitrogen options only.

Allyn Schneider - said he goes along with Eddie Bellamy

Ron McKenney – wanted to know what is meant by further study and for how long. Bob Klink said it would involve monitoring of phosphorus and nitrogen to determine the limiting pollutant. Scott Liggett – wanted to know if we are being asked to approve this now or was there going to be engagement of the public and municipalities. Bob Klink said that the staff will recommend and ask the board to endorse. Scott said we need to determine if there are any unintended consequences. He later brought up the point that the Stormwater Agreements between the County and Municipalities require that municipalities have as a requirement that municipalities must have at least as stringent standards as the county.

Brad Samuel – felt we may need further study and is concerned about water quality monitoring. He wanted the impacts seen.

Don Smith – said that this decision on Nitrogen seems to only be economic and not an issue of whether it is necessary.

John Youmans – felt the stronger we make requirements now the better we are in future and we should error on the safe side.

Jan Paul Sherwood – is concerned about the 50% impervious restriction and wondered if it was possible to simplify/reduce the number of forms to reduce the amount of paper.

Jeff McNesby – asked where the removal efficiency figures came from. Rich Wagner explained that the figures in the BMP manual are in line with the Center for Watershed Protection 2007 figures.

Don Smith then opened the floor for comments on the Nitrogen discussion

Saleem Khattak suggested that we input from homebuilder or developer association on any implementation issues that might occur.

Dr Chris Marsh – felt that addressing nitrogen will have the side benefit of addressing other pollutants that could help protect crustaceans in the county waters. He also suggested that we

look at nitrogen on 10-digit watershed level and consider allowing developers to expand meeting requirements in a larger area. He felt an additional month review would be adequate. Jimmy McIntire – said he was getting heartburn hearing statements about concern for developers and need to balance quality of life issues.

Don Smith then asked the board to comment on other parts of the BMP manual.

There were a number of comments/questions including

- It is an economic issue and protecting waterways will come at a cost.
- Why are we requiring things only in May River?
- Using another word than credits to avoid confusing with fee credits.
- Suggested efforts to share with others for comments.
- Allow Land surveyor and landscape architects to certify erosion control.
- Individual lot inspection requirements.
- Why don't we require infiltration of first inch in appropriate soils?

Reed Armstrong requested that proposed BMP manual be put on County web site and that BMPs should address three phases of development: Site Prep; Construction Phase; and Operational phase.

Summary; Board would like staff to solicit comments on the changes, especially from municipalities and bring a staff recommendation to the next meeting. Further board comments would be sent to Dan Ahern for consolidation and sending to consultant.

5. Water Quality Monitoring - Bob Klink reported that we are beginning negotiations with the contractor on the second year of monitoring efforts. He reported we will be making changes based on what we learned from the first year.

6. Public Information – Low Country Institute - Reported the first workshop on March 20, 2008 had 18 personnel attending and attendees were given educational presentation on why Port Royal Sound is unique and then taken on a tour of Spring Island to demonstrate some aspects of Stormwater Management in the Beaufort County area. There are over 20 personnel scheduled for each of the next two workshops on April 8 and 16th.

Also mentioned NEMO training coming up on April 25, 2008 and the 8th Annual May River Clean up.

Have not followed up with contact with Clemson on Training.

7. Public Information – New Stormwater Website - This web cast on stormwater retrofits has generated some interest by elected county officials. Weston Newton has volunteered to address the attendees and a public notice was prepared and distributed. The county is considering utilizing the archives of past web casts for the County TV station. We invited the municipalities and Jasper County

8. Utility Administration – Regional Cooperation/Workshop – Reported on the upcoming workshop on Apr. 10 in the County Executive Conference Room. The purpose of this workshop

is to discuss future county/municipal participation in implementation of the Stormwater Master Plan. Copy of the invitation letter, agenda and a sample amendment to the Interlocal agreement that will be discussed at this workshop is in the board packets. Mentioned visit to Charleston County to meet with that county stormwater utility. One very interesting finding is that their SW Fee is \$36 but they do not fund maintenance from this fee. Most of cost goes to address stormwater permit requirements. Maintenance is funded under general revenue.

9. Utility Administration – Military Base Collection Effort - Nothing significant to report and the county is still considering their options in light of military response and a decision has not been made. The City of Beaufort has expressed their wishes to jointly peruse this collection action.

We are awaiting the outcome of discussions between JAX Stormwater utility and the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville. Brad Samuel asked if the Board would be involved in these collection actions and Mr. Bellamy said no.

10. Utility Administration – 2009 Budget Update – Nothing to report, awaiting feedback from the comptroller.

11. Final Opportunity for Public Comment – None.

12. Next meeting agenda – The Chairman of the Board requested the following agenda for May. There was another discussion on the BMP manual review procedures before the next meeting. Comments included how to solicit input; engaging municipalities, review of Town of Bluffton's efforts on their ordinance, separating manual approvals, board role in approval, Dr. Marsh volunteering to write an editorial, allowing more options to meet requirements, and handling existing development. Mr. Bellamy again said that Stormwater Staff recommendation will be to adopt and that he didn't want to hear before he died that the Port Royal Sound was dying. Unless someone can show us that we are wrong in this requirement we will recommend this again next month.

- Stormwater Control Regulation
 - o BMP Manual
- PSMS Enhancements
 - Not scheduled
- Water Quality Controls for Existing Development
 - Not scheduled
- Water Quality Monitoring
 - o Update
- Annual Maintenance
 - o Project Status Reports
- Additional/Ongoing Study and Analysis
 - Not scheduled
- Public Information
 - o Low Country Institute Initiative
 - o WebCast update
- Utility Administration
 - o Military Base Collection Update

- Regional Workshop
 - Budget Update
- Election of Board Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Decided to move Together for Beaufort presentation to June.

13. Meeting adjourned.