

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

May 7, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in County Council Executive Chamber  
Final draft June 4, 2008 PM

**Board Members**

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

**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  
Carolyn Wallace

**Visitors**

George Johnston, Citizen  
Suzanne Larson, BC PIO  
Amanda Flake, BC Planning  
Billie Lindsay, BC Planning  
Tim Bennett, Town of Bluffton  
Charles Truax, DHEC  
Denise Parsick, Beaufort S&W Conservation Dist.  
Joe Croley, HAAOR  
Chris Marsh, Low Country Institute  
Lolita Huckably, Bluffton Today  
Lamar Taylor, City of Beaufort  
Lora Lee Rose, Clemson Extension

**County Council**

1. Meeting called to order by Mr. Donald Smith.
2. The April 2, 2008 SWMU Board final draft meeting minutes were approved.
3. **Initial Opportunity for Public Comment** – George Johnston, Citizen asked board to consider addressing the 800 lb gorilla, which he feels are the homeowners living waterside in Beaufort County. He felt that this needs to be addressed in a number of ways, including education, codifying in single documents, homeowner and waterways ordinances. He felt that enforcement of these requirements could be accomplished by having a Certificate of Compliance prepared when a property is sold. He was also concerned about the need for a comprehensive testing program and the apparent increase in water quality violations.
4. **Stormwater Control Regulations – BMP Manual Update** – Bob Klink gave an update on the new two phase update to the BMP manual. The first phase, containing the updates to the manual discussed at the April Board meeting without the nitrogen requirements has been briefed to the Public Services committee on May 6, 2008. They endorsed these changes and it will be sent to County

Council on May 19, 2008. Don Smith asked that wording be added to address individual home requirements in subdivision approved drainage systems. Ron McKenney asked the following:

- Was the Erosion Certification changed to add other professionals – Yes in Appendix C
- Were municipalities notified – No this was regarding nitrogen and that is in Phase 2
- Asked about the letter, in packet, from Reed Armstrong of the Coastal Conservation League on the use of freshwater wetlands – Bob Klink replied - These can not be used for treatment – can discharge treated stormwater to them.
- Wanted to go on record that he has asked questions on impact of wastewater reuse water storage in ponds – forwarded to consultant – and why many communities are installing aerators – to maintain DO levels in ponds.

The board then passed a motion endorsing Phase 1 updates as long as additional wording is added to address independent home construction in new developments. Bob Klink and Dan Ahern will develop this wording to be added.

**5. Water Quality Monitoring** - Bob Klink reported on meeting with GEL Engineering on new monitoring contract. We now expect them to give us a first year analysis; refine proposal (include some sample relocations and wet weather sampling) and commit to quarterly presentations to the board. We are going to meeting every other month and hope to get contract approved by council by the end of June. Bob committed to get the revised proposal to the board when we receive it. Scott Liggett asked about the monitoring plans around HHI. He was told that the GEL contract did not include open water sampling and that we plan to work out an agreement with DHEC to increase open water sampling. Some of those sites are in and around HHI.

**6. Maintenance – Project Summaries** - Reported on 7 projects over \$1,500 in cost. One large project was the Bluffton RC&D Ditch that will be a cost share project between the County and Town of Bluffton. Scott Liggett asked about the status of the proposed overhead rate. We said that our controllers' office felt that overhead rate was not the appropriate way to capture true project cost and that revised salary figures were the standard way. They will be helping us set up the appropriate method and we decided to move implementation to beginning of the fiscal year. Scott Liggett said he wanted to go on record as saying ToHHI feels charging overhead rates is not appropriate under the current interagency agreements.

**7. Public Information – Low Country Institute and Webcast** – Reported that all three workshops have been completed and 52 county and municipal employees attended. Workshops received good feedback and Utility feels that it will lead to long-term benefits. Scott Liggett said he had received good feedback from the ToHHI employees.

The national Webcast on Stormwater Retrofitting on April 9, 2008 drew 25 participants to the County Council Chambers. Beaufort County received national recognition for having so many people at one site.

Board was also informed about the April 25, 2008 NEMO training that several county staff attended. There was attendance from Jasper County personnel and they will be looking to set up training in Jasper County.

**8. Utility Administration – Regional Cooperation/Workshop** – Reported on the results of the April 10, 2008 workshop on Stormwater Master Plan implementation. The meeting was attended by all four municipalities represented by three city managers and one assistant city manager. The agenda included discussion of the Master Plan elements; sharing on key stormwater priorities; description of Fee Collection Cycle and SFU ratios; and discussion of proposed inter-local agreement changes. There was consensus that all government entities should share in Education and Monitoring according to the master plan. An action item that came out of this meeting is that there will be a group formed from County and Town/City appointees to develop recommendations on implementing the Master Plan. Scott Liggett said this meeting was very productive and sees the ongoing group laying the groundwork for Municipal/County agreements for FY10.

**9. Utility Administration – Military Base Collection Effort** – Utility is still tracking Jacksonville FL's efforts with the Naval Air Station. The latest report is that negotiations are still going on and JAX and the Air Station are discussing percent credit and not if there will be a payment. The credit will be about 50% which is what was proposed to MCAS. Utility will recommend further action when this is finalized.

**10. Utility Administration – 2009 Budget Update** – Reported on HB 4337 that has moved from the House to the Senate. The bill says “Agricultural lands, forest lands, and undeveloped lands are exempt from any fee imposed by a local governing body for a stormwater, sediment, or erosion control program”. The impact of the proposed law could be significant depending on the interpretation of undeveloped lands. It was reported that just exempting agricultural and timberland could lead to a \$1 to \$2 dollar increase in SFU rate to maintain the same level of service. If undeveloped is equated to unimproved in the tax system then the required SFU increase could be from \$13 to \$24 with the hardest hit being the unincorporated county. Beaufort County is not alone on this issue and Charleston County reported that they and Horry County Utilities could sustain \$1/2 million dollar revenue lost from this proposed bill.

The Board determined that this should be brought to the Legislative affairs council that will be meeting Monday May 12, 2008. The Board passed a motion to direct staff to get this on the agenda for Monday's meeting and draft a statement opposing this bill.

The Utility then proposed an increase to the current \$44.43 SFU rate. Due to the projected deficit of \$426,956 in FY09 an increase of \$6.57 was proposed to address most of the budgeted deficit. After some discussion the Board moved to endorse the new proposed \$50 rate.

**11. Election of Board Chairman and Vice Chairman** – Don Smith was nominated and elected chairman. Ron McKenney was nominated and elected Vice Chairman.

**11. Final Opportunity for Public Comment** – Eddie Bellamy expressed appreciation on behalf of the staff for the assistance and guidance the Board has given the Utility. Chris Marsh of the Low Country Institute passed out an opinion piece that he has sent to the Island Packet on buffers and how the Town of Bluffton and County have been working together.

Tim Bennett of the Town of Bluffton asked for clarification on the cost sharing on the Bluffton RC&D Ditch and was told that the Town would be billed for about ½ of the \$93 thousand cost. He also asked about cost sharing on monitoring and outreach and was told that this would be implemented in FY10. Mr. Bennett also announced that a doubling of the town's SFU rate has been introduced to town council. He observed that this would lead to a \$20,000 increase in the administrative fees kept by the county.

Don Smith wanted noted for the record that his ongoing monitoring of the handling of a river buffer violation has not lead to final corrective action.

**12. Next meeting agenda** – The Chairman of the Board requested the following agenda for June meeting. There was then a continuation discussion on legality of mechanical watering devices in the buffer area. It was the board's opinion that this did not fall under stormwater requirements and was in another section of the ZDSO. There was a suggestion to have presentation on the organizational controls on Buffers be presented. It was suggested as a July topic and that Planning should prepare. Planning representative at the meeting would work this item.

Also another question came up on use of the census update study data to improve collection of SW Fees. It appears this would not benefit the utility.

Discussed changing July SWMU board meeting from July 2 to July 9. Will make decision at June meeting.

- 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 Together for Beaufort
  - o Friends of the River
- Utility Administration
  - o Military Base Collection Update
  - o Regional Workshop Follow-up
  - o Budget Update

**13. Meeting adjourned.**

