

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

March 4, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in County Council Executive Chamber
Final March 30, 2009

Board Members

Present	Absent
John Youmans	Brad Samuel
Donald Smith	
Allyn Schneider	

Ex-Officio Members

Present	Absent
Scott Liggett	
Bob Gross	Jeff McNesby
Ashley Mosley	

Beaufort County SW Staff

Daniel B. Ahern
Eddie Bellamy
Robert Klink
Lori Sexton
Rob McFee
Carolyn Wallace
Amanda Flake

Visitors

David Harter, Friends of the Rivers
Richard Brooks, Bluffton Today
Joe Corley, HHAAOR
Damon Williams, Sun City
Denise Parsick, BC Conservation Dist.
Nancy Schilling, Friends of the Rivers

County Council

1. Meeting called to order by Mr. Don Smith.
2. The February 4, 2009 SWMU Board meeting minutes were approved.
3. **Initial Opportunity for Public Comment** – David Harter made a presentation about his concern about the Victoria Bluff Heritage impacts from upstream development. In particular he is concerned about the Tanger Outlet Mall. He feels that the additional flow is creating creeks in the wetlands and causing trees to fall over. He is asking the board to step in on this issue before DNR steps into and protests the Tanger redevelopment.
Board Chairman recognized John Youmans for setting three state swimming records.

4. Stormwater Control Regulation – Next Steps

Mr. Bellamy reported on status and reported meeting between City of Beaufort Council and Bob Gross and Dan Ahern on these changes. This resolved concerns on nitrogen for new development and the caveat for applying in redevelopment. The current wording for the Caveat is as followed:

Redevelopment must meet requirements to the maximum extent practicable (MEP), except where impairments exist in the receiving waters in effects. In those cases, redevelopment must meet the BMP requirements for the applicable pollutants.

Mr. Bellamy said there is very good news here. The BMP manual was directed to new construction and it was not clear how and if it applied to redevelopment. We will now be indicating that the BMP manual will be applicable to redevelopment.

Mr. Bellamy announced a new ordinance on the establishment of the Stormwater Management Board has been drafted and it will lead to a change in board representation. In the future 2 members will be from South of Broad and 3 members North of Broad. This reflects the current unincorporated county population.

Don Smith wondered why we would only require meeting bacteria requirements when there is impairment and to the Maximum Extent Practicable when there is no impairment.

Ashley Mosley asked how it would be applied to infill development which is somewhere between new and redevelopment. He is concerned about the wording on the first page of the BMP Manual could be misleading. Bob Klink said that is background and we will revise to make clearer. The sheets in Chapter 3 are the determination of the need of the BMP. Therefore infill will also need to go to the worksheet to determine if they need a BMP.

Mr. Bellamy said that we had not looked at page 1 that hard and will look to make it clearer. This is also good news in that we have municipalities looking at BMP manual to better understand it.

5. Monitoring Update – Bob Klink reported that

- Had meeting with contractor in February
- As a result of meeting we are establishing an additional May River sampling point
- Planning a meeting with Eagles Point on pond management practices and hope to have CDM evaluation of 12 years of data at Eagles Point
- Next meeting is April 28, 2009 and will have GEL back around May to report to Board

6. Friends of Rivers – Nancy Schilling gave board a prepared update and highlighted certain items from the update:

- Received SC Wildlife Federation 2008
- Hosted SC elected official and state government for Coastal Caucus meeting in coordination with the HHI Chamber of Commerce at Waddell Mariculture Center for 80+ participants
- Kids in Kayaks program is being run now by Susan Dee, Environmental Science coordinator for McCracken Middle School
- May River Cleanup is March 28, 2009 at Bluffton Oyster Factory Park
- Planning the next SC NEMO (3rd Annual) and are considering doing in with a boat ride to bring participants to the resource
- Earth day will be celebrated April 25 in Town of Port Royal

Bob Gross asked about the WQ Internship on list and David Harder said it was through the Waddell Center.

Friends of the Rivers will do an update in six months

7. Annual Maintenance – The staff completed 16 projects summaries since the last board meeting. 13 of them were over \$1,500 and were reported at the meeting. Gave hard copies of project in board representatives' area to reduce amount of copies. Projects had been posted on SW Website the day before the meeting.

Bob Gross asked about cross line work and if erosion is a factor in these projects. Mr. Bellamy said that Utility has caught up major outfall work but behind on cross-line work. A lot of the cross line pipes on dirt roads were being done by the roads and drainage sections. Cross lines do not change erosion – dirt roads erode. He said that Bob calls “dirt roads are dumb”. Mr. Bellamy agrees and that roads are causing more and more work with roads that needed to be graded every six months and now have to be graded every month.

Don Smith asked how we are handling easements and have we tried to employ community involvement. Mr. Bellamy said that we have done this in the past and last example was in Dale and Sheldon in early 2007.

Scott Liggett suggested that SW Utility funds should be used to pave dirt roads to eliminate the problems being discussed. Mr. Bellamy said this was an interesting point.

8. Utilities Updates – Dan Ahern reported:

May River efforts – since the February Board meeting the County has met with the Town of Bluffton (Feb 9) and then developed and made joint presentations at both the BC Council (Feb 23) and Town of Bluffton (Feb 24) on efforts to address concerns with rising Fecal Coliform levels in the upper reaches of the May River. County inventoried the number of horses in the county's portion of the watershed and have locations and contacts for the horse locations. Our monitoring contractor participated with the ToB in a call with NOAA Lab on Microbial Source Tracking. We took samples on Feb 19 and Town of Bluffton took samples on Feb 18

Together for Beaufort – Explained some documents developed by the WQ Committee of the Together for Beaufort effort. They did an evaluation of the recommendations of the 1997 Clean Water Task Force. This group published 10 steps and 53 recommendations to address closing of shellfish harvesting in Board Creek. This WQ committee did a 10 year look at these recommendations. This summary and a proposed next Ten Steps were sent by the BC Conservation District to our elected county and municipal officials in December. The committee is proposing to make these actions public. This may be a good time to look at these new recommendations. The May River is only the first problem that has occurred since the County started Water Quality Controls in 1998. It is a significant success story since the county grew over 30% during this period.

Don Smith asked if we have feedback from the letters. Denise Parsick said only Tom Davis had responded back and the Conservation District is planning a press release.

Okatie Village Modeling – the county had a pre bid meeting (Feb 27) for this model development contract to help determine the impacts of the Okatie Village. There were 15 separate firms (24 attendees) represented at the meeting.

Coordination with Charleston County – last month our inspector visited Charleston to review procedures and then last week Dan Ahern and Lamar Taylor from the City of Beaufort attended a MS4 meeting sponsored by Charleston County. This meeting is attended by all the big MS4s in Charleston County along with neighboring counties (Dorchester, Georgetown and I think one other).

This meeting was to compare what folks are doing with permitting. They are permitting all residential home construction.

There is another meeting in April and we will be encouraging some of our other municipalities to attend to see what the MS4 requirements will be like.

9. Utility Administration – County/Municipal Workgroup – Dan Ahern reported that the February Meeting had the results of tasking of the team to report back on support from jurisdictions. Good news is that all but one of the recommendations by the team was accepted by the jurisdictions. The only recommendation that was not accepted was the proposal to increase level of effort for education and outreach from present budget level. It is hoped that these joint efforts will lead to more shared efforts in the Stormwater arena. The two big implementation tasks on the committee's agenda are:

- Solicitation by ToHHI for the study of WQ controls in Existing Development. Town and County will develop a proposed scope of work to bring to committee
- Solicitation by one of the committee (trying to convince ToHHI) to select one monitoring support firm for separate contracts for ToHHI, ToB and Beaufort County

10. Utility Administration – Military Base Collection Effort – Dan Ahern gave the monthly update. At last meeting we announced that we were going to try a Plan B, which was going to focus on the Naval Hospital and deal with the Navy office in Jacksonville.

Since the February meeting we have contacted the Navy in Jacksonville, received call from Naval Hospital saying they were with the Marines (told them they were a Navy facility) and faxed the background information to our contact in Jacksonville where this issue will be staffed. We have told the Navy that we are willing to discuss level of services and credits (with the Town of Port Royal) but they need to pay the fee.

The county administrator called a meeting on March 3 to discuss. He has authorized us to develop with County Legal assistance a new demand letter to the Marines to try to reopen that door. Also got call from Base saying they were asked to make sure they were cooperating. We told them that it was their Headquarters position that we had a problem.

We are still tracking what is happening in Jacksonville and did send them our contact information and CDM's report indicates they are still meeting.

11. Utility Administration – Budget – Carolyn Wallace gave the Budget presentation on a power point.

She also referred to a budget comparison sheet that compared changes that have occurred from 2009 to 2010. The presentation described the five revenue sources that are expected to bring in a little over \$4 million. Carolyn described the Utility's six activity categories. The final budget is expected to lead to a slight surplus of \$82,000.

Allyn Schneider asked how we determine how the Del Webb account is used. Carolyn said there is a dedicated portion of the account for stormwater. She said that contributions to this account will decrease as Sun City is built out and we are careful in utilization of this account.

Bob Gross asked about the budget amount for an Illicit Discharge ordinance. Dan said this ordinance will be needed as we approach MS4 status. Bob wanted to work with us on this.

Scott Liggett – Town of HHI participation in the joint efforts will depend on raising SW Fee and staff has been working to get Town Council approval in May.

Bob Gross asked if this reflects any rate increase. Carolyn said none was planned.

Bob Gross asked how we are coordinating to learn from other SW utilities. We have been active in SC Association of SW Managers. Carolyn said we are also active in SESWA.

Also suggested that we consider the impacts of the proposed State law restrictions.

12. Final Opportunity for Public Comment – Mr. Bellamy wanted to impress on the Board the good work that has come out of the implementation agreement. He recognizes that this new cooperation will carry responsibilities to follow the agreed decisions from the group. Feels we need to expand our coordination efforts to bring in our neighboring counties into water quality decisions

13. Next meeting agenda – Reviewed proposed agenda in Board packets and made changes and asked for an inspector update.

14. Meeting adjourned.