

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

May 6, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at Waddell Mariculture Center
Final Draft June 2, 2009

Board Members

Present	Absent
John Youmans	
Donald Smith	Brad Samuel
Allyn Schneider	

Ex-Officio Members

Present	Absent
Scott Liggett	
Chris Ahern	Bob Gross
Jeff McNesby	

Beaufort County SW Staff

Daniel B. Ahern
Eddie Bellamy
Robert Klink
Lori Sexton

Visitors

Reed Armstrong, CCL
Richard Brooks, Bluffton Today
Joe Corley, HHI Realtors Assoc
Liz Mitchell, Island Packet
Dave Harter, Friends of Rivers
Nancy Schilling, Friends of Rivers
Ed Modlelewski, ATM

County Council

1. Meeting called to order by Mr. Don Smith. Note: initially did not have a quorum for initial items. Don Smith also welcomed new ex-officio member Chris Ahern who will be representing the Town of Port Royal.
2. The April 1, 2009 SWMU Board meeting minutes were approved later in meeting.
3. **Initial Opportunity for Public Comment** – No comments.

4. Welcome to Waddell

Nancy Schilling of Friends of the Rivers welcomed the board to the Center and had Al Stokes, Director of the Waddell Mariculture Center give a short update on center that was opened in 1984. Al also proposed two stormwater (SW) concerns for the board. One was the impacts of the increased flow entering the Victoria Bluff Preserve and Sawmill Creek and the other was the shock impacts on Port Royal Sound salt water aquatic life(especially juvenile)from fresh water slugs (rapid salinity changes) generated by new development. He gave a number of examples of freshwater intolerance for different salt water marine resources in our area. He said that the worse pollutant that we may face is increased fresh water input in our saline waters. This presentation lead to an initial discussion on SW volume. Eddie Bellamy said we need data on historic changes in salinity that the center may have. Don Smith asked if the salinity changes were more important in the headwaters of our tidal creeks.

Don Smith asked if our BMPs are addressing this issue. Dan Ahern said some BMPs reduce volume and others do not. The key to volume reduction are BMPs (rain barrels and cisterns, SW reuse and green roofs) that encourage or cause evapotranspiration rather than runoff or infiltration that reaches the receiving waters in base flow. Eddie Bellamy said we may need to consider having ponds that are not amenities but are used for SW reuse. It would be easily incorporated in new development but not so for retrofits where folks paid extra for waterfront lots. There were additional questions on fishery resources and linkage between spawning times and rainfall. Al said that storm events have adverse impact on fishery reproduction and survival.

5. Monitoring Update – Bob Klink reported that the BMP manual update on nitrogen has been approved by the County Council at their April 27, 2009 meeting. There were three monitoring items mentioned:

- Results of April 28 GEL meeting.
- Extension of GEL contract till the end of October and the planned joint county/municipal solicitation for a single monitoring contractor.
- Next monitoring meeting is June 30, 2009.

6. Monitoring Eagles Point – In packets is a joint memo from Bob Klink and Dan Ahern (along with a review letter from Rich Wagner) that recommends that the monitoring end at Eagles Point. Eagles Point has been required to conduct monitoring as part of PUD agreement. Rich Wagner's letter evaluated 11 years of data and did not see any impact from the development other than Copper. We are working that issue separately. Staff wanted board input on the staff recommendation to drop the monitoring requirement, before taking it to the county council to drop the requirement.

Don Smith asked who initiated the request to drop monitoring. Bob said the POA requested and staff evaluated. Don Smith asked about copper levels and Bob reported that there is high copper coming from the development but is not showing up in the main stem of the Okatie.

Board did not have a quorum at this time but staff requested some feedback to take forward. After further discussion including a request from the original designer for copy of the report. It was decided to allow the board members to review and get a vote at the next meeting.

7. Annual Maintenance – The staff completed 9 projects and all but one was over \$1,500 and reported to the board. Project status summary for FY 2009 includes 117 completed projects this fiscal year compared to 139 for all of FY 2008.

8. Utilities Updates – Dan Ahern reported:

May River efforts – since the April Board meeting the County has continued to coordinate with the Town of Bluffton and DHEC and then made another joint presentation to the BC Council (April 13) on the continuing efforts to address concerns with rising Fecal Coliform levels in the upper reaches of the May River. We also at the April 13 meeting introduced the SW Volume issue to the County Council.

We had a meeting yesterday with DHEC on supporting DHEC's additional efforts in the May and in the rest of the county. DHEC has put considerable efforts to support the County and Town efforts in the May. This meeting indicated that we will have to explore additional avenues to get additional data to accelerate decisions – Like Chatham County GA lab, which may be the only FDA certified lab in the area.

Also looks like utilizing DHEC for SW Management plan recommended open water sampling is not a viable option.

SW Ordinance - One of the items that is in our budget for FY 2010 is updating our SW Ordinance to include illicit discharge requirements. The utility needs to get all the enforcement tools that we will need to meet SW permit requirements. Mr. Bellamy said that we are now in a position to increase our enforcement efforts and need the regulatory authorizations.

Don Smith asked if we had a proposed ordinance and we said we might start with the ToB's draft.

The board proposed and passed a motion supporting the Utility's development of an ordinance that would give the Utility enforcement authority to address illicit discharges and other requirements of a SW permit.

SW Volume Reduction – Discussion returned to SW Volume. Board were presented with the SW presentation to the County Council and SC Water Plan Figures saying that less than 10 inches of the approximately 50 inches of rainfall reach the waterways and about 40 inches goes up into the atmosphere via evaporation and evapotranspiration.

On May 15 the Utility is having a team from SC DNR come down from Columbia to review our concerns with volume and propose a study to better define the changes development is making to our hydrologic cycle. There will be special emphasis on pre and post development evapotranspiration rates.

Utility staff is positive that development is causing increased volume of SW runoff. We are not positive on how much "excess" SW there is and how much is this excess volume is a factor in the elevated FC levels in our tidal creek headwaters.

Staff feels there is a strong case to say regulating SW Volume in our ordinance or BMP manual is something to act on now since we know it is not a predevelopment condition. Mr. Bellamy said this total volume is staring us in the face and Mr. Stokes has added a new reason to act. We are not looking to see what we need to do next but this has come looking for us. We are asking the boards support on the Utilities efforts in this area. **The board proposed and passed a resolution that recommend investigating SW Volume and proposed changes to BMP to resolve or correct problems determined from SW Volume.**

9. Utility Administration – Military Base Collection Effort –

We have drafted and redrafted a demand letter and it is awaiting the county administrator's signature. Steve Sedgwick reports from JAX that there has not been progress and the Nuclear Carrier deployment will decide before end of this Fiscal Year.

10. Proposed SW Board Ordinance – Mr. Bellamy reported on the new changes on the SW Board Ordinance. The new ordinance increases the voting members from 5 to 7 with current North of Broad designation and an additional South of the Broad designation and an at-large slot. This will mean that 3 slots will need to be filled.

11. Final Opportunity for Public Comment – Nancy Schilling mentioned the May 13, 2009 Okatie River Boat Trip that will bring elected officials to look at traditional and new development. There was also a request for staff to arrange a DHEC report on the status of the Okatie TMDL. Dave Harter wanted to offer the Sawmill Creek as a laboratory for studying the impacts of SW runoff. He also offered his thanks for having meeting at the Center.

12. Next meeting agenda – Reviewed proposed agenda in Board packets and agreed to follow with the following additions:

- Have a report on if the new northern regional plan changes on density have impacted any of the assumptions in the SW Management Plan.
- Add SW Volume as a separate agenda item.

13. Meeting adjourned and Tour of Mariculture Center was conducted.