

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

July 1, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort County Council Chambers
Final draft July 29, 2009

Board Members

Present	Absent
John Youmans	
Donald Smith	
Allyn Schneider	
Brad Samuel	

Ex-Officio Members

Present	Absent
Scott Liggett	
Bob Gross	Chris Ahern
	Jeff McNesby

Beaufort County Staff

Daniel B. Ahern
Eddie Bellamy
Amanda Flake
Lori Sexton
Suzanne Larson

Visitors

Reed Armstrong, CCL
Tony Maglioni, Town of Port Royal
Joe Corley, HHI Realtors Assoc
Mihir Mehta, SC DHEC
Denise Parsick, BC S&W Conservation Dist
Chris Marsh, Low County Institute
Mike Monday, SC DHEC
Ife Ekpenuma, SC DHEC
Andy Miller, SC DHEC
Ann Clark, SC DHEC
Banu Varlik, SC DHEC

Visitors continued

Keith Willis, Sun City
Ed Modzelewski, Public
Lamar Taylor, City of Beaufort
Laura Lee Rose, Clemson Ext
Gerry Diaz, Town of Bluffton

County Council

1. Meeting called to order by Mr. Don Smith.
2. The June 3, 2009 SWMU Board meeting minutes were approved with one correction on meeting location.
3. **Initial Opportunity for Public Comment** – No comments.
4. **Monitoring Update** – Dan Ahern reported:
 - Reported results of the June 30, 2009 monitoring meeting. At that meeting the group welcomed a new monitoring member from Sun City and shared a lot of the ongoing activity. GEL, our contractor will be developing a 2nd year report and the board will receive report at the August meeting.
 - Presented a power point on monitoring in Stoney Creek of the May River in partnership with USCB Lab. While it is too early to draw conclusions but we are getting some similar results as Town of

Bluffton i.e. high FC concentrations during high flow events and coming out of wetlands. This monitoring may identify potential areas of concern. Answered a number of questions on initial results and its relationship with previous MST sampling.

- The SW Implementation committee approved the final scope of a joint monitoring contract at our June 18, 2009 meeting. Mr. Klink's Office is now working on getting a RFP advertized. This will result in having one contractor selected by the end of October signing monitoring contracts in Towns of HHI and Bluffton and County.

- As we have mentioned in earlier Board meetings, the county, Town of Bluffton and now Sun City, have seen good FC monitoring results from the ponds we have been testing. We are now looking for ponds that might not be performing well. As a result we have moved one of our automatic samplers to a pond on Lady's Island that has a resident geese population. The first sample did not show high readings which was a surprise.

5. Proposed SW Ordinance – Mr. Bellamy updated the board on progress in developing a SW Volume controls in our ordinance. County decided to make changes in the Division 4 of ZDSO rather than a standalone ordinance. These changes will be for new development only. Controls on existing development will be addressed in possibly a river overlay district section of the ZDSO which is to be developed. Mr. Bellamy explained the presentations at the Natural Resources Committee (NRC) meeting at the June 24, 2009 and showed the new slide that has been developed to explain volume control. He described the presentation by Dr Holland. The NRC endorsed SW volume control changes and first reading will be July 27 County Council meeting. It also has to be presented to the planning commission on August 3, 2009. He asked board to attend if possible.

Mr. Bellamy explained the other initiatives that we are taking to expand information on SW volume. Bob Gross asked about a proposed statement on restriction to irrigation where there is direct discharge. This was directed at imported water and would be an incentive to reuse excess stormwater for irrigation.

Scott Liggett asked about changing to a 100 year storm water event. It was being proposed based on the assumption that with retention of additional volume we might meet the 100 year peak event control at the same level of effort as for the current 25 year storm. It does not have to be included to address total volume issues.

Mr. Bellamy said this was an update and SW Board's endorsement does not need to be modified at this time. Final wording of changes might be made as reviews continue.

Don Smith asked about addressing existing development. Mr. Bellamy said that is still to be determined. There was some discussion on the Town of Bluffton's efforts to retroactively apply controls. It was not sure if this was through PUD agreement or their ordinance.

Scott Liggett – wants to see some SW volume reduction examples utilizing TR-55. Also feels we should revisit some of the previous board efforts on the May River.

6. Public Comment Period –

Tony Maglioni – brought up concerns on behalf of Town of Port Royal. One was how highway improvement runoff will be handled. Also wanted the term “maximum extent technically feasible” to be defined. Also need to see examples of how SW volume will be handled and application of 100 year peak flow control. Also feels BMP manual should be updated to help in discussion.

7. Okatie TMDL Update –

There were two presentations by the SC DHEC. One by Mihir Mehta on TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) and Arturo Ovalles on MS4 Permit responsibilities.

Mihir Mehta introduced a number of other SC DHEC attendees. He heads up the TMDL, NPS Section and presented a power point to explain the TMDL process. This is the process to develop the amount of pollutants that a water body can receive before the designated uses will be impaired. The Okatie River is impaired due to elevated Fecal Coliform (FC) Levels and the TMDL that his group is developing would determine the FC percent reduction at each of the Shellfish monitoring station watersheds that are necessary to return the water to designated uses (Shellfish Harvesting). The two sources that will need to be reduced to meet the reduction requirements will be from “non-continuous point sources” i.e. like drains, stormwater pipes, drainage ditches and “nonpoint sources” like pet waste, agriculture activities etc. When the TMDL is developed then controls will be implemented to get required reductions.

Draft document will be ready in two to three months and then there will be public involvement (formal 30 day period) and the TMDL and comments are sent to EPA for approval.

Arturo Ovalles, MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) Permit writer, presented a power point on the SW permitting process. It is expected that BC will meet the 500 people/sq mi urbanized area requirement in the 2010 census and will be designated an MS4. When BC becomes an MS4 they will receive a permit that will require 6 management efforts required of all permittees under a general report. It will include requirements for plan review for construction and post-construction.

Bob Gross asked how presentation related to initial presentation at palmetto electric last year. He was concerned on resources necessary to determine sources to be reduced. It appears that there will not be specific recommendations on reductions from the TMDL. Mihir said that Beaufort County could apply for 319 grants to develop reductions.

If nobody will step up to push reductions, DHEC will not implement the TMDL and it will stay on the shelf. Bob Gross asked if the funding made available to the May River will be available for the Okatie. Mihir said it might be available. If TMDL is finalized by December we have a good chance to get funded with a 319 grant, which is 60/40 match. The 319 grant is focused on getting BMP's on the ground. BC would not be eligible if we have a MS4 permit since we would be expected to regulate sources.

Bob Gross asked what kind of BMP state would recommend for wildlife sources that appear to be significant sources of our FC loads. State did not have a recommendation.

Ann Clark of DHEC said there might not be solutions to some problems and you may have to focus on what are things we can do. State will not expect the County to; for example, get the 40 percent reduction in the first year. It might take a few permit cycles.

Bob Gross said that the county and board have been working these issues for years and the public expectation is not working toward a goal but achieving this goal immediately.

Don Smith said the Board is looking for help in this area.

Arturo recommended looking to Center for Watershed Protection.

Allyn Schneider asked about SC DOT role in this process and particularly the 278 expansion. Mihir said that the 401 certification process (another DHEC review) will address this impact. Arturo said that in impaired watersheds SCDOT's permit places special requirements on them.

Chris Marsh asked about how the volume of SW runoff will be handled in the TMDL. It has been determined that SW volume may be a significant problem in FC impairment. The problem from the 278 Highway expansions may be the extra volume causing FC to be stirred up and not FC load from the road.

Mihir said that we don't have a water quality standard for runoff, it is based on pollutants.

Dan Ahern said that the solution to FC reduction may be reducing volume and the impairment in FC may be caused by good clean extra fresh water going into receiving waters and increasing FC loads from wetlands.

Arturo said that TMDL is based on pollutants of concern and volume is not a pollutant and therefore we can not have reductions specified for this.

Don Smith expressed appreciation to SC DHEC for coming down to address the Board

9. Other Scheduled Agenda Items –

These were deferred to next meeting

11. Final Opportunity for Public Comment – Brad Samuel asked if the Monitoring Committee has addressed Lucy Creek. He requested an update on Lucy Creek status.

12. Next meeting agenda – Reviewed proposed agenda in Board packets and agreed to follow the proposed August 3, 2009 agenda.

13. Meeting adjourned