

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

October 7, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort County Council Chambers
Final draft November 2, 2009

Board Members

Present	Absent
John Youmans	Don Smith
Allyn Schneider	
Brad Samuel	
William Bruggeman	
Donald Cammerata	
James Fargher	

Ex-Officio Members

Present	Absent
Scott Liggett	Chris Ahern
Donald Smith	
Jeff McNesby	
Bob Gross	

Beaufort County Staff

Daniel B. Ahern
Eddie Bellamy
Lori Sexton
Rob McFee
Amanda Flake

Visitors

Reed Armstrong, CCL
Joe Croley, HHAAOR
Paul Moore, Ward Edwards
Denise Parsick, BC S&W Conservation Dist
Nancy Schilling, Friends of the Rivers
Tom Zinn, Buckwalter Place
Matt Gleen, Buckwalter Place
Kevin Green, Thomas and Hutton

County Council

1. Meeting called to order by Mr. Allyn Schneider.

3. Approval of the September Minutes were approved

4. Initial Opportunity for Public Comment –

Tom Zinn said that they would like to defer the Buckwalter Place discussion until the board has a time to review the binder they developed to explain the issue and discuss at the next meeting. Bob Gross asked for summary of the issue and what is being asked.

Mr. Zinn feels that Bluffton Parkway has caused excess SW volume that is coming onto the Buckwalter Place development. Looking for a joint solution that is funded by the County and Buckwalter Place. This has been going on for a couple years. Brad Samuel feels this is an important development for the county and a solution needs to be developed.

5. Monitoring Update –

Mr. Klink was in Columbia and Dan Ahern gave the update. Reported on RFP Selection Process Status with GEL selected by a panel of County and Municipality reviewers. The present contract has

received approval from the Natural Resources Committee and will be presented for approval at the October 12, 2009 Council meeting.

Second year monitoring report is now posted on web site.

Reported on Copper meeting on October 5 at BJWSA. Bob Gross said Utility ought to investigate new test on Biologic available copper which would be the toxic agent. Plan to develop a plan determine extent of problem

Updated efforts of Bacterial Source Tracking and Jim Fargher mentioned the articles that are utilizing caffeine and other chemical methods of determining sources of Fecal Coliform. Mentioned that GEL has pharmaceutical lab. Brad Samuel asked if this would address non warm blooded animals. Staff said this might not be a significant factor anymore. Suggested that we would bring GEL to next meeting to present options for future bacterial source tracking to help learn about sources of elevated FC levels.

Brad Samuel asked if all monitoring would be done by GEL. Municipalities will make their own decisions on their contracting for monitoring.

6. Friends of the Rivers Update – Nancy Schilling gave the semi-annual public education report. She had and two page report and reviewed Friends of the Rivers efforts with Committees and Presentations to different groups and neighboring jurisdictions. Friends of Rivers reported on a number of programs that the group has supported and how they have lead to environmental initiatives. Have developed 8 new radio announcements and plan to work with County to develop short TV segments. Future activities include creating a mascot for water quality education programs and having additional boat trips to help educate officials on water quality issues.

7. SW Ordinance Update – Mr. Bellamy supported boat trips as an educational effort. He also noted that with Buckwalter Place being in Town of Bluffton that if Utility funds are to be spent on this that it would come from the Town of Bluffton and they would have the final say on funding.

He gave a short history on our ordinance development and then reported that it was approved at the Planning Commission on October 5, 2009. The copy of the changes was in the Board's packet. Mr. Bellamy said these are only for new and redevelopment. We are going to address and approved and not built and then how we are going to deal with existing development.

We now have preliminary cost estimates and have 4 firms are sharing information even though they are competitors. The reports indicate that new SW costs will be 5 to 10% on a total project cost, 10 to 30% on a site cost and around 100% on SW costs. At least on the commercial BMP's we are seeing that there might be a return on investment due to reduced irrigation and cooling costs.

Next steps will be a second reading of changes on October 12,

Remaining issues will include BMP manual changes will also be taken to county council when it is developed. We are also going to take on the approved but not built requirements. We will then address existing development actions.

We are also looking at making interim corrections as they become available.

Mr. Schneider asked how long before we will address approved but not built. Mr. Bellamy said it would be about six months unless directed to do faster. He also mentioned that sometime in future we would need a stand alone ordinance. Mr. Cammerata observed that wetlands may be impacted by the velocity of flow going through it and feels that if the velocity can be reduced we might reduce loading.

Scott Liggett asked if the studies will be shared. Mr. Bellamy said we will share the final projects. Scott Liggett asked about the exemption for maintenance in ordinance changes and if this would present a problem with our current maintenance activities. There was a discussion on this item trying to determine if it was applicable. *(After meeting it was determined that this is ZDSO changes and the exemption only deals with maintenance associated with new development authorization.)*

6. Annual Maintenance - Dan Ahern reported on 12 new project summaries. Details of these projects are posted on the county's web site. Hard copies are given to area representatives on the board. Made not

7. Utility Updates – Dan Ahern

May River Coordination – Presented joint update to County Council on September 28, 2009. Of significant note is that we are now saying the issue is increasing FC coming from wetlands and undeveloped land.

Coordinating with ToB; Jeff McNesby and I have continued our coordination and we had our coordination meeting on September 17; the decision on the proposed IGA on County/Town coordination is awaiting senior level concurrence. We are continuing our weekly FC sampling and results are still the same as reported. We are still maintaining with ToB a May River Website on our SW Website where people can go to look at all documents on the May River. Recent Island Packet editorial recommended that readers look at this web site.

Okatie TMDL – DHEC has called a meeting of jurisdictions that will be impacted by this TMDL on October 30, 2009 at DHEC offices. The County will have Rob McFee, Bob Klink and others at this meeting. Jasper County and City of Hardeeville have been invited and this might open a door to coordinate on SW issues. Challenges facing this TMDL include the inability to be able to reduce FC loads from the developed areas enough to meet reduction requirements.

Upcoming RFP, RFQ and contracts –Reported earlier on the monitoring RFP. On the RFQ for WQ Retrofits the top rated firm has been contacted and we are now in negotiations to set finalize scope on this project. The County and Town of HHI met yesterday to give final guidance. We expect to take a proposed contract to the Natural Resources Committee at their November Meeting

We are still working towards a contract to design the Southside WQ Control Pond. A final meeting with park planning committee is being set up. This has the possibility to be a major cooperative success story between the City of Beaufort, Town of Port Royal and the County. It will treat 200 acres of existing development draining to Battery Creek (an impaired water) and meet the Bacteria and Phosphorus standards and nearly meet the nitrogen requirements. The Southside Park sort of fell in our laps but County wide-contract will address the sites identified in the SW Management Plan and what to do when regional sites are not available. This was a major reason for our monitoring program and we have met and are coordinating with Rural and Critical Land program to link their efforts with this

8. Utility Administration - Regional Cooperation –

At our September 17 meeting we coordinated on easements and will be tackling how to determine NPDES outfalls at the next meeting.

9. Utility Administration - Military Fee Effort – Dan Ahern

There has not been any progress at the county. Staff heard at last week's SESWA meeting in Augusta GA that Region 4 EPA is sending an internal memo to national office asking them to collaborate with other federal agencies on their payment of SW Fees.

Staff also got a copy of a memo that Gwinnett County GA sent to US Attorney General on SW Fee payment issue. Copy of this letter was given to board members.

11. Final Opportunity for Public Comment – None

12. Next meeting agenda – Reviewed proposed agenda and accepted proposal with addition of Buckwalter Place agenda item.

13. Meeting adjourned