

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

April 7, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort County Council Chambers  
Final May 5, 2010

**Board Members**

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

**Ex-Officio Members**

| Present       | Absent    |
|---------------|-----------|
| John Carmack  | Bob Gross |
| Chris Ahern   |           |
| Scott Liggett |           |

**Beaufort County Staff**

Daniel Ahern  
Eddie Bellamy  
Lori Sexton  
Rob McFee  
Billie Lindsay

**Visitors**

Reed Armstrong, CCL  
Marion Rock, Royal Pines HOA  
Cary Gaffney, ToHHI  
Rebekah Szivak, SC DNR  
John Leffler, SC DNR  
Joe Croley, HHAAOR  
Keith Willis, Sun City  
Paul Moore, Ward Edwards  
Denise Parsick, BC S&W Cons Dist

**County Council**

Paul Sommerville

1. Meeting called to order by Don Smith and Census statement was read and new representative from Town of Bluffton, John Carmack, was welcomed.

2. March 3, 2010 Minutes were approved.

**3. Initial Opportunity for Public Comment – None**

**4. DNR Proposal –John Leffler**

Made a power point presentation on a National Estuarine Research Reserve Science Collaborative Funding Opportunity relating to the ACE Basin NERR and studying impact of proposed water quality retrofits that the SW Utility are considering doing. This proposal is focusing on collaboration with many groups in BC and includes: BC; USCB; Friends of Rivers; Lowcountry Institute and SC Sea Grant. Will be leveraging research with BC Utility efforts to do retrofits. Also planning a targeted small watershed for small individual education effort. Watersheds that are being retrofitted will be paired with control watersheds to better determine the impacts of the retrofits. Will also establish an advisory board to review

efforts and give input. Beside the targeted watershed effort proposal will have additional professional training for government officials and other stakeholders; K-12 Education and stewardship programs. John did ask that the County and Utility provide some commitments as part of grant. These would be:

- Commitment to undertake retrofits
- Sharing County GIS data
- Contributions
- Letter of Collaboration
- Coordination or upfront funding of retrofits

#### Questions and Discussion

Don Cammerata – asked whether we were going to work with other counties since they are having impact on our waters too. John said these are small watersheds being studied and are impacted primarily by their watershed.

Brad Samuel – Will DNR be working with existing outreach groups. DNR said yes.

Scott Liggett – Wanted more information on the Advisory board. John said that the board has not been established but some potential ideas were shared.

Chris Ahern – Asked if comparing watersheds is enough and time line. John said that they will also be doing other analysis on individual basins. John said that funding is expected to be three years and about \$300,000 per year.

William Bruggeman asked about Huspah Creek and Dan Ahern explained this project being proposed as part of drainage project.

Don Smith asked about selection on control watersheds. John explained that it needs to be tied to ACE Basin reserve.

Don Smith asked for Utility staff input and Dan Ahern said we are in favor of study, because it would give us good scientific feedback on the impacts of our efforts.

Eddie Bellamy said study will help sort out impacts of development and may be better able to direct future efforts.

It was suggested that the Board should issue a resolution supporting study. The BC Board passed a resolution – **The SW Board recommends that the County support this Grant.**

#### 5. Monitoring Update – Dan Ahern for Bob Klink

Reported on the Monitoring meeting March 30 results:

- o Decided to not pursue additional source tracking at this time – GEL will give reasons at next board's monitoring briefing
- o Worked out access to new monitoring sites. Changes are being made based on recent input on retrofit contract.
- o Will be increasing flow volume measurement in Eagles Pt with new flow monitor. Important because it appears that SC DNR may not be able to work with us on SW volume due to budget cuts.
- o Continuing Copper work and will be doing additional sampling and new tests and sediment sampling.

DHEC will be briefing us in May on their Beaufort River Shellfish Classification Plans concerning the elimination of military wastewater discharges.

Brad Samuel wants to see a map of the changes in monitoring stations and Utility will ask GEL to develop map for their briefing.

James Fargher asked for an elaboration on the decision to stop source tracking efforts. Staff reported that we could not get a consensus on method from various scientists on this rapidly evolving field and if we

proceeded we might not be able to conclusively determine if the increase in FC coming from wetlands are due to wildlife sources or washout from excess volume. Even if we can not develop a test to determine this, it would only impact whether we needed a wildlife reduction strategy. Therefore we can proceed to continue to control SW volume and if we later find that wildlife sources are significant, we can develop a management strategy for that.

Don Cammerata asked about fresh water dilution and temperature impacts. Staff could only report what scientists have been saying. Recent analysis, by DNR, indicated that average Salinity is not decreasing. The problem seems to be Flashiness or fresh water slugs and the short term salinity variation. Chris Ahern elaborated on this situation.

William Bruggeman asked if the source tracking was going to determine whether it was from human studies. Staff said that this was not the intent of this round of proposed source tracking.

### **Board took 5 minute Break**

#### **6. BMP Manual Update – Dan Ahern**

Subsequent to last months update Bob Klink and Dan Ahern met with Rich Wagner and discussed changes needed to incorporate Appendix C into the BMP manual and comments we had received. This update was received from CDM on April 1 and the new draft manual posted on the Web site. The Board was notified of posting on April 2. This update is really an interim update since it has been modified about 5 times since the original manual was developed and we have asked CDM to submit a proposal to reorder the manual and have a simple summary of requirements. Also in your packet is a copy of responses to comments submitted by ATM on the manual. Some of them will be incorporated in clean up.

Don Smith asked who commented on manual. Staff said it was from Thomas and Hutton and ATM supplied most of the comments.

Don Cammerata asked if this change addressed velocity. Staff said that velocity is not addressed in manual but has part of peak control requirements. If peak flow is not greater than predevelopment peak flow there should not be a velocity issue.

Don Smith asked Chris Ahern what they have heard from engineering community. Chris said the rewrite will help understanding and feels that engineers are taking a wait and see position.

Board asked Paul Moore, of Ward Edwards, for engineering community input on Manual. Paul said they had some earlier efforts in area and agree on the effective impervious surface procedure. We have to see how requirements are incorporated into.

Scott Liggett asked if these changes addressed the individual lots would there be examples given. Staff reported that individual lots are still being worked under Step 2 efforts but four examples had been developed for commercial and residential examples and these were posted on the web site.

William Bruggeman asked what the next steps would be. Reported that it will be taken after SW Board action to the Natural Resources Committee for their concurrence (May 3, 2010) meeting and then County Council. Eddie Bellamy clarified that it will only be reported to County Council and approval will only be by the Natural Resources committee. **The Board passed a resolution approving the BMP Manual changes.**

#### **7. SW Volume Regulation Update – Dan Ahern and Eddie Bellamy**

Reported on the Stormwater Ordinance Group (SWOG) meeting on March 23, 2010. This group is composed of Public Works Director, Planning, County Engineer, Stormwater Manager and ATM consultants meeting on SW Volume regulation development. They are meetings on developing ordinance changes and requirements for phase II to address the “Lots of record but not built” as it is now known. Group is considering two types of soil; non hydric A&B soils and all others as well as location by volume sensitive. ATM is considering this and has been asked to develop proposed BMP’s for these two classes of watersheds. The ordinance changes will primarily be handled in a new section of the current division that contains the Stormwater requirements. I have included a copy of this proposed section in your packets. We will finalize when we get feedback from our consultant.

#### **8. EOS/LOS Board Input – Eddie Bellamy**

Explained the background on development of these documents. The need for these documents were demonstrated by the problems we experienced this wet winter. Requesting that we get written input even if no comment. Asked for these comments by the end of April we could bring revised copy to the board for endorsement at the May meeting.

Scott Liggett asked if this was going to be discussed by the implementation committee. Utility said they would bring this up. Scott said that we need to bring this to the attention of the municipalities.

Scott Liggett also liked the logo and feels this should get more visibility.

Eddie Bellamy feels this is one of the more important documents he has brought to the Board.

#### **9. Annual Maintenance – Project Reports – Dan Ahern**

Reported that the Utility has spent a considerable amount of time on developing a process for improving development of project reports. Most of the Utilities resources are spent in this area (38 of 42 employees) and we need a good way to recognize the work being done. Since last board meeting, quality control and review standards for the personnel developing reports have been established. Maintenance projects are being separated from construction projects. Only reporting project reports for construction projects and will be doing overall summaries for routine maintenance activities (except for reimbursement maintenance projects). Routine maintenance will be bush hogging, vacuum truck work and ditch cleanout.

Reported the final summary of FY09 project that increased project work from \$1.5 to \$2.1 million of effort. Nine construction projects and maintenance summaries were presented.

Another presentation was on the reports we are receiving from SC DOT on their 24 structural BMP’s located in Beaufort County. The SC DOT contractor estimates the amount of debris and sediment removed from each structure.

There were a number of comments on this presentation.

Eddie Bellamy said we need to learn more how they are developing these reports. The most important thing is the fact if they can estimate amount why can’t the utility estimate and develop a way for catch basins.

There were additional questions on what is the composition of the debris and if SC DOT has other maintenance reports on roadside ditch cleanouts.

The Utility will continue coordinating with SC DOT and report to the board quarterly and further investigate procedures to see if they can be utilized by the Utility.

#### **10. Utility Administration – Updates**

Utility is making progress on the first three water quality projects. It looks like two will be ready at the same time. Here is the update:

Gascoigne Bluff – Have met with the engineer and rural and critical land staff on March 19, 2010 on planning of meeting with POA on proposed pond. We have drafted up new easement wording (liability and water quality pond limitations) and based on input we have revised the request and have just received final County Attorney input.

Southside Pond – Have authorized final design and municipalities and county are negotiating IGA that will control our coordination on the project.

Huspah Creek – Met with the owner and staked his property to show size of pond. Have sent a final easement that we have negotiated with the owner and construction will be scheduled in light of DNR Grant monitoring alternatives and when final design is completed.

**Okatie TMDL/319 Grant Application** – The TMDL has still not been posted to our knowledge. The LOW COG submitted an application for over \$500,000 in 319 funds to address reduction of FC in the Okatie River. The state committee selecting projects will meet April 27, 2010 and the state says they will mail letters within a week of the meeting. It should be noted that our planning department has submitted an application for about ½ million for a demo project (separate pot of money) on the County Admin Bldg. parking lot. This would be to demo volume reduction BMP's that we are requiring in our new BMP manual.

**Okatie Village** – We did have a meeting on this approved development on March 9 and the consultant selected for the model analysis, met with the developer to get required information to start the model work.

Also mentioned Utility is hosting webcast April 21, 2010 in County Chambers on Bioretention Design. It will have Tom Schueler as one of the speakers.

**Military Fees** – I did get to speak to my contact in Jacksonville FL on their efforts to get payment from the Navy Air Station. Unfortunately this has ended up in a legal issue because the City had set up their fee system similar to what existed in BC before 2005. The city did not charge churches and contributed their equivalent fees from general funds. The military challenged this as unequal treatment of fees based on impervious surface. The good news is that the military is paying fees on their out parcels and housing. This is similar to the situation we have with Laurel Bay. The other factor in their debate was the fact that the Air Station has an NPPES SW Permit and has already agreed to a TMDL for the Base. This does not exist in Beaufort.

Our contact in Jacksonville sent us some recent activity in this area and I have included a March 4, 2010 determination by the VA Attorney General on whether the Navy needs to pay fees. Based on this letter we have asked our attorney to investigate if we should get a determination from the SC Attorney General. Brad Samuel said that he understood that churches were included in a recent law. Staff felt that was an earlier version and was not in final law. *(Note verified churches not included after meeting)*

## **11. Utility Administration – Regional Cooperation**

The implementation committee met March 18, 2010 in Mt Pleasant. The town shared how they were operating under their MS4 permit. The focus of their program was primarily flood control (Set up a Utility in 1994 to address flooding issues). They had a very thorough construction inspection program and required video of installed pipes after construction and then two years later.

Brad Samuel asked whether Mt. Pleasant has its own permit. Staff said that in Charleston County everybody got permits and some are handled by the county (County and seven small municipalities) and others go alone – Charleston, North Charleston, and Mt Pleasant.

Committee discussed the first two minimum control measures (MCM) and designated representatives will be drafting recommendation for committee to recommend at next meeting. We will also be tackling the third MCM (Illicit discharge) at next meeting. Municipalities were to respond to the FY 2011 recommendations by March 31, 2010.

To-date we have only received a response from ToHHI that concurred with recommendations but also had some additional comments, including a recommendation to have a formal schedule for amending the IGA's that expire September 2011. We will be responding to ToHHI and challenging the implementation committee to suggest a schedule.

Final item on coordination is that I have been asked to address the Joint CoB/ToPR Planning, April 12, 2010, on SW with a focus on where the program is today and where we expect it to be headed in the future.

**12. Other Board Items–**

Scott Liggett reported ToHHI is considering another rate increase to address the increasing EOS that they are taking over from communities.

**13. Final Opportunity for Public Comment – None**

**14. Next meeting agenda – Approved proposed agenda with three additional agenda items**

**15. Meeting adjourned**