

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

May 5, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort County Council Chambers  
Draft May 18, 2010

**Board Members**

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

**Ex-Officio Members**

Present	Absent
John Carmack	
Chris Ahern	
Scott Liggett	
Bob Gross	

**Beaufort County Staff**

Daniel Ahern  
Eddie Bellamy  
Lori Sexton  
Amanda Flake  
Billie Lindsay

**Visitors**

Reed Armstrong, CCL  
Nancy Schilling, FoR  
Cary Gaffney, ToHHI  
Russell Berry, SC DHEC  
Reggie Reeves, GEL  
Joe Croley, HHAAOR  
Robert Holquist, RiverSmart  
Paul Moore, Ward Edwards  
Denise Parsick, BC S&W Cons. Dist.

**County Council**

Paul Sommerville  
Brian Flewelling

1. Meeting called to order by Don Smith.

2. April 7, 2010 Minutes were approved.

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

4. **Friends of the Rivers (FoR)/RiverSmart** –Nancy Schilling and Robert Holquist

Nancy Schilling introduced Robert Holquist to explain Friends of the Rivers’ new initiative to renew their relevance in the community and reach out to people that previous outreach efforts may have been missing.

Robert Holquist did a run through for the board of the RiverSmart web site to show the many aspects of it. The guiding principals are listed at the top of the web site “Collaborate/Educate/Participate”. The initial effort is focused on water quality but hope to expand to be the one stop shop for information on the environment in Beaufort County. RiverSmart collaborated with individuals, organizations, grassroots groups, land trusts, scientists, government agencies and municipalities to act as a guide and connector ensuring that conservation efforts within the region are coordinated and effective. Robert made a request for the board to spread the news about this new web site: <http://riversmart.com> .

Chris Ahern asked how they are encouraging community participation- key component of activities and advertising their events.

Billy Bruggeman asked about relation with FoR – FoR is now static web site but an effort on RiverSmart is focus. RiverSmart is a key effort by FoR.

Don Cammerata asked what is objective – RiverSmart is striving to be environmental information site not an advocacy site.

Billy Bruggeman asked how they plan to outreach to those not connected to internet – RiverSmart also tries to outreach at community activities.

Billy Bruggeman asked about focused efforts like pet owners right next to waterways – RiverSmart has considerable information on pet waste.

##### **5. Beaufort River Shellfish Classification Plan – Russell Berry, DHEC**

Russell Berry explained a map of Shellfish Management area 15 that currently has three wastewater treatment plants. A TMDL was developed because of dissolved oxygen issues. The TMDL required oxygen depleting substances to be reduced by 90 percent. The two military facilities decided to consolidate with an upgraded BJWSA plant rather than upgrade their plants. Construction is underway to accomplish this. Russell is hearing that Air Station will go off line in May and Parris Island later this summer. Both permits expire at the end of the year. DHEC and BJWSA developed a white paper on “Shellfish Protection in the Beaufort River”. There is potential that some areas that are currently prohibited due to Wastewater discharges could be opened. DHEC modeling now considers the Closed Safety Zone around the BJWSA discharge to the Beaufort River of 4,000 ft North and South of discharges. There are currently two current classifications in this area. Some of the waters (Beaufort River) are classified as SA (this would not be a stream classification that would allow shellfish harvesting) and other areas like areas around Parris Island and Air Station currently are SFH shellfish harvesting classification. DHEC will be setting up monitoring stations to determine if these shellfish harvesting waters can now be opened.

Don Cammerata asked why we had to reduce 90 percent now and why this had not been done before – It was explained that the 90 percent deduction is a TMDL requirement on already reduced loading.

*Subsequent to Board meeting Russell Berry sent us further information on this question and it is pasted below:*

*The actual Beaufort River TMDL gives a much better explanation as below:*

*Five ambient water quality monitoring stations on the Beaufort River (MD-001, MD-002, MD-003, MD-004, and RO-02003, see Figure 2) are considered to be impaired under criteria of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and are listed on the S.C. 303(d) List for 2004. Further, USGS monitoring stations for the Beaufort Project (1998-2003, stations 02176585, 02176587, 02176589, 02176603, 02176611, 02176635 and 02176640) confirmed low dissolved oxygen concentrations. Therefore, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is required to develop a TMDL for oxygen demanding substances for the Beaufort River. These violations are considered to be due to natural conditions exacerbated by point and nonpoint sources of pollution; therefore, Section 48-1-83 (Pollution*

*Control Act) and Section D.4.a. of R.61-68 (Water Classification and Standards) apply. These provisions allow a lowering of DO of no more than 0.10 mg/L (the Tenth Rule) from natural background conditions.*

Russell Berry then continued that US FDA must come in and do further dye study to confirm DHEC modeling and establish additional monitoring sites. There will also be need to establish additional Closed Safety Zones around marinas.

If it is determined that there is a shellfish harvesting resource in the SA classified waters, there would have to be a regulatory stream classification change.

Don Smith asked DHEC if there is currently data on water quality in Beaufort River area –DHEC said there were historic data and with the exception of Oxygen that water quality had been good. A number of Shellfish Harvesting stations had stopped monitoring because of previous closed safety zones would not allow it to be opened. Russell said old data, as he remembered it, indicated that previous FC data was good.

Bob Gross asked if regulatory change would take a year – DHEC said it would take a year and they would need 30 sampling event and on a monthly basis would take three years.

Don Cammerata asked about the standards – DHEC said there are many different standards but the bacteria standards for shellfish harvesting is 14 (FC colonies per 100ml) average and no more than 10% over 43. This is mandated by US FDA for food protection issues. The standard for SA waters (recreation and contact uses - not classified for shellfish harvesting) is 200 (FC colonies per 100ml) average and no more that 10% above 400.

Don Cammerata asked if it is getting better – DHEC feels that in northern BC it appears to be getting better and as an example would be Battery Creek that now has more water opened for harvesting than it did in the past.

Billy Bruggeman asked if this will be the only discharge in this area – DHEC said that the there is another wastewater plant on Dataw Island whose effluent is applied to land. BJWSA also tries to apply as much wastewater effluent as possible to reduce the discharge to our waters.

Don Cammerata if there is a requirement to identify where shellfish – Individual Bags identify the shellfish area where the shellfish came from.

## **6. Monitoring Update – GEL Engineering**

Reggie Reeves of GEL Engineering presented a monitoring update presentation on three things:

- Changes to Sample Locations
- Bacterial Source Tracking
- Copper Sampling

The monitoring changes reported included moving two stations BECY4 and Christine Place: Adding three stations; Pinckney Colony (Eagles Point), BECY 15 and 16 and discontinued sampling stations BECY-6r, 10, and 11 since existing water quality had been demonstrated.

He reviewed history of past approaches to Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) and currently considered testing (General Bacteroidetes Test). Explained that we could not get scientific consensus that this test would be conclusive in identifying the source of the increasing FC in our wetlands receiving discharges from developed areas. Therefore the recommendation has been to not conduct this testing at this time. The science in this area is rapidly changing and we may be able to revisit this in a couple years. Knowing the answer will not change how we are currently approaching SW management and will only answer if there is a need for controlling wildlife sources.

Don Cammerata asked what the constraints are in not being able to do this study – It was both status of technology and ability to fully conduct sampling.

The last topic was our monitoring efforts to try to determine if copper coming from ponds was of concern to receiving waters. Reviewed sampling results and efforts to determine amount of copper biologically available. Went through efforts to determine this by differing sampling (dissolved vs. total) and future Biotic Ligand Model to see if we can determine amount that is biologically available.

John Carmack asked what is meant biologically available – Copper that is dissolved but not tied up with organic matter.

Bob Gross asked if there was data on in stream copper concentrations from these pond discharges – Eagles Point has 11 years of sampling that indicated rising in stream concentrations downstream of the pond discharges.

John Carmack asked if we are relating to application of Copper Sulfate – planning to evaluate an application of copper sulfate by measuring before during and for two days after.

Don Cammerata asked is problem too much application to control algae – It is two fold problem – are they applying enough to control algae and then is the discharge from the pond causing a problem. Also a concern about long term build up since copper is an element and does not go away.

## **Board took 5 minute Break**

### **7. SW Volume “Approved but not Built” Status – Eddie Bellamy**

Eddie Bellamy said “Lots of record but not Built” is a more correct term, working with ATM on developing this next step. We are expecting deliverables in about two weeks.

Addressed the **EOS/LOS** – Appreciate the input we received from the board members and have updated the documents. We also received questions on whether we have coordinated with County Attorney and Engineer – this has been done twice. Also received question if we can control discharges into our stormwater systems. We do not have control now but DHEC does. Discussed how this will be handled in the future.

Also mentioned that the El Nino winter is over and we are not having any more flooding issues. Reviewed some of the issues that we faced based on last winters increase rainfall. We know where the system had been stressed and we are addressing the problem areas to prevent future occurrences.

SW Board was asked to endorse documents since we are going to take to County management and possibly to County Council.

John Carmack asked if these documents will address the ToHHI question on county road maintenance – Eddie Bellamy said this is still to be done but is not related to EOS/LOS documents. The question to be answered is whether the maintenance is paid by the general fund or from SW funds, not whether is being done.

The Board passed a resolution **approving the EOS/LOS documents with minor grammatical corrections.**

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

Explained the new format for presenting the field work being done by the Utility. We are simplifying the presentation for smaller construction projects and will report in detail only projects over \$15,000.

The project summaries are still included in the appropriate Board representative’s packet and we will be posting the full project summaries for construction projects on the Web site.

FY2010 project statuses were then presented. This slide showed we had completed construction on a large number of projects but had not completed the project summaries. These will be coming through the pipe line in future board meetings. Today we will present a total of 14 of these projects in three new formats. Three are the large projects and then presented 5 maintenance reports on Vacuum Truck and Bush Hog and finally 6 smaller construction projects.

### **9. Utility Administration – Updates – Dan Ahern**

Grants - Reported that State selected (not approved) Low COG 319 application for \$470,000 in funding for the Okatie River Watershed improvement. The County may also get some demonstration 319 funding for the proposed parking lot retrofit project. Staff will be working on assisting Low COG in responding to some conditions in the selection letter.

IGA Schedule – reviewed handout proposing schedule to update IGA’s that was developed by the SW Implementation Committee. The proposed schedule milestones would be as follows:

- Date new IGA’s must be in place                      - September 2011
- Draft IGA’s developed                                      - March 2011
- Operational Alternative recommended              - September 2010

SW Board was asked to endorse this schedule.

Scott Liggett asked two considerations be taken on this recommendation – schedule needs to be fluid enough that if we can take into account the impact the Census will have on DHEC decisions and in enough time that decisions having budget implications can be incorporated into the budget process. Mentioned that we have been told verbally that we will be issuing permits. The board passed a motion **endorses schedule recommended by the Stormwater Management Implementation Committee.**

Webcast on Bioretention – April 21, 2010 had over 20 engineers attending this Center for Watershed Protection presentation. Also had SC DNR come and describe their training and get feedback on what

training is needed. Positive feedback from attendees and some of the future webcasts (4 more this year) will feature other volume control practices like:

- Permeable pavement design – Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>
- Rooftop disconnection, filter strips and Rainwater harvesting Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>

BMP Manual Status – The Natural Resources committee approved a resolution May 2<sup>nd</sup> endorsing the BMP volume control updates and recommending issuance to the County Council.

SW Financials – Our CFO is now developing monthly financial summaries and has mentioned that the SW Board needs to see these. I have enclosed the three sheets attached to the March Financials. We are now getting these monthly (started in February this year).

I have also included a copy of the SW distribution reconciliation that is being sent to the municipalities, we will include these in future board packets.

Military Fees – Checked with County Attorney’s office and they have not decided whether to ask the State Attorney General for a ruling. Formal request will need to be approved by County Administrator.

**10. Utility Administration – Regional Coordination – Dan Ahern**

The implementation committee met April 15<sup>th</sup> at Town of Port Royal to allow for Van Willis to attend. The group discussed and then proposed the schedule that you acted on earlier. The rest of the meeting was devoted to discussing how we could jointly meet the first two Minimum Control Measures (education and public participation). The May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature a presentation from the Charleston Consortium representative on the pros and cons of developing something like that in Beaufort County.

**11. Ex-Officio Agenda Input – Don Smith**

Don Smith asked ex-officio members if they had any agenda items that need to be added to the agenda. City of Beaufort representative recommended that Military Fees need to be reported.

**12. Final Opportunity for Public Comment –**

Don Cammerata wanted to make a comment on impacts from the 4 other counties that drain into waters of Beaufort County. He is concerned that even if Beaufort County does all they can do they will not be able to control the impacts on water coming into the county from other areas. Concerned that we could see future adverse impacts and may not have much time to act. Counties need to meet now to plan.

Bob Gross/Don Smith asked how this will be done since other counties do not have similar positions in the stormwater/environmental area.

There was considerable discussion on this issue and it was recommended that Don Cammerata consider bringing this issue to the council’s intergovernmental (Public Safety) committee as the best vehicle to start inter-county discussions.

**13. Next meeting agenda – Approved proposed agenda**

**14. Meeting adjourned**

