

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

September 1, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort County Council Chambers
Draft September 15, 2010

Board Members

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

Ex-Officio Members

Present	Absent
Bob Gross	
Tony Maglione	
Scott Liggett	
John Carmack	

Beaufort County Staff

Daniel Ahern
Eddie Bellamy
Lori Sexton
Rob McFee
Bob Klink

Visitors

Reed Armstrong, CCL
Joe Croley, HHAOR
Denise Parsick, BC S&W Cons. Dist.
Laura Lee Rose, Clemson Extension
Steve Andrews, Andrews & Burgess
Paul Moore, Ward Edwards
Laura Lee Rose, Clemson Extension
Luke Thompson, Beaufort Gazette
Frank Morris, Bluffton Today

1. Meeting called to order by Don Smith.
2. July 7, 2010 Minutes were approved.

3. Initial Opportunity for Public Comment –
None

4. Monitoring Update –Bob Klink

- Reported Monitoring Meeting August 31, 2010
- Discussed map on the Port Royal Sound and existing monitoring stations that could determine problems from neighboring counties
- Presented copper efforts at Eagles Point. Since last report we have sampled sediment samples and found normal levels
- Preliminary Copper tests utilizing Biotic Ligand Model indicates non toxic level
- Copper application sampling testing was inconclusive
- Dr. Badr and SC DNR proposed assistance has been approved by County Council and they will be able to assist us in watershed analysis to further determine impact of development on pollution loads.

There were questions about percentage of Port Royal Sound watershed from other counties and over 50 percent is from outside of county. If identified monitoring stations at the border of the county are meeting standards, then we can feel comfortable that upstream counties should not be impacting Beaufort County waters.

5. River Buffers – Don Smith

Don Smith related two buffer violations that he had reported. One was two years ago and another just a couple weeks ago. Both were followed up quickly but correcting problem and minimizing impacts was ineffective.

The one two years ago was required to do a replanting but to date it has not been done. He is concerned about the damage being done after the violation because correction is not enforced.

The second violation required a letter from an arborist saying that the removed buffer would re-grow. There was discussion that developers and homeowners might need to have different enforcement mechanisms, with more education of homeowners. One of the cases was an absentee owner where the violation was done by a contractor not requested by homeowner.

It appeared that better enforcement might be a better deterrent to prevent people asking forgiveness rather than compliance.

Rob McFee was requested to address this issue and he said it was a codes enforcement issue and he will get the appropriate folks to address this issue next month.

6. Clemson Extension Update – Laura Lee Rose

Gave a power point on the activities of the various activities that the Clemson Extension is doing in Beaufort County that is helping protect our watershed.

7. SW Volume “Lots of Record but not Built” Status – Dan Ahern

Reported EOS and LOS is now been approved by the county council and thanked the board for their assistance in reviewing drafts.

Staff has now received a memo from the Consultant outlining their concerns on the two issues and Rob McFee met with them today.

8. Annual Maintenance – Project Reports – Dan Ahern

Went through a large number of project summaries. Mentioned that BC is improving their web site and we are in a period till the end of September where we can not modify our web site. Therefore these project summaries will not be posted to sometime in early October. Slides presented FY2010 project status (only 33 remaining to compile out of 145 total completed); FY 2011 Construction status and FY2011 scheduled maintenance projects. Reported on 12 projects over \$15,000; 8 vacuum truck and 3 Bush Hog projects and 22 small projects under \$15,000.

9. Utility Administration - Updates – Dan Ahern

319 Grant – grant has been offered that there has been a kickoff meeting and a number of partners are working projects including re-establishing natural buffers with Clemson Extension.

We are 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 – POA did not sign easements and we will need to meet again to address their concerns

Southside Pond – We now have a signed IGA and final design is pending COE wetland delineation before OCRM will issue a permit

Huspah Creek – is awaiting a COE permit to add riprap to a forebay on the pond

NERRS Funding – SC DNR was not selected for a grant this year.

Upcoming Webcasts and Training –Had 12 attendees at today’s webcast on permeable pavement design.

Next web cast will be:

- Rooftop disconnection, filter strips and Rainwater harvesting Oct. 20th

Hopefully these web casts will encourage these practices in the county.

SW Financials – Have not received end of the FY results from our CFO.

Shellfish Classification Changes - Reviewed the changes on the 2009 Classification Maps. Changes were:

- Section of May River from conditionally approved to restricted
- Lowest section of Okatie was opened – upper reaches still are restricted
- Huspah Creek was opened last year is closed this year
- Small section of Battery Creek was opened
- Small section around Village Creek opened
- Capers Creek has been restricted – which was not expected.

Discussed questions that Donald Cammerata has raised on the May River. Referenced a number of documents that were included in board packages. These included Stormwater article on re-growth and examples of fecal coliform modeling and loadings by watershed from the SW Management Plan.

Discussed if we can determine source of FC and source tracking could be a way but initial work was inconclusive and too expensive to continue.

Donald Cammerata wanted to know where the source is and amount of fecal coliforms. Again it is not simple solution and we know that we are getting low loadings (but high volume) from developments and high concentration values below these points. Where this big increase is coming from is not known for sure. It could be wildlife or it could be wash out or re-growth from the extra volume in the wetlands. We have not been able to determine a problem from septic tanks and have done sampling where worse case situations exist and have not measured problems.

Discussed that increased velocity may not be a problem since the first controls the County adopted were to reduce peak velocity.

Don Smith said that we might need to be concerned about channelizing and bringing previous sheet flow to single discharge points. This is also a concern that Dr. Chris Marsh has been raising.

Bob Gross asked if these changes are increasing or decreasing the percentage of open shellfish waters. The 2010 data from DHEC is a month away but in 2009 the percentage of open shellfish waters increased. Final decision on classification based on removal of waste water plants on Parris Island and Albergotti

Creek will be made when State gets enough samples (30) to make a classification decision. A large area potentially will no longer be prohibited (admin closure) and could be opened if water quality data meets standards.

Friends of the Rivers – Their submitted six month report is in Board packets

Military Fees – Mentioned that many folks are monitoring a US senate bill requiring the federal government to pay local fees for treating and managing stormwater runoff.

10. Utility Administration – Regional Cooperation

The committee is continuing to develop recommendations for each of the Six Minimum Control measures (MCM) in the expected MS4 permits.

The committee has finalized recommendations for operational alternatives and the first two MCM's. The memo to the Natural Resources that was approved in their August meeting and by the County Council on August 23, 2010 was reviewed. Will continue to develop the other 4 MCM's.

The committee is also trying to make sure that the municipalities are engaged in evaluating these recommendations and Rob McFee sent a letter to City/Town managers recommending that they engage their elected officials. A sample copy of one of these letters was given to board. Some of the board members said that the letter was being staffed.

The committee has met the September goal of having an operational alternative proposed and at least the county concurring.

The next couple of meetings will develop recommendations for the next 4 MCM's and then it can focus on developing the draft IGA wording (scheduled March 2011) to be incorporated into updated agreements by the September 2011 date. Scott Liggett suggested that the sooner the wording can be developed the better. The committee could accelerate wording if we get feedback from municipalities that they agree with operational alternative and coordination on MCM's.

11. Final Opportunity for Public Comment –

None

12. Next meeting agenda – The next scheduled meeting on October 6, 2010 will not have Bob Klink or Dan Ahern present; will be at the SESWA Conference. The board made and approved a motion to move the meeting to October 13, 2010.

13. Meeting adjourned