

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

October 13, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort County Council Chambers
Final November 3, 2010

Board Members

Present

John Youmans
Donald Cammerata
James Fargher
Don Smith
Allyn Schneider

Absent

Brad Samuel
William Bruggeman

Ex-Officio Members

Present

Bob Gross
John Carmack
Scott Liggett

Absent

Tony Maglione

Beaufort County Staff

Daniel Ahern
Eddie Bellamy
Lori Sexton

Visitors

Reed Armstrong, CCL
Joe Croley, HHAOR
Denise Parsick, BC S&W Cons. Dist.
Ron Bullman, Town of Bluffton
Steve Andrews, Andrews & Burgess
Nancy Schilling, Friends of the Rivers

County Council

Paul Sommerville

1. Meeting called to order by Don Smith.
2. September 1, 2010 Minutes were approved.
3. **Initial Opportunity for Public Comment** –
None
4. **Monitoring Update** – Dan Ahern

- FY2011-2012 GEL Contract has been approved by Natural Resources Committee on October 4, 2010 and County Council on October 11, 2010. Memo requesting contract approval and sampling locations are included in your packets. Costs this year are being reduced because some of the existing water quality monitoring for our retrofit sites is complete. \$169,535 to \$123,543 this year.
- Presented data from our sampling in Capers Creek and showed a Map of sampling locations. It is too early to draw conclusions. It was noted that our 2006 SW Management Plan modeling identified the headwaters of Capers Creek as not being able to meet Shellfish Harvesting FC standards and now it has come to pass. The November meeting will have a briefing on management plan modeling and current status of our retrofit efforts. Showed some charts of management plan sensitivity and improvement and what they can tell us on applying new retrofit efforts.

Donald Cammerata asked about Capers Creek and whether source is human or animal. It is not known and but we suspect volume and wildlife sources.

- Staff has finalized the agreement with SC DNR on the watershed analysis and staff will be taking the DNR folks around to see the two targeted watersheds.

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

Some good news on this front. We are now in the process of working the one remaining issue (use of volume sensitive water concept).

The effective impervious issue does not need to be a part of the Step 2 on-lot controls discussions. As I side issue to this, Bob Klink and I have been discussing this issue with the Center of Watershed Protection and they are going to feature Beaufort County in new Coastal Stormwater Tool publication. A handout developed by CWP describes our effective imperviousness as “Equivalent Impervious Cover (EIC) and we might start using this term since it is being used nationally. Also mentioned another handout in board packet that is an article from the fall “Watershed Science Bulletin” that describes efforts on the “first” impervious cover-based TMDL that uses this EIC. This is something the county has been doing since 1998.

We are still waiting for ATM to finalize review of modeling and their recommendation on volume sensitive water concept issue, we are trying to complete a cost analysis for implementing on-lot controls and our consultant, Allison Ramsey Architects have analyzed a number of real life lots and have determined that on-lot volume controls can be applied and work even on the smallest lots (the smallest was 4000 sq ft). The concern is that the costs can be over \$5,000 per rooftop, but they determined that it would be better to present in terms of cost per square foot of heated space. Their cost estimates for the examples have ranged between 1 to 2 dollars per square foot.

6. Utility Administration – Updates

Okatie FC TMDL – The State has issued October 8, 2010 a notice of department decision (NODD) on this TMDL. This is final decision by State and will be submitted to EPA for approval in 15 days. Only option at this point is to appeal. Reviewed previous comments and state response that staff consider inadequate. Reasons staff as problem is this TMDL does not develop Loads or recognize the secondary impact of excess stormwater volume. Requested board input on whether we should appeal and request an impervious cover-based TMDL.

Discussed the responsibility and liability we face from this TMDL. It is limited now, but could be significant if County receives a MS4 permit. There are a lot of unanswered questions. Bob Gross is concerned that lack of specificity will cause problems with complying and potentially unachievable. Board had no objections to filing and requesting impervious surface cover-based TMDL. Bob Gross said appealing a TMDL is new territory.

Scott Liggett asked if some of the other comments and responses could be useful in developing appeal.

319 Grant– Staff attended a quarterly meeting of grant partners October 4, 2010. Projects according to the proposal are moving along. SWU is assisting a number of partners with their projects:

- Sun City
- Clemson Extension
- Agriculture sources

- Retro fit projects – outside grant and will hear about this in November. These projects have received favorable feedback from the interagency meeting.

Gascoigne Bluff – POA has raised new concerns and waiting for listing of concerns

Southside Pond – Have a signed IGA and final design is still pending COE wetland delineation before OCRM will issue a permit.

Huspah Creek – Still waiting for permits but this may be our first Retrofit project. We conducted final walk through with property owner.

Admin Parking lot Demo – Received a draft report on the full BC Admin complex. It appears that meeting volume requirements will involve replacing less than 25% of the existing pavement (parking areas) and two of the four medians with rain gardens. Three types of pervious pavement will be installed – asphalt, concrete and pavers.

Upcoming Webcasts and Training – The next one is Wednesday October 20, 2010

- Rooftop disconnection, filter strips and Rainwater harvesting next Wednesday Oct 20 over in BIV #2 conference room

SW Financials – Have not received the end of the year financials and we plan to have these in November and are planning to start the FY2012 budget process discussion at the December Board meeting.

EPA Questionnaire – EPA is considering changes to the NPDES regulations for MS4 systems. They sent out questionnaires to randomly selected MS4s and to those that are not regulated like Beaufort county and ToHHI. Our questionnaire was 13 pages and regulated communities had considerably larger set of questions. Some slides from a Sept 16 webcast on completing this questionnaire were included in packets. Final action on these regulations is targeted for November 2012. Since the new changes being considered are things Beaufort County is already doing, staff doesn't expect it will cause a problem either way.

SW Fee Assessment Cycle – The Utility is wrapping up this year's fee assessment cycle. This year saw the review of 6,000 assessment notices, updating two municipality's fees for SFU rate increase. One problem we had this year that we did not have in past years was the lack of 2010 aerials. Because of this we have to rely on impervious data submitted through the current system. Unfortunately, it appears that this was not being submitted by some municipalities and we had to request assistance for these new properties coming on line. This impacted a few hundred parcels out of the 140,000 parcels in the county. We will be taking efforts to fund aerials in the future if the county decides not to do these.

The county expanded their external audit procedures this year and it included the development of SW Fees. This turned up one unexpected issue that had to be addressed. We had been utilizing assessment changes to flag need for SW Fee revisions. Under the new system there are code changes (moving from Townhouse to single family dwelling) that does not generate an assessment notice. This has been corrected and we wound up reviewing another nearly 900 parcels.

SESWA Annual Conference –October 7-8, 2010 – Bob Klink and Dan Ahern made a presentation at this conference. The theme was “Betting on the Future – “Dealing” with Water Quality Improvement”. This is right up Beaufort County's alley and this presentation was “Water Quality Improvements with Volume Based BMPs” This gave us a change to highlight Beaufort County's long term water quality efforts and explain how our recent volume control ordinance requirements were incorporated into the BMP manual to allow credits for water quality. This is one of integrators that the Center for Watershed

Protection has been saying is missing between hydraulic and water quality “silos”. This is better explained in the Center for Watershed Protection memo that was mentioned earlier on the Beaufort County Case Study. Board was given copies of the handouts that Bob and I gave out at the conference. One of them is an article we worked with Rich Wagner that has been accepted for publication in the Florida Watershed Journal. The second half of the presentation was given to the board to help explain how stormwater runoff volume control is converted to “equivalent impervious surface”. The key concept is taking practice volume reductions and utilizing expected soil runoff to develop an equivalent impervious surface.

8. Annual Maintenance – Project Reports – Dan Ahern

Reported on 17 projects of which 8 were large projects over \$15,000. Reviewed summary status slides and staff goal is to make final FY2010 projects summary at the November Board meeting.

Don Smith asked how projects awaiting easements are progressing. Utility tries to obtain easements and after a time we can not complete the project and it is dropped. Eddie Bellamy gave an update and examples on how we are being impacted by the new easement requirements. He is very concerned about these new requirements impacts in case of emergencies. Don Smith asked if county will be considering condemnation to obtain easement. Eddie Bellamy said the county has not pursued this option to date.

Scott Liggett asked how we are handling clouded ownership property and this is being looked at.

Eddie Bellamy gave additional input on the Burton Wells Park drainage work to improve operation of ball fields.

9. Utility Administration – Regional Coordination

The committee met September 16, 2010 to continue its work on developing recommendations of the six MCM’s. The committee has finalized 5 of these MCM recommendations and expects to finalize the last one at our October meeting.

The committee is very concerned that municipalities are not responding to Mr. McFee’s July 26, 2010 letter and we have asked county management to arrange a joint meeting to get concurrence on an operational alternative. The Utility has taken the recommended operational alternative to the County Council for their approval.

We are worried that if we do not get this concurrence by December, we will not be able to meet the March 2011 schedule date to have draft IGA’s for review.

10. Election of Board Chairman and Vice Chair – Don Smith was nominated and elected Chairman. Allyn Schneider was nominated and elected Vice Chair.

11. Final Opportunity for Public Comment –

None

12. Next meeting agenda – Approved proposed agenda for November 3, 2010 meeting

13. Meeting adjourned

