

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

September 7, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort County Council Chambers
Final Nov. 2, 2011

Board Members

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

Ex-Officio Members

Present	Absent
Tony Maglione	
Ron Bullman	
Andy Kinghorn	
Scott Liggett	

Beaufort County Staff

Dan Ahern
Robert Klink
Lori Sexton
Eddie Bellamy
Rob McFee
Billy Lindsay

Visitors

Kathryn Madden, PR Sound Foundation
Lamar Taylor, City of Beaufort
Denise Parsick, BC S&W Conservation Dist.
Laura Lee Rose, Clemson Extension
Steve Andrews, Andrews & Burgess

County Council

1. Meeting called to order – Don Smith

- A. Agenda approved.
- B. August 3, 2011 Minutes were approved as posted.

2. Introductions

3. Public Comment

4. Reports –

A. Stormwater (SW)/Form based code – Subcommittee Report – Don Smith: Dan Ahern noted that initial comments were not incorporated.

B. Monitoring Update – Robert Klink: Reported that the next Monitoring meeting will be Sept.27. Have received the next year’s contract from GEL and will be taking to Natural Resources at their October meeting and then the Council. Will delay copper presentation until we can work with Alan Warren’s schedule.

C. Upcoming Professional Contracts Report – Dan Ahern: Bob Klink and I have discussed the final task with CDM (Aug.29, 2011) on determining peak credits for volume credits and hopefully

D. Utility Updates – Dan Ahern

Stormwater Report: Mr. Kubic is initiating development of a major Stormwater report that will present the work that the Utility and its municipal partners have accomplished in the first 10 years. This will be significant effort placed in doing this and it is expected to take about a year to complete. It will have a number of chapters including a listing (with descriptions/pictures of each project over \$10,000) since the start of Utility. This will allow the public to see what was accomplished with the over \$50 million that has been collected and directed to the addressing stormwater needs in the county. These reports especially the project summary portion, will receive outside audit before finalizing.

The first phase will be done by the County and then supplemented by input from the municipalities to show where the \$24 million distributed to the municipalities went.

Budget Update: Since last meeting, where we showed a sizable reduction of our reserve, we have now been directed to not utilize our reserve in FY 2012 and to reduce the estimated revenue to reflect the new IGA actions. The FY2012 budget had envisioned use of \$250,000 in reserve funds. A series of meetings were held to revise the budget and this has led to an additional reduction of 7 positions. Fortunately these positions were vacant at the time. Together with the three positions that were eliminated in the initial budget development this will be a 25% reduction of operation and maintenance efforts. Carolyn Wallace now estimates that we may now run a small increase in our reserve this year.

Don Cammerata asked if this could impact our ability to respond to extra-ordinary situations. These would be addressed by contract funded from the reserve. This is the purpose of the reserve.

Dan Cammerata asked why this wasn't done earlier. The new budget will allow us to maintain existing stormwater infrastructure and will only slow addressing the restoration of residual needs.

Don Smith asked if the reason of the shortfall was in tax collection revenue. This was part of the reason but it was also because we had budgeted for revenue from Del Webb stormwater account and this did not come to pass.

Water Budget Study: We have received quotes for monitoring equipment and are in process of finalizing the procurement. There was a question on collection of data and most of the data will be collected electronically.

Financials: Monthly financials were attached to your agenda. If you have any questions I can relay them on to Alan Eisenman.

Step 2 exemptions: We have commented on the DATAW IS. Analysis and asked for some clarification and additional information in the report. It is still expected that they can achieve exemption status. We have not received any additional exemption requests to date.

Step 2 Workshop: Bob Klink, Dan Ahern and others in zoning and building codes participated in a workshop (Aug.16, 2011), sponsored by the HH Area Homebuilders Association on implementing the new Step 2 Controls.

Buffer Enforcement: Planning has gotten a modification of the Buffer ordinance approved by the Natural Resources Committee at their Sept.6, 2011 meeting. Codes enforcement says this will help when they must take a violation to court. It was noted at this meeting that the SW Board had requested stronger enforcement language. Don Smith asked what the actual wording changes. Staff said they would get wording to board.

FEMA CRS Efforts: Staff received preliminary information from FEMA staff that the county, in part because of credits received from our Stormwater Efforts will receive at least one level reduction of our CRS rating from class 7 to class 6. Building codes is still hoping that final figures will allow for a two class reduction to Class 5. Even the one class reduction will lead to a 5% reduction in insurance premiums in hazard areas. Don Smith asked if FEMA has changed the flood zone maps based on the LIDAR work the county did. Scott Liggett said that ToHHI is in the process of changing their maps. Don Cammerata asked if a new LIDAR is being developed. Decisions have not been made but we are getting information to make decision.

Upcoming Webcast: The next webcast is “Rainwater Harvesting as a Stormwater Management Practice” on Wednesday Sept.14, 2011. It will be in BIV BLD #2 at noon. This information should be useful as we try to reduce stormwater runoff volume. Our Broadcast folks are also exploring a partnership with Center of Watershed Protection to see if these webcasts can be used by the County and developed into shorter presentations for the County Channel.

Beaufort County Presentation at SCASM: Staff has been asked to make an hour long presentation at the Sept.15, 2011 SC Association of Stormwater Managers meeting on Low Impact Development in Beaufort County. This will be a good opportunity to highlight how the County has been proactive in responding to water quality issues since 1998 when we started water quality controls and that has evolved into runoff volume controls.

E. Maintenance Project Report – Eddie Bellamy: Reported on the work being done in the Stormwater Infrastructure Section. Reported on (3) major and (15) minor projects. We have (14) major and (39) minor projects where the work is complete but the reports are not ready.

Reported on (18) projects: (3) large projects are **Old Miller Road, Sand Hills Estates Subdivision, Wimbee Landing Road** and (15) small projects.

Questions asked about comparison of status with the last month’s presentation and how we go about obtaining easements.

5. Unfinished Business –

A. Regional Coordination – Dan Ahern: The SWIC met Aug. 18, 2011 and most of meeting was devoted to a presentation by a NOAA contractor on LIDAR and Bathometric data collection. Dan Morgan and Seth Stanbery of our GIS department attended. SWIC plans to get back to its new priority of taking a 5 year look at what has been accomplished from the recommendations the

B. Education Proposal Approval – Dan Ahern: Introduced the two attachments with agenda. One is a summary of direction we are taking in response to recommendations from the SWIC. The other attachment is the Port Royal Sound Foundation proposal that had been presented and discussed at the July SW Board meeting. While there were no adverse comments on this proposal we are now being asked to have a formal proposal from the SW Board on this contract. We have passed around a copy of a suggested resolution to be passed so that we can get this contract authorized. Don Smith wanted to know who and why we are bringing in Carolina Clear. Carolina Clear is in assisting managing these education consortiums in Charleston and Horry County areas. They bring the knowledge of the regulatory requirements to the education requirements of Stormwater Permits. The Stormwater Board unanimously passed a resolution stating:

The Stormwater Utility Board concurs and approves the Port Royal Sound Foundation education and outreach proposal for FY2012 in the amount of \$24,500. New products developed under this agreement should reflect the Board's recommended focus on River Buffers

C. Utility IGA Agreement – Rob McFee: The ToHHI IGA received County Council resolution to have Mr. Kubic sign agreement. It has been signed by both parties and one of originals returned to the town.

The ToB's signed agreement that was presented in Final to the Natural Resources Committee at an earlier mtg has been submitted in final form at their Sept. 6 meeting and will be taken to County Council mtg on Sept. 12.

We have received requests from CoB and ToPR to extend their existing agreements and will be taking these requests to the County Council.

6. New Business – Dan Ahern

A. FY 2011 Shellfish Classification Changes – Dan Ahern: We have met with DHEC in August to be briefed on changes from the 2010 classifications. They also shared their GIS files on their classification changes and GIS section has developed new 2011 Classification maps. These were attached to agenda and will be posted on the SW web page. I will be going through these changes on both north and south of Broad River. Unfortunately because of scheduling we were not able to have any representatives from DHEC here today so I will try to answer as many questions as I can and take the rest back to DHEC. The classification maps will be posted on the SW Web site. Changes occurring this year were effected by data from the El Nino winter we had last year. This increased rainfall tends to increase the amount of impairments.

North of Broad Map: There were 4 downgrades; two upgrades and 2 classification changes in this area.

Downgrades occurred in portions of Whale Branch; Battery Creek – Two areas; Village Creek
Upgrades occurred in portions of Lucy Creek; and Beaufort.

Reclassification - Battery Creek Headwaters and Tributary to Whale Branch from prohibited to restricted. The reclassification of Battery Creek should lead to declaring the Headwaters area as not impaired.

South of Broad Map: Only one change since 2010 and that is a portion of the New River between Beaufort and Jasper County has been downgraded from Approved to Restricted.

Overall considering we had a wet winter impacting this data we have not been experiencing significant declines. We are expecting considerable opening of areas for Shellfish harvesting when the State collects enough data to make classification decisions on areas currently prohibited because of old Parris Island and MC Air Station Wastewater plants that have been taken off line. There will be a dye study to determine the impact of the BJWSA discharge in the Beaufort River and there may have areas reopened for Shellfish Harvesting.

Don Cammerata asked about number of shellfish stations in Beaufort County and how quickly does the classification change. State makes determinations on an annual basis.

Don Smith asked about the water quality condition on the administratively closed areas that might be opened. This will be determined when the State gets enough samples (at least 30 samples) to make a classification decision. They had stopped taking samples when these waters were administratively closed. Don Smith also expressed concern on restrictions in the Whale Branch/Huspah Creek area since they no known development.

B. Five Year Restoration Plan – Dan Ahern: The new 2011 shellfish classifications have been incorporated into our watershed maps on the Okatie River and Battery Creek. Showed the new Okatie River watershed maps and mentioned the work being done in conjunction with the State 319 Grant. There was a significant change in Battery Creek as we discussed under the classification changes. Final decisions will be made by State in their 2012 303d list. This will need to be decided before we finalize plans. Our goal is to be meeting designated water uses and the target needs to be known. It appears that the big challenge to do enough restoration upstream of station 15-19 to bring this into compliance. There are good opportunities upstream of this station to reduce loadings.

We did get to present the 5 year restoration plan to the Natural Resources Committee yesterday and asked for their input or suggestions.

7. Public Comment

8. Next meeting agenda – Board voted to cancel October meeting and next meet in November.

9. Meeting adjourned.