

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

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

**Board Members**

**Present**

Don Smith  
Allyn Schneider  
Donald Cammerata  
John Youmans  
William Bruggeman  
James Fargher

**Absent**

Brad Samuel

**Ex-Officio Members**

**Present**

Scott Liggett  
Ron Bullman  
Andy Kinghorn

**Absent**

Tony Maglione

**Beaufort County Staff**

Dan Ahern  
Robert Klink  
Lori Sexton  
Eddie Bellamy  
Rob McFee  
Amanda Flake  
Alan Eisenman

**Visitors**

Kathryn Madden, PR Sound Foundation  
Lamar Taylor, City of Beaufort  
Paul Moore, Ward Edwards  
Laura Lee Rose, Clemson Extension  
Steve Andrews, Andrews & Burgess  
Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League  
Joe Croley, HHAAOR  
Jeremy Ritchie, Town of Bluffton

**County Council**

**1. Meeting called to order – Don Smith**

- A. Agenda approved.
- B. September 7, 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 the County consultant on this Code development was in town last week; they were meeting with our Planning division. They are still reviewing comments to the August version of the Form-based code. I discussed with planning and they are trying to get our August 18, 2011 comments and some additional ones we sent last week incorporated in a new draft. Next step seems to be to await the next draft.
- B. **Monitoring Update** – Robert Klink: Reported on monitoring meeting of September 27, 2011 which:
  - 1. Discussed coordinating monitoring in Battery Creek between county and GEL
  - 2. Procedures on new contract – that is being taken to NRC at their Nov 7 meeting

3. Discussed GEL support on Water Budget Study and requested them to submit proposals for some technical support during study
  4. Next meeting will be November 29, 2011
  5. GEL will be developing the annual report and may be ready to present at December meeting
  6. Also Alan Warren will give a presentation on Copper at December meeting and staff will be asking for action on Copper Sulfate
- Don Cammerata asked what data shows during dry weather – GEL's contract is for wet weather events.

**C. SW Financials** – Alan Eisenman: Presented September financial numbers and passed out the audited SW figures for FY2011.

**D. Upcoming Professional Contracts Report** – Dan Ahern: Requested additional small level of service proposals from GEL to assist on the Water Budget Study which will kick off soon. GEL was the low cost quote for the Water Budget monitoring equipment and will be installing it soon. Bob Klink and I have received the reformatted BMP manual and have decided to delay issuance till we are able to incorporate the enhancements that are being worked on. We expect to have new manual published in January 2012. In meantime we have asked additional input from local engineers on any reformatting improvements.

We received a new exemption request from Habersham and since CDM reviewed this back in 1996 we have asked them to assist us in this review. I expect after this one Bob and I will have to review any additional requests.

**E. Utility Updates** – Dan Ahern

**Tax Run SW Fee Assessments:** Carolyn Wallace has guided the Utility through another assessment exercise. There were some problems but we managed to review nearly 9,000 parcels receiving assessment notices (individual reviews) and another 32,000 parcels that are routinely reviewed for exceptions on an annual basis (zero accounts, credit parcels etc).

**Water Budget Study:** Utility has purchased and received the monitoring equipment for this study and will be installing soon. This is a study to compare two watersheds (developed and undeveloped) and measure the volume to verify the runoff assumptions we are using in our models used to control stormwater runoff. It will hopefully also answer the question, how big a factor is irrigation on stormwater runoff volume.

**Step 2 exemptions:** We are still working with Dataw on their exemption request. There was an issue caused by the reuse of effluent from BJWSA plant in their analysis. This has raised unanticipated issues not addressed in the BMP manual. We are trying to work out another way to handle this type of exemption. Utility has received another exemption request from Habersham.

**Reformatted BMP Manual:** We received the reformatted BMP manual in September. We have a couple of active tasks to complete:

- Develop peaking credits
- New On-lot Bioretention practice credits

Bob Klink and I have decided to wait on publishing this manual till we incorporate the input from these tasks. We have in the meantime sent the manual out to local engineers for their further review and comment. We are also going to post the manual in draft format on the website.

**Dataw Island Buffer Initiative:** We have partnered with Dataw, and SC DNR to present a buffer initiative to homeowner's having backyards facing the marsh. This meeting occurred October 24, 2012 and Jim Fargher, Board Member was moderator. About 40 homeowners attended and it is hoped that it will lead to some buffer retrofits.

**Highway 278 Volume Controls:** Utility Staff has been working to help with volume reduction solutions for the expansion. A number of alternatives have been developed especially for the portion west of the Okatie.

**Military SW Fees:** The County just received a response to our June 30, 2011 letter requesting stormwater fees. A copy of this letter was passed out before meeting since it arrived after the posting of the agenda. US Marine Corps is basically saying the county does not treat any of their stormwater and therefore fees levied by the County are in fact impermissible taxes. The City of Beaufort has asked for a meeting to discuss this letter.

We are also asking MCAS if they are designing their new construction to the 2007 Federal Law that established the 95 percentile volume requirement on Federal construction. Our MCAS contacts did not know (they just said they meet DHEC permit requirements) and they are checking with their facilities design support to answer this question.

**FEMA CRS Efforts:** The County has received notification October 17, 2011 that the CRS Specialist has verified 2209 credit points for Beaufort County. This is up from its previous 1513 points and would allow the County to get a Class 6 rating. It is still subject to final acceptance from FEMA. We expect final confirmation around May 1, 2012. The Utility had worked closely with County Staff having responsibility in this area and was able to provide an additional 669 credit points based on two activities (Stormwater Management and Drainage System Maintenance). Going to Class 6 represents some significant savings for flood insurance policy holders. Over 10,000 policies will save on average over \$40/annually on their policies. This total is over \$460,000 annually for the county. Mr. Kubic has asked us to better quantify the value of SW Controls in economic development. In this particular case, managing now what we would have to do under a future permit (inspections and controls) will turn it into an annual additional savings of \$460,000 for the citizens and businesses of the county.

**Beaufort County Presentation at SCASM:** Beaufort County made a presentation on Low Impact Development in Beaufort County at the September 15, 2011 SC Association of Stormwater Managers meeting. We were able to highlight our county's efforts on Volume control and got positive review.

**Beaufort County to Present at Southeast Tidal Creeks Summit:** This Summit will be held in Charleston December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> this year. We have been invited to present a case study on "Applying new stormwater management approaches to tidal creeks in Beaufort County". This will be another opportunity to highlight the monitoring findings and volume controls that the county has implemented.

**Center for Watershed Protection Webcast:** Beaufort County plans to host the next Webcast on *Stream Restoration* on December 7. It will be from Noon to 2 PM and will be here in the Chambers. You are invited to come early for the December SW Board Meeting.

- F. Maintenance Project Report – Eddie Bellamy:** Tax Run efforts impacted us getting our projects ready. Last month you requested comparisons between current figures and those reported last month. I planned on doing this but we are in the middle of transitioning between two systems. Therefore we do not have comparisons and may not have it ready next month. I will show FY2011 and FY2012 projects that do not have project summaries completed.
- Reported (7) projects: (2) major projects are 1.) Ernest Dr. and Queens Rd.; 2.) Lady's Island Park and (5) minor projects.
- Don Smith asked if we had estimates of amount removed from catch basins. We did not and are looking to develop some estimate. Vacuum truck work is driven by schedules and by inspections and calls.

## **5. Unfinished Business –**

- A. Regional Coordination – Dan Ahern:** The SWIC met October 20, 2011 and started the 5 year review of the SW Management plan. We have divided up the program elements among the committee and have set a goal of having a draft of this in April 2012. Output of the work will be to:
- Updating of recommended levels of effort
  - Status of recommended actions
  - Recommendation on need for updating new SW Management Plan
  - Decide how this effort fits with Administrator's 10 year utility Report.
- At this meeting we tackled the SW Control Requirement Program Element. Next meeting will be November 17 and we will tackle three of the program elements.
- We found out at this meeting that the SW Board's Ron Bullman has been tapped to be the next SCASM President.
- B. Watershed Restoration – Dan Ahern:** Utility still has not received any feedback on this plan. We have prepared a presentation that was sent to County Administrator and have arranged for a facilitator for the Battery Creek Watershed Plan in case this effort starts. This would be the Environment Finance Center housed at UNC. This Center is funded by Federal Government to support local governments and we would only be funding travel. They are also working with BJWSA. Unfortunately SCDNR was not selected for their NERRS Grant that would have provided funding to independently evaluate the planned restoration and initiatives in Battery Creek.
- Presented a power point on displaying DHEC Shellfish monitoring data to get input from board on a simplified method of presenting data. The simplified method displays on an annual basis show number of samples above 14 FC (average standard) and number of samples over 43 FC (maximum standard). Used this method to explain Battery Creek monitoring station result and other headwater stations. The board liked the simplified method. Also updated board on the dye study conducted by FDA, in September on the Beaufort River. This study can lead to final decision on new prohibited area for shellfish harvesting in Beaufort River area.
- C. Utility IGA Agreement – Rob McFee:** Gary Kubic has signed the ToB IGA and has been sent to them. Still working on the extensions and final agreements with ToPR and CoB.

**6. New Business – Dan Ahern**

**A. Lidar 101 – Seth Stanbery:** Light Detection and Ranging (Lidar) 101. Seth explained the work done in 2001 project which showed 1 foot contours. Cost has come down and to do the 2001 project that cost over 1 million in 2001 would only cost \$300,000 now. The technology has also improved and laser pulses in flyover have greatly increased (order of magnitude). The data obtained can be presented in various software and one that the county likes is DEM (digital elevation mapping). He also explained how he uses to assist in developing drainage layer and other uses. Mentioned that this should be done every 10 years. The board asked a number of questions including on how Lidar handles buildings (not shown), changes in plane height (changes programmed out), if land levels changed enough (yes) and tree canopy (has not been considered and is not part of Lidar efforts). County was considering doing this in FY2012 but it was taken out due to budget issues.

**7. Public Comment –** Reed Armstrong recommended that the ToB May River Action Plan be added to the December agenda.

**8. Next meeting agenda –** Board approved proposed December agenda with addition of inspection activities and ToB May River Action Plan.

**9. Meeting adjourned.**