

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

March 7, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort County Council Chambers
Final April 4, 2012

Board Members

Present

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

Absent

Lady's Island Vacant

Ex-Officio Members

Present

Tony Maglione
Scott Liggett
Ron Bullman
Andy Kinghorn

Absent

Beaufort County Staff

Dan Ahern
Robert Klink
Lori Sexton
Eddie Bellamy
Rob McFee
Zeke Miller
Jimmy Stanley
Seth Stanbery

Visitors

Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League
Lamar Taylor, City of Beaufort

County Council

William McBride

1. Meeting called to order – Don Smith

A. Agenda approved.

B. February 1, 2012 Minutes were approved as posted.

2. Introductions –

3. Public Comment - none

4. Reports –

A. Stormwater (SW)/Form based code – Subcommittee Report: Action has occurred and a new draft (February 2012) has been submitted. This was reviewed by Dan Ahern and Bob Klink and additional comments were submitted. Stormwater section incorporated all are previous comments and only has one reference that we need to have removed. We did have comments on the land development standards in Article 6. Staff met with planning and ToPR planning representative this morning and there will be minor corrections to the stormwater section to add pictures of ponds. The next step after completed will be to go to planning committee. Andy Kinghorn asked who is on the subcommittee. It was Brad Samuel and Don Smith and they had met with planning at an earlier meeting. Staff will send out the latest draft of the stormwater section.

B. Monitoring Annual Report – Bob Klink: We have received the final annual report and will be posting on webpage.

Utility and ToB met February 28 with USGS in an effort to get some flow data to go along with the FC monitoring in the May River. USGS is going to propose some flow monitoring alternatives that might not be so expensive.

Next Meeting is March 27, 2012 at 1:30 at PW Conference Room

Don Smith asked about stormwater efforts on Highway 278. Discussed in contracts report.

C. Upcoming Professional Contracts Report – Dan Ahern: Seems we are having a surprise contract a month. This one we were aware of but we initially did not think we would be funding the design. We have been working for a while to control the runoff from Hwy. 278 going into the Okatie River. We have explored a number of alternatives as explained in the report. We finally decided this month to issue a standalone design contract to get a final solution. Solution will address both new and existing impervious surface. The solution will be 4 ponds that will act as infiltration ponds to handle volume. Two are in the Barrel landing area and two on the east side of the Okatie.

Board asked why this was not included as part of the road project. The new impervious surface should but SCDOT has its own permit and does not recognize stormwater volume issues. On this project about 65% of impervious surface is existing (13 acres) and we are adding 35% new impervious surface (7 acres). The Board was concerned that a state agency did not need to follow a county's requirements. The project does include water quality structures that will treat flow including runoff from the bridge. The other contracts are the same as last month and the only development is that Carolina Clear has finally worked out a solution to how to fund the transition contract. It will be by increase to the existing Clemson Extension contract. This will avoid the large Clemson University overhead charge.

D. Utility Updates – Dan Ahern:

Financials Forms – Attached to the agenda were the Utility financials developed by our financial section.

Clemson Extension Report – Also attached is Laura Lee's semi-annual report for your information.

Webcasts: We hosted a February 29, 2012 webcast titled "Retrofit This" that was attended by 10 folks mostly engineers. This topic is timely with our Watershed Restoration Plans and identified retrofit projects. There will be a follow-on webcast focusing on retrofit costs on April 18, 2012.

We are also planning to host another webinar on March 21 sponsored by SESWA. This will be on "Emerging NPDES Policy Initiatives in the Southeast" This is a free and will be at BIV#2 conference room.

Watershed Restoration Plan – The plan has now been approved by the County Council at their January 9, 2012 meeting. We will be initiating outreach to our partners soon.

10 Year Utility Report – This is still a major effort by a number of the Utility Staff. The completion date for the completing **our portion** is now the end of March.

Step 2 Exemption Requests – Since the last meeting we have approved another two exemptions for Habersham and Somerset Point. This brings the total to 4 exemptions approved. We are getting inquiries from other developments but do not have any active requests.

New Paper – Stormcon has accepted our abstract on a paper on integrating water quality and quantity requirements with use of equivalent/effective imperviousness. This abstract was also accepted as an alternative at the new SW Symposium to be held in July.

Our paper on the monitoring of the BJWSA ASR discharge, that was mentioned last month will be presented at the SC Environmental Conference March 13, 2012

BMP Update – We have received a final draft of the reformatted BMP manual and had a few comments to address before finalizing. We are hoping that our comments can be addressed by end of March.

Together for Beaufort – This group that had initially started monitoring coordination and status review of the Blue Print for Clean Water sponsored a meeting with Carolina Clear on February 21 and all the groups involved with education outreach in this area. The attendees shared priorities for education focus. Hopefully this will help Carolina Clear in developing a plan for FY2013.

IGA Efforts – Mr. McFee has started negotiations with the Town of Port Royal.

Membership on Water Environment Federation SW Committee - There does not appear to be a national organization on stormwater. Many are playing roles like Stormcon and Center for Watershed Protection. This organization that advertizes itself as the “Water Quality People” has developed a new “Strategic Plan for Stormwater” and may fill this void. We have become a member of the national SW Committee to see how this is evolving. **WEF’s SW Vision Statement is** *“We seek the re-establishment, and protection, of hydrologically and ecologically-functional watersheds and landscapes through innovative and cost-effective stormwater management practices and policies.”* This seems to be in line with what we have been trying to do in Beaufort County. Copies were given board.

E. Maintenance Project Reports – Eddie Bellamy: Reported that there would be a change in the format for this report to spend some extra time showing the board members what the Stormwater Infrastructure Section accomplished with the Backache Acres pond project. There were (3) minor and (2) other major projects (Windy Lakes and Backache Acres outfall). The **Backache Acres** pond is in the Lobeco area. This project is significant because it is our first major water quality project and the first time since I have been Public Works Director that we have constructed or reconstructed a pond that overflows directly into the marsh.

We already reported on the **first phase** back in December, but I want to go over it again. In that phase, we staked the perimeter of the pond and the easement, installed protective barriers to protect vegetation, installed sediment control at the end of the outfall ditch leading into the pond, and did the initial clearing for the pond reconstruction. In the **second phase** of the project, we completed the remainder of the grubbing and clearing for the pond and completed the stake out of the pond perimeter. At the end of this phase even I could see what the final dimensions of the pond were going to be. The **third phase** of the project covers the actual reconstruction of the pond, including installation of two fore bays. The total area of the pond and fore bays we constructed is just over one acre. We started by installing a temporary turbidity fence out in the marsh across the small creek, building a sediment dike, and installing a sediment bag so we could maintain the quality of the water

that we had to pump from the pond during construction. Then we installed the outfall structure, overflow pipe, flap gate, and three access pipes. After those structures were in place, we started digging the main pond. At this point, we had a learning experience. We experienced seepage through the dam. Any time an organization attempts a major project outside of its normal area of expertise, there can be and often are mistakes. Our normal methodology for laying pipe is to use a layer of rock in the bottom of the trench for leveling and stability. We did that in this instance and the rock allowed water to seep through the dam. It took two tries, but we finally were able to seal the dam and stabilize it where we will not have a leakage problem in the future. When we completed the digging for the main pond, we moved upstream and constructed two fore bays and the required check dams. We also reinstalled a dry hydrant that can be used in an emergency by the Sheldon Fire District for fire-fighting water. Then we completed the fine grading, installed rip-rap and seeded for erosion control. It also includes the cost to clear a temporary lay down area for the spoil, hauling of the spoil to the Public Works complex on Shanklin Road, and restoring the area after the spoil was hauled off. The cost for the entire project was **\$319,769**. This figure includes the engineering and survey services and permitting required for this rather complex installation.

Mr. Bellamy introduced the Stormwater Superintendent, Zeke Miller and project Foreman, Jimmy Stanley and presented a slide show on the pond. Board asked what happened to the sediment. It is dried out and then will be used on roads and stormwater projects. Also asked about maintenance on this project and the plan is to remove sediment from the fore bay on a routine basis to prevent sediment from going to pond.

5. Unfinished Business –

- A. Regional Coordination – Dan Ahern:** The SWIC met February 16, 2012. At this meeting the Committee recommended that LIDAR update be proposed is a cost share item in budget. Also had discussion on “waters of State” and MS4 meeting in CHS on January 26. Charleston County brings in all neighboring communities to discuss stormwater and their next meeting will be on ponds. The committee is near completion of their recommendations concerning the SW Management Plan. They decided instead of briefing their recommendations we will submit a memo signed by the SWIC.

Next meeting will be March 21, 2012. This will be the meeting to discuss shared management cost fee per SFU. It is currently at \$2.80. Also will develop the final SW Plan Recommendation memo.

B. New Business –

County Strategic Plan - Dan Ahern:

There was a request last meeting for an update from the County Retreat. A power point presentation was given (attached to agenda) on a review the Strategic Plan and results of County Council policy and management agendas. Also passed out a complete agenda items listing but will just discuss the stormwater related items. The County’s strategic framework that includes:

Vision 2026 – with four principles:

- Environmental Stewardship
- Personal Livability
- Economic Opportunity
- Community Building

Each of these principles has 7 to 10 means. Environmental Stewardship principle has means that impact stormwater management.

Plan 2016 – that has 5 Goals:

- Financially sound County providing quality core services efficiently
- Preservation of BC's: Natural Beauty, Environment and Heritage
- Growing, diversified regional economy
- Upgraded County Infrastructure
- More sustainable County

Each of these goals has short term Challenges and Opportunities and annual actions that are being developed at County Council retreat.

Annual Priority 2012 – that are ranked as Top (only 10 total) High (15 total) and other (4 total)

- Restoration Projects (Battery Creek, May and Okatie Rivers) (Top)
- Courthouse and Campus Development (Top)
- Ditch Maintenance and Dredging (High)
- Stormwater Retrofit Plan (Other)
- Water Quality Office (Other)

Ron Bullman asked about the water quality office and it was a general fund initiative that might be funded if economy improves. Scott Liggett said the question is given the County priorities do we need to better align our previously identified Utility goals to be in sync with these priorities. Also asks if we need look at the charter/ordinance to see if we still need to identify a multi-year construction plan.

Don Smith said these are good ideas but how do we get there. Utility said many of our goals were set to transition to a heavier emphasis on water quality projects that will be needed in restoration. Don Smith suggested a topic a next month's meeting. Utility suggested that this be part of Stormwater management plan review by SWIC. Ron Bullman said that municipal priorities need to be put in mix. Don Smith thinks that we need to review the board ordinance on a regular basis. Scott Liggett recommended that since the Council agenda items came out after the board gave input on the Utility goals; he recommended that staff (and SWIC) relook at the Utility goals to see if there should be changes based on Council agenda items. Scott also said that this also needs to be looked at areas in the SW Management Plan. Don Smith wondered about the road overtoppings. They are being addressed as County upgrades road like Hwy 802 and 170.

6. Public Comment – None

7. Next meeting agenda – Board reviewed and approved the proposed April agenda

8. Meeting adjourned.