

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

January 9, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in BIV Conference Room #2

Board Members

Present	Absent
William Bruggeman	Don Smith
Donald Cammerata	Patrick Mitchell
James Fargher	John Youmans
Allyn Schneider	

Ex-Officio Members

Present	Absent
Andy Kinghorn	Tony Maglione
Ron Bullman	
Scott Liggett	

Beaufort County Staff

Lori Sexton
Eddie Bellamy
Dan Ahern
Bob Klink
Rob McFee

Visitors

Laura Lee Rose
Reed Armstrong
Steve Andrews

County Council

Cynthia Bensch

1. Meeting called to order – Allyn Schneider

- A. Agenda approved with moving of inspector report to February meeting
- B. December 5, 2012 Minutes were approved as posted.

2. Introductions – Completed

3. Public Comment – Laura Lee Rose presented a demonstration of the Enviroscope training tool for the board. This is the training tool used in many school demonstrations.

4. Reports

A. Monitoring Annual Report – Bob Klink

In response to comments as last meeting, we met with GEL on December 21, 2012 to discuss addressing board comments. GEL will be incorporating CDM comments and a draft annual report will be submitted before January 29, 2013 meeting so that it can be submitted to board in February. Also are going to have GEL assist USCB in their lab set up and purchasing equipment.

Next GEL Monitoring Meeting is January 29, 2013 at 1:30 at PW Conference Room. GEL (General Engineering Lab) was the selected firm to implement the SW Management Plan recommended monitoring. The Council has decided to move to utilization of USCB.

B. Upcoming Professional Contracts Report – Dan Ahern

Have two new potential items to report. One is for GEL proposal that Bob just mentioned. It will be redirecting already funded monitoring funds. The other was a request that came out of a review of a development project. Thomas and Hutton, who were one of the original consultants developing cost estimates for volume control, have a project being built to new standards. It was thought that it might be an opportunity to revisit costs for volume control, now that we know a lot more about it and the fact that reducing volume meets much of the water quality controls. I asked them to submit a proposal to

analyze the cost difference between what they designed and what they would have designed under the old water quality regulations. They came back and said that this site had A soils and doing this for only A soils might not show the full cost picture. They suggested also designing the site for new and old controls assuming D soils. This would bracket the costs and show the best and worst site conditions. I told them we would bring this to the board for their input before making a decision. There was considerable discussion on this and there were board members in favor and those who wondered if/how the information was going to be used. The board asked staff to discuss this further with contractor and bring it back just what we will get for these contracts to the board in February.

C. Utility Updates – Dan Ahern

Webcasts: The December 12, 2012 webcast was on “Customizing your Stormwater BMP Design for Specific Pollutants”. We are scheduling one more that will be on Feb 13, 2013 at noon on one of the Minimum Control Measures (MCM) in our future SW permit on “municipal pollution prevention”

Stormwater Permit Status: Reported on an update we got from the SC DHEC:

- Plans to publish the new MS4 permits in March or April.
- Depending on comments and appeals the final permit would be from late summer to end of year.
- Surprise was that EPA has not approved the new designations yet. We were assuming that designated areas would be South of Broad (less Daufuskie) and only Port Royal, and Lady’s Islands on the north side. If they designate the whole county, it would increase workload considerably.

Financial Reports: Attached to the agenda were the financial reports prepared by Alan Eisenman. Alan will be back in February for the quarterly presentation.

We have not heard back on our memo requesting a Capital Improvement Fund be established. Alan has reported that our minimum cash balance was in November and as was \$1,554,848. There will be money to put into the account if approved. Board member asked who we are waiting on and the memo is with the Deputy Administration.

Chechessee Creek TMDL: We decided that we would appeal this TMDL so that we could have some recourse if the state issues a MS4 permit that would make these requirements regulatory. A copy of the appeal letter was attached to agenda. We had appealed the Okatie TMDL and the DHEC board declined to hear the appeal. We are assuming they will do the same this time. We have had some reporter requesting information on this and lead to recognizing that the Utility needs to be able to explain the issue and problem simply. The newspaper reported that the DHEC board would be making a decision on the appeal on Thursday.

A two a two page draft description of the issue was passed out and would like to get feedback or suggestions to improve this explanation.

Final 2013 Utility Goals: Attached to agenda was the final Utility goals, only had three members of the appointed board respond in time to incorporate. We did get another submission late, and have noted their votes on final document. Also note that we got input from two ex-officio members. The final goals will be using this in our budget development discussions that Carolyn will be submitting to the Board in March.

NERRS Science Collaborative Funding: SCDNR is again going to apply for funding through this process. This time they are requesting funding to accelerate the ongoing salinity monitoring. Funding would allow them to speed up the monitoring from 5 year time frame at the current level of funding, under our joint salinity effort, to an intensive 1 year process. This would allow for this data to be available as the county and municipalities to update the SW management plan. Requested the Board

pass a resolution supporting this proposal so that it can be mentioned in the application narrative. The board proposed, seconded and approved the following resolution

“The SW Utility Board supports the SCDNR proposal to speed up the salinity monitoring so that data can be available for the updating of the County-wide Stormwater Management Plan”

D. Maintenance Project Reports – Eddie Bellamy

Reported 9 projects in the shortened format and that there were no projects that had exceeded a total cost of \$15,000.

5. Unfinished Business

A. Regional Coordination – Dan Ahern

Since the last meeting we have decided to more formalize our cost share arrangements for Education and Outreach and Monitoring. The Town of HHI has taken the lead in this area and we have used their agreement as a template to send out to other municipalities. We also finalized the LIDAR cost share agreements and all municipalities have signed this cost share agreement. The next SWIC meeting will be January 17, 2013

Stormwater manager thanked board for their service to the county and support of the Utility. The board asked on status of replacement and there has not been any change. Andy Kinghorn asked to receive SWIC minutes.

6. New Business - none

7. Public Comment – Council member Cynthia Bensch asked the board why more effort is not being directed to addressing Septic Tanks. She felt they were the real problem. A long discussion ensued and board members explained how our monitoring has not identified septic tanks as a significant factor in our current water quality impairment problems. Ron Bullman report that they have not seen any improvements in water quality where septic tanks were removed. The problem with septic tanks may be maintenance and not the septic tanks themselves. The board members explained that the primary cause, as identified by studies and monitoring, has been the excess stormwater runoff volume (even though it is clean) causing high loads of bacteria coming out of freshwater wetlands in the upper reaches of our tidal headwaters. She also asked if there was an inspection program on septic tank pump out trucks. Scott Liggett brought out the recent court case where US EPA lost a case requiring volume reduction as part of a TMDL. Ron Bullman asked if preliminary Water Budget Study data. It has just started collecting 2 years of data and preliminary analysis would be at the end of year. Scott Liggett asked when budget would be presented and it will be at the April meeting.

8. Next meeting agenda – February 6, 2013 and approved proposed February agenda with adding of inspector report and GEL annual monitoring report.

9. Meeting adjourned.