

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

July 3, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort Industrial Village Building #2 Conference Room

Board Members

Present

Don Smith
James Fargher
Allyn Schneider
Patrick Mitchell
William Bruggeman

Absent

John Youmans

Ex-Officio Members

Present

Andy Kinghorn
Scott Liggett

Absent

Tony Maglione
Ron Bullman

Beaufort County Staff

Robert McFee
Eddie Bellamy
Carolyn Wallace
Danny Polk

Visitors

Paul Moore, Ward Edwards
Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League

1. Meeting called to order – Don Smith

- A. Agenda approved.
- B. June 5, 2013 Minutes were approved as posted.

2. Introductions – Completed.

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Reports –

A. Monitoring Update – Danny Polk:

- Sampling – There has been heavy rainfall events in June and plenty of sampling. There have been increased flows but no significant increase in fecal coliform. May add more sites around Pleasant Point Plantation because of a citizen's concern over the golf course opening back up. But there will be no data to compare the sample's data to.
- Silt Fence Installation –He has noticed properly installed silt fencing that has been undermined by heavy rainfall. He will continue to monitor this situation to see if the contractor reestablishes the silt fencing. Since the concerns voiced at the last board meeting (June 5, 2013), Mr. Kinghorn said he followed up with City of Beaufort personnel and Mr. Bellamy said he called SC DHEC who said they would send someone out to talk to the contractor.
- Water Budget Study – The data collector for the evaporation pan has been repaired and reinstalled. He will be meeting with Dr. Badr on Friday.
- Open Water Copper Sampling – In providing background information, Mr. Polk said previously SC DHEC had found impairments in the Broad River and Coosaw River. They started this sampling program to determine if there is anything the county can do to address this impairment. They will be sampling two sites in the Coosaw River in the next few weeks.

Just as they did when they previously received the sample results from the Broad River, they will discuss the findings with the board members once they receive the results.

- University of South Carolina – Beaufort (USCB) Laboratory – The tour of the lab will be Friday, July 26, 2013 at 2:00pm. The lab manager said four of the instruments have been installed, two are in process, and one is on order. The ICP is still being built. Mr. Fargher explained the ICP is a sophisticated piece of equipment that can simultaneously analyze elements by their molecular weight. Mr. McFee said that once the ICP is operational they will coordinate a second tour.
- SC DNR Salinity Study – Mr. Polk, Bob Klink, and Dan Ahern met with SC DNR representatives on June 21, 2013. They would like to provide a thirty minute presentation at the August board meeting.

B. Utility Updates –

- Robert McFee: The Request for Proposal (RFP) for stormwater services was submitted to the public on July 1, 2013 and a copy provided to each of the board members. He provided the timeline in hopes of providing a recommendation to County Council in September. Chairman Smith voiced his concern with not having a Stormwater Manager to coordinate efforts and respond to the public and professional communities’ concerns. Mr. Kinghorn questioned how the municipalities would coordinate with the county on stormwater issues and who to contact. Mr. McFee explained that those seeking information should contact the appropriate personnel within the county and the municipality should coordinate with him and he will advise them if the point of contact within the county changes. He said he think we have a great deal of team depth and that the departure of one or two team members does not cripple the utility. He is listening to their concern but this is an administration function and the management of the utility is going in a different direction. He said if the board members have a level of concern that his comments have not allayed, then their next recourse could be to raise the issue of hiring a Stormwater Manager through the Natural Resources Committee and up to County Council. He said the county has done the “on-lot controls” and the “permitted but not built”. What is left is existing impairments. So if the science is correct then we only have retrofits to address and we should not have any issues in the future. Mr. Kinghorn suggested the consultant provide a single person responsible for coordination. Mr. McFee said that the county will be inviting the municipalities and some of the board members to sit on the selection committee.

C. Upcoming Professional Contracts Report – Robert McFee: Other than the RFP previously mentioned, there are no new professional contracts.

D. Financial Reports – Copies of the May Stormwater financials were provided.

E. Maintenance Projects Report – Eddie Bellamy: Mr. Bellamy reported on (4) major projects: Old Dawson-Haynes Road Outfall, Palmetto Bluff Road, First African Baptist Church Road, and Bluffton Middle School. He also presented (22) minor and/or routine maintenance projects in a shortened format.

He mentioned with all of the recent rains there was only one report of a road being impassable and it was a private road.

5. Unfinished Business –

Regional Coordination – Robert McFee: The USCB lab, water budget study with Dr. Badr, and the salinity study with Dr. Leffler with SCDNR, all are continuing through their respective processes.

Battery Creek retrofit project – City of Beaufort is in the process of refining their submittal for the 319 grant for this retrofit. The support letters from the city and the county are being prepared. The split between the two jurisdictions is nearly \$150,000 each.

Highway 278 project – This project is going to the design review team within the next three weeks. The specific issue is tree removal. Hopefully there will be no permit issues. The Army Corps of Engineers and OCRM have released two of the foresites.

Stoney Creek retrofit – The County’s senior staff met with the Town of Bluffton on yesterday. This would be the largest retrofit thus far. They are working with the property owner that would be affected by this project.

Administrative Building Retrofit – Three contractors attended the prescreen interview but there was no bids submitted. He is investigating why. The contractors may not be interested because there were too many disciplines or specialized tasks.

Okatie East retrofit project – Mr. Paul Moore said the Public Works Department is gathering three quotes for the materials. Probably the original surveyor who did the TOPO will do the stakeout. Once this is completed then the Stormwater Infrastructure Section will schedule construction to begin. Mr. Bellamy is hoping they can get started by the end of August.

6. New Business – None.

7. Public Comment – Mr. Armstrong said his concern with a consultant managing the utility is that the public may have difficulties in determining who to contact when raising issues.

Mr. McFee responded to a question raised by Mr. Kinghorn and said the equipment purchased for the water quality lab will be jointly owned by the university and the county.

8. Next Meeting Agenda – The board members agreed to add the presentation from SC DNR on the salinity study to the August 7, 2013 agenda and the agenda was approved.

9. Meeting Adjourned.