

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

November 6, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort Industrial Village Building #2 Conference Room

Board Members

| Present | Absent |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Don Smith | |
| William Bruggeman | |
| Patrick Mitchell | |
| Allyn Schneider | |
| James Fargher | |

Ex-Officio Members

| Present | Absent |
|----------------|---------------|
| Andy Kinghorn | Van Willis |
| Scott Liggett | |
| Kimberly Jones | |

Beaufort County Staff

Gary Kubic
Bryan Hill
Robert McFee
Eddie Bellamy
Carolyn Wallace
Alan Eisenman

Visitors

Paul Moore, Ward Edwards
Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League
Denise Parsick, Together For Beaufort WQ Coalition
William Baugher, Town of Bluffton
Beth Lewis, Town of Bluffton
Bob Gross, Beaufort County Resident
Jimmy McIntire, Beaufort County Resident

1. Meeting called to order – Don Smith

- A. Agenda – approved.
- B. October 2, 2013 Minutes – approved.

2. Introductions – Completed.

3. Public Comment(s) – Ms. Kimberly Jones introduced two new staff members to the Town of Bluffton’s Stormwater Division. Ms. Beth Lewis came from the county, was formerly with Wadell Mariculture Center where she ran their Water Quality (WQ) Testing Laboratory and her background is Marine Biology. Mr. William Baugher came from NC and he brings experience in GIS and Phase I MS4 reporting.

4. Reports –

- A. **General Update** – Mr. Gary Kubic, the County Administrator announced that the county has selected a candidate to add to the Engineering Department. This would then allow the department to have three engineers and the new engineer would be assigned to Stormwater. The candidate has not yet accepted. Relocation from Kentucky would be involved and they are working with the candidate. The candidate is a PE and he is a certified planner through American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and is certified in Floodplain Management (CFM). He has already instituted a couple of MS4 compliance permits in the state of Kentucky and has a vast association with the University of Kentucky. The leadership of this candidate is commensurate with Mr. Kubic’s vision for the SWU and his focus is on two aspects of stormwater; the physical and the science. For the physical component the

county has identified several projects. He would like the vetting, design, and construction of these projects to be accelerated. He would like to contract with local contractors to add jobs to the county. For the science aspect, he would like the county to collaborate with the University of South Carolina, Beaufort (USCB) on water quality (WQ) efforts. The county and USCB have expanded the WQ lab and he sees the county's investment in to this program as part of the economic development piece but also as a piece for future curriculum development for students so they may become the "CSI" of WQ. He feels everything in the county is WQ based, and everything is pertinent and connected with the environment. This would be the type of software design and science that he would like the county and USCB to promote.

Therefore the county will reissue the Request For Proposal (RFP) for stormwater services to hopefully hire a firm (that would be managed by the PE) that can accelerate the construction of those identified projects and can pursue the type of WQ initiatives that he envisions. He has invited Chancellor Upshaw from USCB to have the university participate on the SW advisory board. This would provide reports from the county's PE, the consultant team, and also the university along with Dr. Alan Warren could advise the board on the WQ lab. He is also interested in the WQ lab capturing the revenue flow of private testing that is being sent out of state, from such entities as the Federal Government through their military bases. The lab could offer the Federal Government the opportunity for testing right here at home at the University.

One of the county's greatest assets is the environment. We should use the assets we have for economic development.

- E. Financial Reports** – Mr. Alan Eisenman – Mr. Eisenman presented the unaudited September interim financial statements for the Stormwater Utility. Following are the highlights from his presentation:
- Actual FY14 revenues are 30% less (\$16K) than Actual FY13 revenues, but it is still very early in this revenue cycle.
 - Actual September FY14 expenses are at 15% of budget for FY14.
 - Unrestricted Fund Balance from Balance Sheet Increased by \$112,000 or 12% since last FY at this time.
 - a. Cash from Balance Sheet Increased by \$350,000 or 19% since last FY at this time.
- B. Monitoring Update** – No report provided (staff presenter not in attendance).
- C. Utility Updates** – Mr. Robert McFee – *MS4 General Permit* – The county received an e-mail from SCDHEC. The county will be designated as a MS4 and probably receive our letter by mid next year. He said the county is in good shape in preparedness for the designation.
- D. Upcoming Professional Contracts Report** – Mr. Robert McFee – *Administration Parking Lot* – The RFP for the retrofit project of the courthouse parking lot is being revised to include pervious pavers only and one long bay of pervious pavers closest to Battery Creek. This simplifies the materials and increase productivity for the contractors, and it makes traffic control easier for those who have to access the complex for business purposes.
- E. Together For Beaufort Water Quality Coalition** – Ms. Denise Parsick – Together For Beaufort was formed almost seven years ago and they established several goals and 16 objectives. One of the objectives is to accomplish 10 milestones to Improve Water Quality in Beaufort County. Ms. Parsick provided a copy and discussed their progress report of this initiative. She also expressed the coalition's desire to participate in the county's public education and outreach efforts.
- F. Maintenance Projects Report** – Mr. Eddie Bellamy – Mr. Bellamy reported on (2) major projects: Ihly Farm Road and Cherry Point Road North. He also presented (14) minor and/or routine maintenance projects in a shortened format.

5. Unfinished Business – Robert McFee

A. Regional Coordination

Battery Creek – Retrofit project is in the preliminary engineering stage.

Stoney Creek – The Town of Bluffton’s staff is continuing to make progress with the property owner. They have been on site and are developing the scope of service to put out bid for surveying.

Highway 278 Ponds – The ponds are fully permitted. He is working with Mr. Bellamy to determine if the county should bid the entire package or are there any ponds that should be constructed by Public Works.

319 Grant for the Okatie – The grant was obtained by the Lowcountry Council of Government (LCOG). They have completed 40 septic tank retrofits in Phase I and now they are in the process of Phase II which will focus more on the properties near the headwaters.

Vacant Board Members’ Seat – Mr. Allyn Schneider asked for an update on filling the vacant seats. Mr. McFee said Council has been advised that we are looking for replacements but he does not know if any candidates were identified at the Natural Resources Committee. He would have Mrs. Wallace check on this and let the members know.

6. New Business

January 2014 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting – Mr. Don Smith – The Board adopted the proposed 2014 schedule with the provision that the January Board meeting be on January 8th or 9th depending on the availability of the conference room and broadcasting.

7. Public Comment – Mr. Bob Gross – Suggest that once the county receive the permit from SCDHEC that they review it closely to ensure they are not making the county do something that is not our issue.

8. Next Meeting Agenda – Mr. Kubic mentioned that representatives from USCB may attend the December Board meeting. If so, they will be placed on the agenda.

9. Meeting Adjourned.