

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

February 5, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort Industrial Village Building #2 Conference Room

**Board Members**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Don Smith	
William Bruggeman	
Patrick Mitchell	
Allyn Schneider	
James Fargher	

**Ex-Officio Members**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Andy Kinghorn	Van Willis
Scott Liggett	
Kimberly Jones	

**Beaufort County Staff**

Eric Larson  
Eddie Bellamy  
Carolyn Wallace  
Danny Polk

**Visitors**

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

- A. Agenda – The agenda was approved with GEL Engineering being removed from the agenda and their presentation rescheduled for the March board meeting.
- B. January 8, 2014 Minutes – approved.

**2. Introductions** – Completed.

**3. Public Comment(s)** – None.

**4. Reports** –

**A. Monitoring Update** – Eric Larson

*Sampling* – the County continues to perform weekly sampling at select locations in the May River and Okatie River watersheds in addition to the customary sites north of the Broad River in the CoB and ToPR. Danny Polk has been discussing with the USCB lab staff about expanding the number of monitoring sites throughout the County once the staff is fully trained on the new equipment.

*USCB WQ Lab* – Dr. Alan Warren reported to Eric Larson last week that the lab is fully equipped, training on the last piece of new equipment is occurring this week, and plans to get their procedures underway. Dr. Warren also noted that the lab has entered into agreements with multiple private plantation communities in Bluffton and on Hilton Head Island and negotiating with another to provide water quality field sampling and lab analysis.

*GEL Engineering Contract* - Their contract ends in January 2014. They are agreeable to extend on a month to month basis in allow the County to transition into the use of the USCB lab.

*May River Action Plan Advisory Committee* – Kim Jones reported on the quarterly meeting.

Through nearly 6 years of sampling they have consistently identified fecal coliform hotspots which are driving the Town of Bluffton’s CIP program for identifying where they want to do retrofit

projects. The town's second 3-year MOU with the USCB lab will expire soon and in the upcoming new MOU the town would like to take advantage of the lab's expanded capabilities.

**B. Utility Updates – Eric Larson**

*DHEC Update* – We have been in communication with the MS4 coordinating staff this past month. They have provided a map of the soon to be designated MS4 permit area (please see the attachment). It will only include the urbanized boundary in the county south of the Broad River and encompassing mainly the Towns of Bluffton and Hilton Head, along with fringe incorporated county areas. The urbanized “cluster” marked North of the Broad River will not be included in the permit(s). DHEC plans to meet with the MS4 staff within the next two weeks to outline the permitting process. Letters requesting submittal of a NOI are likely to be sent out in April or May 2014. The MS4(s) will have 180 days to reply.

*SWIC Update* – Last Friday, Jan. 31, 2014, the SWIC met. The focus of the meeting was to define a plan for the future. The plan includes options for MS4 permit application, implementation of the MS4 programs for the County, ToB, and ToHHI, future funding needs, and the “mission” of the SWIC going forward. Future meetings will be held on a regular basis as the MS4 permit needs evolve. The SWIC did review the 2014 goals and provided input. The Stormwater Manager provided draft minutes of the meeting.

*HE McCracken Circle in Bluffton* - Revisiting a drainage that has been previously studied but never resolved.

*Buckingham Plantation retrofit* - Stormwater Management is working closely with Planning and the County Administer to conceptually design an infrastructure retrofit project that will upgrade stormwater facilities to more appropriately address water quality and improve the access and aesthetics of the area. The planned outcome is a renewed interest in the area to promote redevelopment and growth.

*Bluffton Gateway Development Agreement* - We have been communicating with the development team to discuss stormwater needs and opportunities.

*FY 2015 Budget* – Staff in Management and Infrastructure are already hard at work trying to identify needs for FY 2015 and starting the early draft of the department budget.

**C. Upcoming Professional Contracts Report** – Mr. Eric Larson – There are no new contracts to report. Planning is likely to engage an environmental consultant to review submittals from the Carolina Jellyball application.

**D. Utility 2014 Goals** – Mr. Larson provided a draft copy of the SWIC January meeting (please see the attachment). The committee members reviewed and endorsed the goals. There were no changes to the goals. Mr. Larson had to provide the utility's goals, successes and challenges for the upcoming County Council retreat and he used much of this document when providing the information, therefore he has essentially provided this list to the members of the County Council. The SWMU Board recommended adoption of the goals.

**E. Financial Report** - Copies of the December financials were provided.

**F. Maintenance Projects Report** – Mr. Eddie Bellamy reported on (1) major project, Horace Dawson lane. He also presented (7) minor and/or routine maintenance projects in a shortened format.

**5. Unfinished Business – Eric Larson**

**A. Regional Coordination**

*US 278 retrofit ponds* – Bid due date has been extended. DRT review has prompted the need to revise the design of one of the four ponds to provide proper screening buffer and tree plant back requirement.

*County Admin. Complex Retrofit Project* – Has not gone out for bids yet. Waiting on revisions from the designer, Andrews and Burgess.

*Battery Creek Pond* – In design phase. The CoB and the consultant are considering activities to meet the public educational component of the 319 grant.

*Stoney Creek* – Ms. Jones said it was on-going with nothing new to report.

*Okatie 319 grant* – On going. Nothing new to report.

**6. New Business** – None.

**7. Public Comment** – Mr. Fargher said that he read in the newspaper that the proposed jelly ball operation has an unloading facility on St. Helena Island that backs up to Jenkins Creek. In the article the newspaper also provided a picture of their large, recently laid concrete slab. Mr. Fargher is concerned about the potential runoff into Jenkins Creek. Mr. Larson said he was not aware of the unloading site but he has sat in a few of the planning meetings but the discussions have been on the proposed processing facility in Lobeco. There have been discussions on various environmental concerns, from asbestos to contaminated soil, etc. Mr. Bellamy said the dock is located down Golden Dock Road and was a shrimp processing facility for years. He said from what he read in the newspaper, the facility is simply an unloading site and the jelly fish will be trucked to a facility to be dried and shipped mostly to Asia. He would think the impact would be the same as if they were unloading shrimp. Mr. Fargher said Jenkins Creek went from conditional harvesting to unrestricted harvesting in the last two years and he would not like to see it negatively affected by the operation. Mr. Kinghorn said it was worth keeping an eye on to ensure there was no cause and effect because of poor housekeeping, etc.

**8. Next Meeting Agenda** – The March agenda was approved with the addition of Gel Engineering's presentation being added to the agenda.

**9. Meeting Adjourned.**