

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

March 5, 2014 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	
Scott Liggett	
Kimberly Jones	
Van Willis	

Beaufort County Staff

Rob McFee
Eric Larson
Eddie Bellamy
Carolyn Wallace
Danny Polk

Visitors

Lamar Taylor, City of Beaufort
Jeremy Ritchie, Town of Bluffton
Rick Nuzum, SCDHEC
Arturo Ovalles, SCDHEC
Jill Stewart, SCDHEC
Shannon Hicks, SCDHEC
Paul Moore, Ward Edwards
Reggie Reeves, GEL Engineering
Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League

1. Meeting called to order – Don Smith

- A. Agenda – GEL Engineering’s presentation was moved to item B under *Reports*. Agenda was approved with change.
- B. February 5, 2014 Minutes – Approved.

2. Introductions – Completed.

3. Public Comment(s) – Allyn Schneider and Don Smith congratulated for another 4-year term to the board.

4. Reports –

- A. **MS4 Program Overview** – Jill Stewart provided a presentation on the new MS4 permit requirements ([please see attachment](#)). She complimented Beaufort County on the “leadership they have shown” through the years and their pro-active efforts in addressing stormwater runoff. She said with the designation as a MS4 they are now “taking them to a new level into the regulated world of MS4s”.
- B. **GEL Engineering Annual Monitoring Report** – Reggie Reeves provided a presentation on the sixth year of monitoring efforts by the utility ([please see attachment](#)). They continued sampling for trend analysis. There was only one special project. Port Royal Sound was on the 303d list for copper violation. Gel Engineering helped the county investigate if the impairment still exists, and if not, how could the waterway be taken off the 303d list. A TMDL is

scheduled for 2021 and the county wanted to know what they could do in the meantime. The county would have to develop and implement a DHEC-approved Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) which would entail collecting quarterly samples over three years which would be 12 samples. And of the 12 samples, 11 would have to be below the surface water regulatory limit. Two samples were taken last April and both were above these limits. Therefore, the county decided not to pursue the QAPP.

C. Monitoring Update – Eric Larson

Mr. Larson submitted his written report in advance (please see attachment) and because of time, he forwent his presentation during the meeting.

D. Utility Updates – Eric Larson

Mr. Larson submitted his written report in advance (please see attachment) and because of time, he forwent his presentation during the meeting.

E. Upcoming Professional Contracts Report – Eric Larson

Okatie East – The project was recently completed by the utility and Mr. Larson would like to initiate a monitoring program for volume (to tie flow reduction to water quality). He would like to hire the design engineering firm (Ward Edwards) to develop the monitoring plan. The utility’s Stormwater Inspector, Danny Polk, would do most of the work collecting the samples and then have Ward Edwards put the results back in to the model they used in the design. The scope and duration would be limited and the engineering cost should be less than \$10K. The board members passed a motion to recommend he proceed with this initiative.

Jellyball - Mr. Smith asked what was proposed in the scope of services that was stormwater related? Mr. Larson said that the scope of service proposed by ATM to the county is related to more than just stormwater. The stormwater portion is consider groundwater contamination, to evaluate the plan they are submitting to DHEC for their permit (NPDES discharge); and site controls (such as if there is a spill or runoff from the site, etc.)

F. Financial Report - Copies of the January financials were provided. Mrs. Carolyn Wallace reported that Mr. Alan Eisenman is scheduled to appear at the April board meeting for the quarterly report.

G. Maintenance Projects Report – Mr. Eddie Bellamy reported on (3) major projects, Patterson Road/Joe Allen Drive Channel, Duncan Farms Channel Maintenance, and Forest Fields Subdivision, Phase II. Because of time, he forwent the presentation on the (19) minor and/or routine maintenance projects.

5. Unfinished Business – Eric Larson

A. Regional Coordination

Mr. Larson submitted his written report in advance (please see attachment) and because of time, he forwent most of his presentation during the meeting. But he did comment on “Sea Level Rise”.

Sea Level Rise and Future Planning – The County’s Planning Department is facilitating a research project with the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium to determine the County’s vulnerability and consequences of sea level rise. Stormwater is actively participating in the study. There is no cost to the Utility.

Battery Creek Pond – Lamar Taylor, City of Beaufort – Last month the city authorized Ward Edwards to start the final design. In the meantime they are in the process of gathering more topography and tree survey data; proposing analysis and other future modeling; proposing trash removal concepts; and working on designing the erosion control plan. The city anticipates final design to be done in 60 days, permitting within the next 90 days, and hopefully advertising for

construction by this summer. Mr. Andy Kinghorn said there is a monitoring site downstream of this proposed project site which means that there will be monitoring data before and after the completion of this project that will help determine this BMPs effectiveness.

Stoney Creek – Kimberly Jones, *Town of Bluffton* – The town is ready to advertise the RFQ for this project. They are asking for bids to be in by April 4th. She also reported that the town received a check for \$100K from SC DHEC to support water quality improvements and projects in the May River.

6. New Business – Eric Larson

Forby Tract – Mr. Larson submitted his written report in advance (*please see attachment*). This parcel is located between Tanger Outlet 1 and the BMW dealership. The county wanted to purchase a little over an acre of this parcel to build a frontage road and the remaining acreage is wetland. The property owner would like the county to purchase the entire tract since the remaining portion cannot be developed. The county has asked the utility to share in the purchase of the entire tract and possibly use the remaining wetland as a BMP. The total cost is \$450K and the utility's cost-share would be \$300K. There is an overtopping identified in the Stormwater Management Plan but it has a low priority. Mr. Larson asked for discussion and recommendation(s).

Discussion ensued. Points made during the discussion included:

- Due to changes in the developed area and regulations since the completion of the Stormwater Management Plan (2006), is there still an overtopping issue?
- Can the overtopping issue be solved in a manner that does not require the use of the Forby tract and therefore not requiring the purchase of the site in total?
- Given the history with USACE permitting of the wetland modification at this site for the Bluffton Parkway project, is a project on this site even possible?

There was a motion for the utility to fast-track an engineering study to determine if this site can be used as a BMP to address the overtopping of Highway 278 and determine if there is a more cost-effective way to address the issue. The vote was tied. No recommendation. The board would like more information before proceeding.

7. Public Comment – Mr. Smith expressed his appreciation to GEL Engineering for the work they have done for the county over the last six years and how well they worked with the county and the USCB WQ lab during this transition.

8. Next Meeting Agenda – Mr. Larson expressed his desire to include a “Special Presentation” during reports each month on topics of interest, starting with a stormwater program report to be provided by each of the municipalities. He mentioned that Ms. Kim Jones with the Town of Bluffton has volunteered to present in April. The board members agreed.

Update or follow-on on the Forby tract to be on next month's agenda under “Unfinished Business”. The agenda was approved with this change.

9. Meeting Adjourned.