

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

December 16, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in Beaufort Industrial Village Building #3 Conference Room

Board Members

Present

Don Smith
Allyn Schneider
Marc Feinberg
Larry Meisner
Patrick Mitchell
James Fargher
William Bruggeman

Absent

Ex-Officio Members

Present

Andy Kinghorn
Scott Liggett
Jeremy Ritchie
Van Willis

Absent

Beaufort County Staff

Eric Larson
Eddie Bellamy
Patricia Wilson
Kevin Pitts
Danny Polk
Rebecca Baker
Joshua Gruber
David Wilhelm
Carolyn Wallace

Visitors

Tony Maglione, Applied Technology & Mgt.
Lamar Taylor, City of Beaufort
Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League
Neil Desai, City of Beaufort

1. Meeting called to order – Don Smith

- A. Agenda – The Agenda was approved after adding voting for Stormwater Chairman and Vice Chairman prior to Agenda Item Eight (Executive Session).
- B. November 18, 2015 Minutes - Approved.

2. Introductions – Completed.

3. Public Comment(s) – Mr. Eric Larson introduced Mr. David Wilhelm, the new Public Works Director and Mr. Lamar Taylor introduced Mr. Neil Desai, the new City of Beaufort Stormwater Manager and Assistant Public Works Director.

4. Reports – Mr. Eric Larson, Mr. Eddie Bellamy, and Mr. Alan Eisenman provided a written report which is included in the posted agenda and can be accessed at:

<http://www.bcgov.net/departments/Administrative/beaufort-county-council/boards-and-commissions/council-appointed/board-list/stormwater-management-utility-board/agendas/2015/121615.pdf>

A. Utility Update – Eric Larson

Annual Stormwater Fee Billing – Mr. Eric Larson mentioned that call volume appears to be less than anticipated, but there have been some reoccurring calls such as fees

generated on open marsh, wetlands, and unusable properties submerged by water. The Utility is discussing options for providing financial relief such as updating the credit manual. Other issues involve inaccurate parcel lines which resulted in GIS measurements being off. Whenever possible, the utility staff has worked with the Tax Assessor and Management Information System (MIS) staff to make necessary adjustments.

B. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4 Update) – Eric Larson

BMP Manual Update – Mr. Larson said that Mrs. Rebecca Baker (MS4 Coordinator) will be giving this report in the future. Mrs. Baker has been working with ATM (Applied Technology and Management) to discuss the revision of the BMP Manual to make sure ordinances are in place to meet MS4 Minimum Control Measures.

Inspection Data Management – Mrs. Baker has been working with MIS staff to develop a program for permitting and inspection.

Education and Outreach – Mrs. Baker has been working with BSWCD (Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District) to discuss the education campaign for the next fiscal year.

C. Monitoring Update – Eric Larson

USCB and County MOU for the Lab Services – Mrs. Baker and Mr. Kevin Pitts have been working with USCB staff to update the MOU to be more flexible to meet MS4 needs.

D. Stormwater Implementation Committee (SWIC) Report – Eric Larson

SWIC Meeting December 9, 2015 - Mr. Larson stated that the meeting was canceled this month and the next meeting is January 20, 2016.

E. Stormwater Related Projects – Eric Larson

US 278 Retrofit Ponds – Crews are clearing pond 3 and have started excavating pond 2.

Turtle Lane Paving on Lady's Island – The engineering firm and contractor are working together on this project. The road is being paved and Stormwater improvements associated with the project are being addressed.

Okatie West / SC 170 Widening Retrofit Land Purchase – Mr. Larson said this project would be addressed under New Business.

SC 170 Widening Pond #8 project - Mr. Larson stated that the contract is still pending. Mr. Joshua Gruber (Deputy County Administrator) stated that at least 8 attorneys are involved with the land acquisition for this project and it is slowly moving forward.

Huspah Court South Ditch Easement/ Mike Zara – The county has made an offer and is waiting on a counter offer from Mr. Zara. Mr. Larson said that the County wants to provide services in lieu of fee.

F. Professional Contracts Report – Eric Larson

Utility Rate Study – Mr. Larson reported that the final report will not be available this month. A couple of the municipalities have indicated that the Stormwater Management Utility Board's approval will not be necessary for their jurisdictions to take action. The final report will be presented at a later meeting.

Stormwater Management Plan (Master Plan) Update – Mr. Larson reported that the recommendation was approved by the Natural Resources Committee and was passed by County Council on December 14, 2015. The contract is in the process of being signed. Mr. Larson thanked the board members for attending the Natural Resources Committee meeting and showing their support. Mr. Lamar Taylor later added that the City of

Beaufort is in the process of signing the MOU cost share, which Mr. Larson should receive later this week.

G. Regional Coordination - Eric Larson

Plantation Business Park Drainage Assessment – Mr. Larson stated that the County is having the stormsewer system evaluated in consideration of taking over the maintenance which was the original plan in the 1980's. At that time, the development was not part of The Town of Bluffton. The Town is included in this discussion and a final report should be available in January.

City of Beaufort and SCDOT Partnership Projects – Mr. Lamar Taylor reported that Paul Moore (Ward Edwards Engineering) is developing a cost share recommendation to present to SCDOT and the County to alleviate flooding issues off Greene Street and Hamar Street.

Battery Creek Pond Funded by an EPA 319 Grant – Mr. Taylor updated the board that all the permits have been obtained except for the wetland permit. The project will be submitted for bidding and Ward Edwards Engineering is establishing a timeline for completion by October 2016. Scheduling adjustments should allow Dr. John Gray (property owner) to timber the land. Project construction needs to begin no later than mid- February.

Stoney Creek Project – Mr. Jeremy Ritchie reported that level loggers have been placed to evaluate flow and ground water elevations for a 4 to 5 month duration.

Pine Ridge Retrofit Project – Mr. Ritchie stated that 3 bids have been received and the Town is getting ready begin the evaluation process of the proposals.

H. Financial Report – See posted agenda

I. Maintenance Projects Report – Mr. Eddie Bellamy

Mr. Eddie Bellamy made his final maintenance report as Beaufort County Public Works Director. There were no questions on the seven routine or minor projects included in the posted agenda. Mr. Don Smith thanked Mr. Bellamy for his service and the board supported this decision with a round of applause. Mr. David Wilhelm will be providing the reports in the future.

5. Unfinished Business – None

6. New Business – Mr. Eric Larson

A. *Okatie West Pond Funded by an EPA 319 Grant (\$110,000)* – Mr. Larson reported that five firms submitted SOQs (Statements of Qualifications). The evaluation committee consisted of five members including a representative from finance. The committee interviewed three of the five firms. Ward Edwards Engineering was selected and submitted a scope of service of \$119,303. To stay within the \$110,000 design budget, Ward Edwards Engineering made adjustments which decreased the scope to \$109,473. Mr. Andy Kinghorn pointed out that the ranking order on the memorandum to recommend Ward Edwards Engineering was out of order. Mr. Larson said the order would be corrected before presenting the recommendation memorandum to County Council's Natural Resources Committee. A motion was made and passed unanimously (7:0) to recommend awarding the contract to Ward Edwards Engineering.

B. Voting for Stormwater Management Utility Board Chairman and Vice Chairman

The board voted unanimously (7:0) to retain Mr. Don Smith as Chairman and Allyn Schneider as Vice Chairman.

7. Public Comment(s) – None.

8. Executive Session -

Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements and Proposed Purchase of Factory Creek Watershed Site Phase II and continuation of Phase I Process

A. Mr. Don Smith recused himself due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Allyn Schneider took over as board chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

B. Actions As A Result of Executive Session

1. A motion was made and passed unanimously (6:0) to allow Mr. Eric Larson (on behalf of the Stormwater Utility) to spend \$9,900.00 on the feasibility study for Factory Creek Watershed Site Phase II.
2. A motion was made for Mr. Larson to continue negotiations on Factory Creek Watershed Site Phase I.

9. Next Meeting Agenda – Included in posted agenda

Passed with Mr. Eddie Bellamy being replaced with Mr. David Wilhelm on Item H.

10. Meeting Adjourned