

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

May 17, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in Executive Conference Room, Administration Building, Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina

Board Members

Present

Don Smith
William Bruggeman
Marc Feinberg
Allyn Schneider
James Fargher

Absent

Larry Meisner
Patrick Mitchell

Ex-Officio Members

Present

Andy Kinghorn
Kim Jones
Van Willis

Absent

Scott Liggett

Beaufort County Staff

Josh Gruber
Eric Larson
David Wilhelm
Rebecca Baker
Melissa Allen
Carolyn Wallace
Chad Stanley
Rob McFee

Visitors

Alice Howard, County Council District 4
Alan Warren, USCB WQL
Neil Pugliese, City of Beaufort
Lamar Taylor, City of Beaufort

1. Meeting called to order – Don Smith

A. Agenda – Approved with modification.

- 6D – SC170 Drainage Issues to be rescheduled for June 21st meeting.

B. April 19, 2017 Minutes - Approved.

2. Introductions – Completed.

3. Public Comment(s) – None.

4. **Reports** – Mr. Eric Larson and Mr. David Wilhelm 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/2017/051717.pdf>

A. **Utility Update** – Eric Larson

In reference to item #3, Mr. Eric Larson explained that there is a new process for reviewing and approving Enterprise Funds for FY18, which applies to the proposed Stormwater budget.

B. Monitoring Update – Eric Larson

Please reference the report which is included in the posted agenda. No additional updates.

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

Please reference the report which is included in the posted agenda. No additional updates.

D. Stormwater Related Projects – Eric Larson

In reference to item #2 Mr. Larson indicated that he met with Mr. York Glover, representative for District 3 St. Helena, and went over the status of different projects.

E. Professional Contracts Report – Eric Larson

Please reference the report which is included in the posted agenda. No additional updates.

F. Regional Coordination – Eric Larson

Mr. Larson explained that the chart and map mentioned in item #3 are for informational purposes. The chart provides a summary of design standards for various jurisdictions in Beaufort and Jasper Counties. In response to a question, Mr. Larson explained that the black outlined area on the map is the MS4 boundary and it will be discussed later during agenda item 6C.

Mr. Andy Kinghorn asked about Battery Creek Pond (item #2). Mr. Larson explained there appears to be a seepage problem in the weir and some type of impediment in the outflow structure. The County is doing a maintenance check to identify and correct any issues and is working on drafting an operations and maintenance manual for the project between the County and City of Beaufort.

G. Municipal Reports – Eric Larson

Mr. Van Willis mentioned that the Town of Port Royal is wrapping up four small projects related to the wetlands.

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

Mr. Larson noted that items #3 and #7 will be discussed under item 6C MS4 Resolution by Permit.

I. Maintenance Projects Report – David Wilhelm

Mr. David Wilhelm noted that there were only four minor projects completed for May. He indicated that next month the County will be reporting on three major projects (HWY 278 ponds, Salem Dr. East, and Gamecock Way) that are close to completion.

J. Financial Report – Carolyn Wallace

Mrs. Carolyn Wallace provided a brief overview of the revenue and expenditures which are noted on the FY 2016 actuals provided. A question was asked about the capital improvement fund.

In response to questions from board members: Mrs. Wallace clarified that \$104,000 is not the balance of the capital improvement fund, but the amount of the CIP fund reserve transferred to fund the CIP efforts. She explained that the County purchases aerial photography out of the general fund every other year; however, the utility needs to view

updated aerials yearly during the tax run so this expense is budgeted from the utility fund on the off years. Mrs. Wallace explained that the contingency fund doesn't roll over to the next FY; it is kept in reserve utilization funds.

Mr. Larson reported that approximately \$496K was the FY16 balance for capital improvements and the current balance is around \$1,665,000, \$500,000 of which is in reserve so the balance of the fund is \$1.1 million. The numbers look deceiving as the utility will not receive any more revenue until December and Hurricane Matthew put us behind schedule on some projects.

5. Unfinished Business – None.

6. New Business

A. Special Presentation: Boundary Street Project – Mr. Neal Pugliese gave an overview of the Boundary Street project and the areas impacted by and involved in the reconstruction of Boundary Street. He explained the objectives, key players and challenges of the project. The new stormwater installation is 80% complete and the overall progress of the project is noted to be at 58% complete.

Mr. Andy Kinghorn asked about the stormwater enhancements specific to the Boundary Street project, to include a depressed median. Mr. Pugliese indicated that the depressed median is no longer part of the design and that he could have additional information prepared to be presented at a later date, if the Board is interested in the stormwater design details.

Mr. Don Smith addressed a question regarding the water quality issues that have been found in the upper end of the Battery Creek as a result of runoff from Boundary Street. He mentioned that stormceptor systems have been installed at the outfalls going into Battery Creek.

[The Boundary Street Project presentation is attached to the minutes.](#)

B. Discussion to Consider Reviewing Rate Structure Related to Agriculture and Silviculture – Discussion took place about the following:

- Why silviculture is different from crop agriculture in regard to how fees are assessed.
- Staff recommending the results of two reports (ATM & Raftelis) that were presented during the last board meeting.
- Nemours appeal failing due to lack of motion or recommendation by the board and Gary Kubic's decision to uphold staff's determination.
- Whether or not the financial impact of all silviculture and cropland has been viewed individually.
- Ways in which stormwater fees are assessed throughout the country and current fee trends found throughout the country and other communities within South Carolina.
- The use of assumed run off factors to calculate stormwater fees for silviculture and agriculture land.
- Silviculture grow back and maturity timeline to determine an average assumed runoff factor.
- Agriculture land being protected from future rate increases by the 2009 law.
- Why there is not a weighted average or separation in disturbed and undisturbed on a parcel and why it is classified as one or the other.
- When a property can be reclassified as undisturbed.
- What prompts staff to review parcels.

- Property owners ability to request a review of their parcel.

As a result of the discussion, no additional actions were taken.

C. MS4 Resolution by Permit – Mr. Larson explained that the 2015 Resolution to apply for an MS4 permit would be amended to become Countywide rather than the MS4 area only, referenced by the black line on the map provided in the packet. The advantage would be an expedited process for the development community when dealing with DHEC and the County in the permitting process.

The board voted unanimously (5:0) to accept the amendment to the Resolution proposed for the MS4 Permit by Rule.

D. SC170 Drainage Issues

This agenda item was removed from the agenda and rescheduled for the June 21, 2017 Stormwater Utility Board meeting.

E. Stormwater MOA for Monitoring and IDDE – Mr. Larson explained that the County and Town of Bluffton both have an obligation to monitor outfalls and it was discovered that both parties were sampling at the same time in four locations. The County and Town of Bluffton have agreed to divide testing in these identified locations and share the results. The MS4 permit requires a written agreement to delegate authority; therefore, the MOA will cover this requirement and allow one party to test in the identified shared areas on behalf of the other.

The board voted unanimously (5:0) to approve the MOA between Beaufort County and the Town of Bluffton.

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

The board voted unanimously (5:0) to retain Mr. Don Smith as Chairman and Allyn Schneider as Vice Chairman.

7. Public Comment(s) – None.

8. Executive Session

A motion was made to go into Execution Session. The Board unanimously (5:0) approved to go into Executive Session.

9. Matters Arising Out of Executive Session – None.

10. Next Meeting Agenda – Approved with additions.

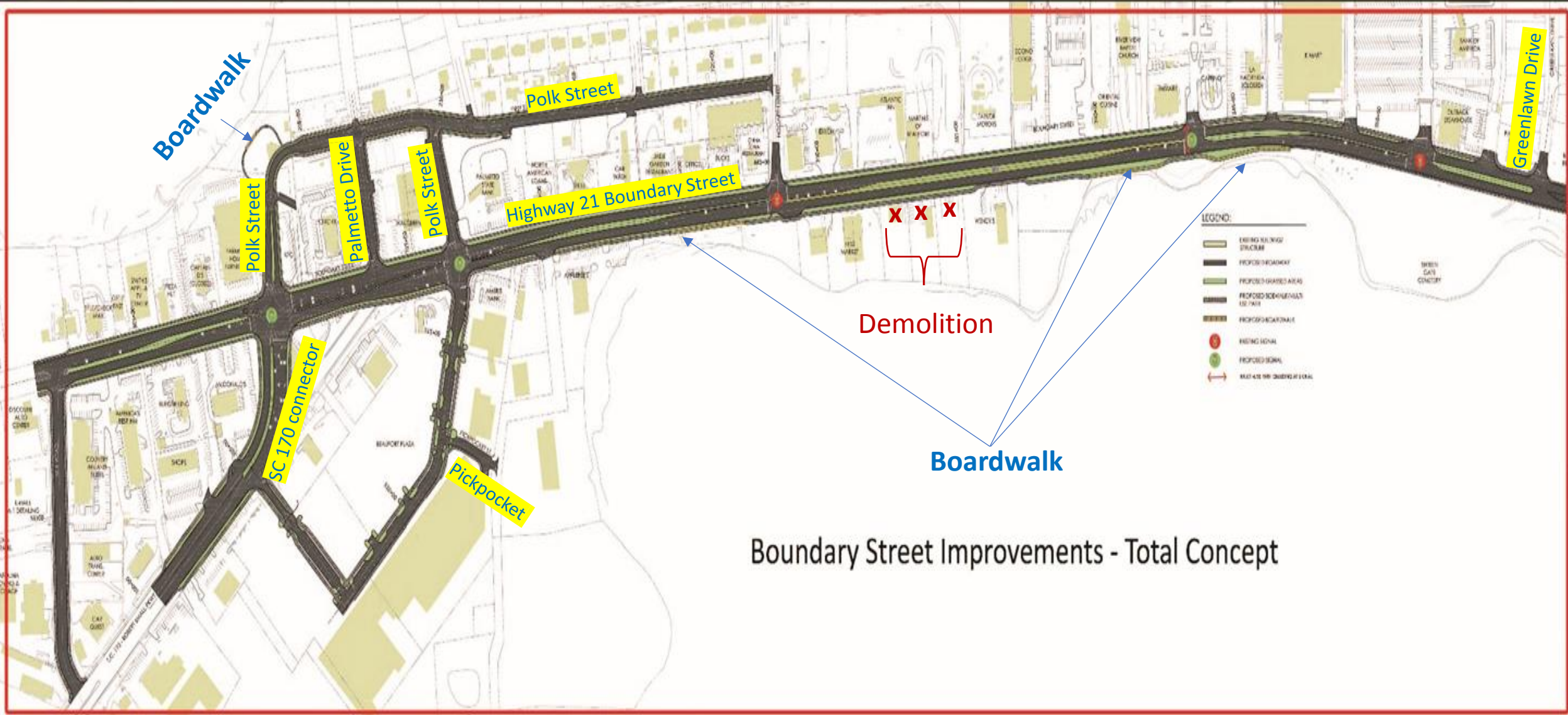
Addition for June 21st

- 6B – SC170 Drainage Issues

11. Meeting Adjourned



Boundary Street Project





Objectives

- Improve Safety & Traffic Flow
- Re-locate utility network below ground
- Create a gateway entrance (Improved scenery)
- Promote business redevelopment
- Balance vehicles & pedestrian traffic (4 Boardwalks)



Key Players (14)

- US Government (FHWA)
- SCDOT
- Beaufort County
- City of Beaufort
- Preferred Materials Incorporated (Prime Contractor)
- Infrastructure Consulting Engineering (Engineering)
- Alpha Marine (Boardwalk)
- Barnett (Ducting & Storm Drainage)
- Southern Concrete (Concrete)
- Roebuck (Signal & Lighting)
- SCE&G – Electric & Gas
- Hargray Communications
- CenturyLink Communications
- BJWSA



Fun Facts

- 2.0 (+) mile long project
 - Includes Pickpocket, Polk Street, SC 170, Hwy 21 (Boundary)
- 2.7 miles of duct bank with 40 miles of conduit to house underground utilities
- 6.1 miles of curbing
- 2.75 miles cabling on the boardwalk
- Directly affects 100 parcels within the corridor
- 20,850 tons of asphalt
- 7 signals
- Funding Sources:
 - Federal Tiger Grant 12,635,000
 - County Sales Tax 11,346,115
 - COB TIF II 8,223,000
 - Beaufort County Road Impact fees 1,369,243
 - **Total 33,573,358**



Progress to date

- South side duct bank completed & utilities converted underground
- North side duct bank about half way completed
- New storm water installation 80% complete
- All new mast arms have been installed
- Polk Street substantially completed (Final asphalt to be applied)
- 58 % total project complete
- Project substantially on budget
- Engineering will commence on Pickpocket shortly



Projected Progress

- North side duct bank completed in Summer 17'
- All traffic signals energized in Summer 17'
- SC 170 connector completed Summer 17'
- Polk Street connector (Chick-fil-A) completed Summer 17'
- Center median construction Fall 17'
- Substantial project completion Winter 18'



Challenges

- Duct bank completion & business disruptions
 - Business viability during construction
- Conversion of overhead utilities into the duct bank & aerial pole removal
- Connecting utility service to businesses from the duct bank
- Center median construction
- Demolition of Huddle House, Old Fire Station & Sea Eagle
- Completion of the Boardwalk
- Socializing drivers to the traffic pattern (limited U turns)
- **Availability of a qualified workforce**



Summary

- The Boundary Street Project is an incredibly complex undertaking involving 14 key players & not including many subcontractors.
- Given the size, scope & impact probably the most ambitious undertaking by this small municipality has ever committed.
- Projections indicate business development will be kickstarted once construction is substantially completed
 - The COB comprises, principally, a working class population that will benefit long term from this project.