

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

June 12, 2019 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

William Bruggeman
Marc Feinberg
James Clark
Patrick Mitchell
Allyn Schneider
Steven Andrews

Absent

James Fargher

Ex-Officio Members

Present

Neil Desai
Kim Jones
Van Willis

Absent

Scott Liggett

Beaufort County Staff

Eric Larson
Melissa Allen
Katie Herrera
Daniel Rybak

Visitors

Alice Howard, County Council
Denise Parsick, Beaufort Conservation District
York Glover, County Council
Alan Warren, USCB
Chris Marsh, Lowcountry Institute

1. Meeting called to order – William Bruggeman

- A. Agenda – Approved.
- B. May 8, 2019 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:

<https://www.beaufortcountysc.gov/stormwater-management-utility-board/agendas/2019/061219.pdf>

A. Utility Update – Eric Larson

An [updated manager report](#) was provided to the board. In reference to item #1 (SoLoCo Regional Board), an extensive update was done at the end of May for the regional stormwater project. The model draft ordinance is ready and in the process of finishing the technical design guide. The regional stormwater design guide will be based on codes from Beaufort and Jasper County, as well as research done on communities with similarities. The commonality is the runoff reduction method, the County calls it “effective imperviousness”. The SoLoCo Regional Board Stormwater Committee is informally partnering with Nature Conservancy, as they are working with Port Royal Sound Foundation on a mapping project

of sensitive waters. They are working to identify areas that should remain undeveloped to protect the environment and water quality. Many efforts being done by both groups were overlapping, so they are discussing commonalities to see where each other's work may be able to help one another. The draft should be ready to go to committee members within the next week. The public draft is scheduled for July. On target for both schedule and cost.

In reference #5, a special presentation on microplastics will be presented in July.

The budget, item #6, received its first reading on Monday (June 10th) and was recommended as presented with the rate increase. Some adjustments had to be made to bond interest, changing the numbers very slightly.

Update for delinquent accounts, item #8. The letters for delinquent federal accounts should be going out soon, as staff has been doing a final review with Auditor's office and legal. The County has been getting some good response [accounts being paid] from some of the state letters that were sent out.

In reference to item #9, the Town of Bluffton has adopted Option E rate structure for billing. All five communities are using the same stormwater utility rate structure, but the fee structures are different. Ms. Kim Jones thanked County staff for working with her.

B. Monitoring Update – Eric Larson

Dr. Alan Warren noted that the lab has been busy doing wet water samples and is caught up for the quarter. The lab also delivered their report from evaluating the Bold and Gold filter that was installed in the Okatie West Pond. They have been studying the pond over the last year to see the efficiency of the bold and gold media. They monitored the water prior to and after passing through the filter. The pond for the first time had zero fecal and zero E.coli bacteria. Water was not allowed to leave the Okatie West BMP nor did water flow into the BMP; shows the benefit of holding water and a considerably long period of time. The report shows the filter media removes total coliform bacteria, but there is concern that it does not decrease total suspended solids and turbidity and that it may contribute to heavy metals.

Mr. Larson commented that Bold and Gold is a research project and that reducing bacteria was successful. He mentioned that himself and Chris Bogdan submitted a paper to APWA for the annual conference and will be presenting results of Bold and Gold filter at the conference next week.

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

Please reference the report, no additional updates.

D. Stormwater Related Projects – Daniel Rybak

In reference to Horse Island, item #2a, staff met with reps of the community on May 14th. As a result of the meeting, the County has prepared a scope of work and gave to the consultant on May 22nd.

Item #2b, area of concern is on the southeast bound ramp where it meets 278. There is erosion under the ramp area. Working on solutions and to see if the work can be done in house or not. Staff met on site with the consultant on June 5th and he is working on a proposal to help evaluate.

Results of Alljoy meeting (item #3), only one property owner was interested in an acquisition. Staff submitted an application for a drainage study in the area to identify flooding and solutions. In response to a question about meeting participation, it was indicated that about 15-16 properties were represented. In response to Mr. Marc Feinberg's comment regarding only one homeowner showing interest, Mr. Rybak explained there are

two applications the County was attempting. One was for acquisition and one was for the study. Mr. Larson clarified that homeowners weren't interested in selling and moving, but they do want the drainage fixed. The study was not in the budget so the County is doing the FEMA grant and will see how to fund the land acquisition once study results are in. Since it appears to be a tidal issue and not stormwater, the County is seeking other funding sources. Alljoy is in Unincorporated Bluffton; Thomas Lawton and Shad are the area of focus.

Mr. Billy Bruggeman asked if Horse Island had been visited since the rain. Mr Rybak and Mr. Larson said no, but mentioned that it has been evaluated on two different occasions. Mr. Larson commented it is more tidally influence.

In reference to item #9, the Lady's Island plan sea level rise and no-fill ordinance committee was held on May 23rd to define a purpose statement.

E. Professional Contracts Report – Daniel Rybak

In reference Salt Creek, staff met on site with the consult on May 31st to review and discuss design elements. The BMP on Kinghorn tract is not viable due to wetland impact. The Ramsey tract BMP is being pursued. In regards to the Shanklin Road project, the Smith tract is not viable due to wetland impact, but moving forward with Roseida Storm drain tract and Shady Oaks Beachwood tract BMP.

Brewer Memorial is at 70% design development not 30%. Staff met with the consultant, Clemson Extension, and Beaufort County Open Land Trust on May 23rd to discuss slope stabilization techniques and landscaping for the BMP and about educational signage.

F. Regional Coordination – Eric Larson

Item #1, found out from BJWSA that no projects were listed in their Capital Plan (referring to one of the extra projects in the May River area that weren't stormwater but water quality related in the budget presentation).

Item #2, Mr. Larson and Mr. Desai are working on an agreement to cost share on a project.

Item #3, the group met on June 11th and Hilton Head has joined, the group is working together to coordinate maintenance.

G. Municipal Reports – Eric Larson

Mr. Desai shared that Mossy Oaks is well underway; clean-up efforts on Jane Way canal were substantially completed as of last week.

Mr. Van Willis shared that the Town of Port Royal has awarded the 12th Street drainage project and that the Cypress Wetlands didn't receive grand funding, but the Town has decided to go forward with that project and will revise the scope of work.

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

Ms. Kim Jones shared a public education effort the Town of Bluffton is doing based on microbial source tracking hits. Related to dog waste reduction, they are doing a post card project. The Town purchased 900 addresses and targeting about 200 residences in this mailing. In reply to a comment about the dog bags the County gave out in the past, she explained there is a link to pledge to "scoop the poop" and the first 50 people to pledge will receive a dog bag clip dispenser through the Town.

Mr. Larson explained the process for Energov software is being developed and is about 18 months to a year out.

Mr. Larson shared an update that SCDHEC is writing a new construction related permit for SCDOT prior to beginning to write the statewide MS4 general permit.

I. Maintenance Projects Report – Eric Larson

Mr. Larson pointed out the two major projects listed in the packet. He explained the Administrative Building is the County’s internal project cost, which does not include the cost for the lining that was done. The Ulmer project was done to upgrade infrastructure to accommodate a dirt road paving project.

Ms. Alice Howard asked about Hamrick Drive and if it has been done. Mr. Larson explained the project in the packet was work that was done a while ago (not current issue).

Mr. Larson commented on the amount of calls that were received because of the rain. He indicated they are being logged, priorities, inspected and scheduled.

5. Unfinished Business – None.

6. New Business –

Ms. Kim Jones shared about Dr. Weinstein, who will be presenting at next month’s meeting. He is with the Citadel and partner with Oceans and Human Health Interactions that was recently established with a grant. Dr. Weinstein is specifically focusing on research regarding stormwater conveyance of tire tread wear that is ending up in the Charleston Harbor in grass shrimp and the risks that may pose.

Mr. Marc Feinberg asked about the stormwater runoff causing erosion under the flyover bridge and if that was bad engineering. Mr. Larson commented that Mr. Rybak was researching plans to see what was designed vs. what was built. The jersey wall has slots to let water out, drop off to ground that has no grass because there is no sun [creating erosion]. Mr. Rybak confirmed it was built per design. The County is asking the consultant to look at a solution, need to fix the source of the problem to eliminate maintenance. The only way to access is to walk down there as the lower clearance is 2-3 feet and need to determine how to access it with equipment or materials to fix. Why the County’s responsibility?; the State maintains the two through lanes and everything associated with the bridge is the County [per MOA agreement]. This is a maintenance need.

Mr. Feinberg asked if stormwater gets to sign off on capital projects, Mr. Larson indicated yes, the department is part of the review process.

7. Public Comment(s) – None.

8. Next Meeting Agenda – Approved.

Addition After #3 Public Comment: Special Presentation – Microplastics and Tire Wear – Dr. John Weinstein

9. Meeting Adjourned



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June 12, 2019

Stormwater Manager's Report for the Stormwater Utility Board Meeting

Utility Update

1. Southern Lowcountry Regional Board (SoLoCo)

a) ~~Nothing new to report~~ Larson reported on the project schedule to the board on May 28th. Below is the update:

a)-

1. Will be sending the April 2019 activities summary to support the invoice soon.

2. Model Ordinance draft ready but being held to release along with the Manual draft.

3. Main focus now is creating content. Staff are adapting requirements from:

i. Washington DC

ii. State of Virginia

iii. State of Georgia Manual and the coastal supplement

iv. SC LID Manual

v. Jasper county is already using parts of the GA manual, so many things from JC will be incorporated.

vi. Beaufort County requirements will be useful in adapting the other sources into a local code.

vii. Bluffton and Hardeeville requirements are also being included in a similar fashion.

0. Nature Conservancy - request to get involved from April SoLoCo meeting.

i. Eric Larson has met with David Bishop and discussed possible synergy.

1. They are partnering with Port Royal Sound Foundation.

2. They look at how lands effect water quality.

3. How SLR is effecting land use.

4. Concern with land conservation.

5. They are concerned how Hardeeville and Ridgeland and Jasper co. will develop.

6. If not done right, more downstream problems in the water, negatively impacting Beaufort County, tax base, etc.

7. They are similar but focused on pushing development to the right spot, save large undeveloped lands, save marsh, etc.

i. Bill Hodges is also going to reach out to David and get his thoughts so that anything of sustenance can be added into the draft document.

ii. It looks as if their mapping effort to locate the high priority land preservation areas and SLR data could be benefical to us in the regional guide to address

areas with flooding concerns to establish additional controls. Results of the conversation are pending.

iii. Coastal Conservation League is convening a stakeholder group to take the TNC mapping effort to the next level and see what can be done to facilitate the partnership with the regional effort and other things. (meeting June 14th.)

5. Discussion on seasonal high groundwater table. CWP plans to "beef up" the requirements. BC current code is vague on what level to calculate. Separation varies by BMP being used. Eric supports more detail.

6. Schedule

i. 2nd week June - committee draft to review.

ii. Mid-July - Public Draft.

iii. On target to complete by the end of September.

0. Cost - on target. On overruns expected at this time.

2. Regionalization

a) Regional Stormwater Design Standard and Model Ordinance Project – ~~Nothing new to report.~~See SoLoCo above. Work continues. Contract extension beyond the Fiscal year is pending.

b) Regionalization of programs – Nothing new to report.

3. Annual Financial report from the Municipalities – Per the Intergovernmental Agreements for the Utility, each year on September 30th, the City and Towns are required to submit a summary of revenue and expenditures for the previous fiscal year.

a) Beaufort County – Received.

b) Town of Hilton Head Island – Received.

c) Town of Bluffton – Received.

d) Town of Port Royal – No response.

e) City of Beaufort – Received.

4. FY 2020 Management fee concurrence letters from the Municipalities – Per the Intergovernmental Agreements for the Utility, each year on April 1st, the City and Towns are required to submit a letter stating their approval of the SWU management fee of the upcoming fiscal year.

a) Beaufort County – Received.

b) Town of Hilton Head Island – No response.

c) Town of Bluffton – Received.

d) Town of Port Royal – No response.

e) City of Beaufort – Received.

5. Special presentations – Staff has begun research on the various topics provided by the Board for future meetings:

a) Military Site's Stormwater management – A site to the Naval Hospital is still pending.

b) The following were suggested as possible topics during the May 8th meeting: microplastics and tire tread. This topic will be at the July meeting.

6. FY 2020 Budget – The proposed budget was presented to County Council's Finance

Committee on May 28, 2019. It included the proposed rate increase from \$87 to \$100. First reading of the budget will be at the County Council meeting on June 10, 2019; second reading at a special called meeting on June 17, 2019; Third/Final reading on June 24, 2019.

7. Military installation and other State and Federal properties SWU fees – See “Delinquent Accounts” below.
8. Delinquent accounts - County legal prepared letters and sent them out to multiple state agencies. Some state agencies have remitted payment. County legal has prepared letters on the federal accounts and the letters and documentation is being reviewed by all appropriate departments. Once the review is complete, legal plans to send the letters soon.

(State and Federal accounts make up approx. 97%-98% of the delinquent account value of approx. \$7 million on our ledger)

9. TY 2019 tax run – The Town of Bluffton has adopted the Option E rate structure (3 components including an administrative fee, gross area charge, and impervious area charge) and now the County and all four of the Municipalities are using the same rate structure. The town’s rate remains the same. Stormwater and GIS staff are working on the transition. Staff continues to work on reviewing account data for the next tax run.

Monitoring Update

1. Lab Update (From Dr. Alan Warren and Lab Manager Danielle Mickel)
 - i. No information was available at the time of this report.

Stormwater Implementation Committee (SWIC) Report

1. The SWIC has not met in the last month.

Stormwater Related Projects

1. Easements – Staff is working on numerous easement requests and meets monthly to review status. Several condemnations are still being pursued using outside legal counsel.
2. Complaints – Staff continually works numerous drainage related complaints each month.
 - a) Staff met with representative of the Horse Island Community. The neighborhood has requested assistance with roadside drainage conveyance improvements, road overtopping and pond outfall upgrades. The County is preparing a scope of work for the consultant and will receive a quote for design services to improve drainage and conveyance in the area.
 - a)b) Flyover bridge preventative maintenance and deferred maintenance repairs – Staff is working with a consultant to get a quote for engineering recommendations on a wash out problem under the east bound terminus ramp.

Crew is also working on scheduling some deferred maintenance needs.

3. Alljoy subwatershed flooding – Release of the RFQ and funding are still pending. Public Meeting was held on May 9, 2019 to discuss the FEMA grant acquisition process and proposed flood mitigation project concept/objectives. Only one property owner expressed interest to participate. As a result, grant application is now focused on drainage study and design/construction solution to reduce the risk of flood in area. Met with SC Emergency Management office for assistance with FEMA grant application submittal that was due on May 31, 2019. Hazard Mitigation Grant funding application submitted to South Carolina Emergency Management Division on May 31, 2019.
4. Factory Creek Watershed Regional Detention Basin “Phase I” & Academy Park Subdivision (Design Cost \$49,873, Tree Mitigation Cost \$18,200 & \$18,200, Construction Cost by the Developer) – No additional update at this time.
5. Factory Creek Watershed Regional Detention Basin “Phase II” (Design Cost = \$63,390, Tree Mitigation Cost is pending, Construction Cost by the Developer) – No additional update at this time.
6. Graves Property / Pepper Hall Public / private partnership – No additional update at this time.
7. Whitehall property purchase – No additional update at this time.
8. US 278 “super street” widening on Jenkins Island (Windmill Harbor area) – No update at this time.
9. Lady’s Island Plan, Sea Level Rise, and “no-fill” ordinance – The Community Development Department recently completed a comprehensive land use study of the Lady’s Island area, which involved much citizen input. Two of the recommendations were to consider the future effects of Sea Level Rise and the possibility of a no-fill ordinance to prevent marsh and wetland loss. Staff will be participating in a committee to address these two concepts in the upcoming months. The committee met May 23rd to define a purpose statement. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 18.

Professional Contracts Report

1. CIP FY 18 Grouping Stormwater Projects – (Design - Ward Edwards \$202,000, Andrews Engineering \$560,490, Const. est. \$5,512,900) – All projects are in early design phase.
 - a) Salt Creek and Shanklin Road – Reviewed Consultants preliminary design memorandum and provided comment/direction for 30% design development drawings.
 - b) Brewer Memorial – Reviewed Consultants preliminary design memorandum and provided comment/direction for 30% design development drawings.
2. Evergreen Regional Pond 319 grant project – (Design=\$89,286, Construction=\$590,000.

Grant=\$229,124) – Reviewed Consultants preliminary design memorandum and provided comment/direction for 30% design development drawings.

Regional Coordination

1. Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County Joint meetings on Sanitary Sewer in the May River watershed – No additional update at this time.
2. Mossy Oaks Task Force – (Design \$20,404, Construction \$205,000; County portions only). See Municipal Reports.
3. Charleston Area MS4 managers group – This group did not meet this month.
4. Bluffton Ditch Task Force – This group ~~did not meet this month~~met June 11, 2019.
5. May River watershed modeling – See municipal reports for more information.
6. The Nature Conservancy – ~~No additional update at this time~~See SoLoCo update above.

Municipal Reports

1. Town of Hilton Head Island (From Jeff Netzinger, Stormwater Manager and Brian Eber, MS4 Coordinator)
 - i. [See attached report.](#)
2. Town of Bluffton (From Kim Jones, Watershed Management Division Director)
 - i. [See attached report.](#)
3. City of Beaufort (From Neil Desai, Asst. Public Works Director)
 - i. [See attached report.](#)
4. Town of Port Royal (From Van Willis, Town Manager and Tony Maglione, consultant)
 - i. No information was available at the time of this report.

MS4 Report

1. Plan Review – [See the attached chart](#) for Beaufort County Stormwater staff plan review workload for the past 12 months.
2. Stormwater Permits – [See the attached chart](#) for Beaufort County Stormwater permits issued for the past 12 months.

3. Monthly Inspection summary - [See the attached chart](#) for Beaufort County Stormwater staff inspection, complaint, IDDE, and violations summary for the past 12 months.
4. Weather Station Data. [See attached chart.](#)
5. Public Education – Lowcountry Stormwater Partners (LSP), via Carolina Clear, continues to work on several initiatives towards public education and outreach. No additional updates are available at this time.
6. Energov permitting software – Stormwater department is finalizing all necessary documentation required by the Energov team. From there Energov will begin developing the work flow based on what has been provided to them.
7. MS4 Statewide General permit – ~~No update at this time~~At the quarterly SCASM meeting in Columbia on June 6, 2019, DHEC staff stated they would begin work on this permit upon completion of the renewal of the SCDOT general construction permit and the statewide general permit. No work has begun at this point.
8. Statewide General permit for Construction – Comments were submitted to DHEC prior to the June 3rd deadline. DHEC staff provided a summary of change to the SCASM meeting on June 6th.
9. Monitoring Location Maps. [See attached maps.](#)