

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

August 14, 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
James Clark
Steven Andrews
James Fargher

Absent

Marc Feinberg
Patrick Mitchell
Allyn Schneider

Ex-Officio Members

Present

Neil Desai
Scott Liggett
Kim Jones

Absent

Van Willis

Beaufort County Staff

Daniel Rybak
Melissa Allen
Katie Herrera
Patty Wilson
Amber Woods

Visitors

Chris Marsh, Low Country Institute
Alice Howard, County Council
York Glover, County Council
Alan Warren, USCB
Danielle Mickel, USCB
Kacen Bayless, Island Packet
Auggie Martinez, Citizen
Taylor Kellis, Citizen
Nicole Soergel, Citizen
John Luplen, Citizen,
Frank Roberts, Citizen
Ellen Sturup Comeau, Clemson Extension

1. Meeting called to order – William Bruggeman

- A. Agenda – Approved.
- B. July 10, 2019 Minutes – Approved.
- C. Mr. Bruggeman shared that Mr. Eric Larson, Stormwater Manager for the last 5.5 years resigned effective August 2nd and Beaufort County Administrator, Ms. Ashley Jacobs appointed Daniel Rybak as the Interim Stormwater Director effective August 12, 2019.

2. Introductions – Completed.

3. Public Comment(s) – None.

4. Reports – Mr. Daniel Rybak 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/2019/081419.pdf>

Mr. Daniel Rybak thanked Mr. Eric Larson for this service to the Board and the Beaufort County citizens.

A. Utility Update – Daniel Rybak

In reference to item #1, the draft of the regional standard and design ordinance has been received. The current schedule for completion is included in the packet and the schedule represents an extension of time to December 31. The extension will be presented to Natural Resources Committee. Hope that each participating jurisdictions will adopt the policy documents for implementation.

In reference to special presentations (item #3), two suggestions are Center for Watershed is available to do an update on the regional standards and model ordinance or DHEC regarding the Able property.

B. Monitoring Update – Daniel Rybak

Dr. Allen Warren mentioned there was a concern about the stormwater retention pond in the County Admin parking lot. It is constructed to control the rate of water flowing into the marshes of Battery Creek and some benefit from water quality. Took a look at it and measured total coliform bacteria and E.coli (sewer, pond and to the marshes). Saw opposite of what you want to see where the sewer is cleaner than the pond.

C. Stormwater Implementation Committee (SWIC) Report – Daniel Rybak

Please reference the report, no additional updates.

D. Stormwater Related Projects – Daniel Rybak

In reference to Horse Island, discussed preliminary design and costs with County Administrator and Council Member for the area and awaiting direction. The Flyover Bridge, maintenance of stormceptor BMPs placed SWM maintenance crew schedule and the contract with JMT is pending legal review/approval.

With regards to the Graves property, a meeting took place onsite on July 31st to discuss how to best use the existing ponds on the property as part of the stormwater management.

E. Professional Contracts Report – Daniel Rybak

Please reference the report, no additional updates from the report.

F. Regional Coordination – Daniel Rybak

Item #1, County staff met with BJWSA and Town of Bluffton and BJWA presented their four year and 10 year CIP plan. They identified the projects noted in the report, they are total construction cost estimates. Ms. Kim Jones said the Old Town Gravity Sewer has been incorporated in the Town of Bluffton's 5 year CIP plan and planned to be done within the next three fiscal years.

Mr. Desai shared that Mossy Oaks Task Force met with regulatory agencies. They got some direction with the permitting process and timelines; the goal is to apply for many nationwide permits as they have a shorter timeframe for review.

In reference to May River watershed modeling, Ms. Jones mentioned that data collection is being done by McComick Taylor, consultant, estimated to have a draft of the watershed model toward the end of the calendar year.

G. Municipal Reports – Daniel Rybak

Ms. Jones shared that the Beach Sweep/River Sweep will be taking place on September 21st.

H. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4 Update) – Daniel Rybak

Mr. Rybak pointed out two large rain events can be seen in the weather report and commented that BC Connect resulted from them.

Ms. Ellen Comeau shared that the Pond Conference is taking place on November 14th from 9-4. Save the date was included on the last Changing Tides e-newsletter. In reply to a comment she mentioned the general audience is for HOA representatives, citizens, pond owners, and pond managers.

Mr. Billy Bruggeman suggested moving the Able Site to New Business and the Board approved the agenda with this change for the August 14, 2019, as there was now a quorum. Also, the Board approved the July 10th meeting minutes as presented.

I. Maintenance Projects Report – Daniel Rybak

Please reference the report, no additional updates.

5. Unfinished Business – None.

6. New Business – Able Site – The County is aware of the situation and performed monitoring out there. Between Jasper County, DHEC and EPA they are working on the fire situation and site clean-up; things are moving in a positive direction.

Mr. Bruggeman suggested that the board take a strong stance and is supporting the staff and that staff continues to do what needs to be done in a stormwater perspective. In response to a comment about doing something to prevent the water from coming through the ditch into the Okatie River, Mr. Rybak expressed that the County is actively involved as they share concerns, but this is outside the County's jurisdiction. The run off is entering the Okatie. Impacts are being evaluated and the bacteria and metals levels are being monitored. Mr. Rybak shared that the TMDL of concern in the Okatie is bacteria. The County reached out to DHEC to inform them that it is a watershed of concern and this offsite drainage, out of the County's control, is affecting the water and potentially the permit [MS4 permit].

Mrs. Katie Herrera shared that there is a EPA mobile command is out there, monitoring air quality for residents, as well as there is an elementary school a mile down the road. She was told (but didn't see herself) that the water is being pumped towards the back of the property. She commented that the water is flowing black off to the left (wraps around the shopping district).

Ms. Jones asked Dr. Warren about the effectiveness of the Bold and Gold in knocking down bacteria. Dr. Warren commented approximately a 75% reduction in bacteria.

Dr. Warren commented that the outfall at 170 (being around ¼ mile to ½ mile to the Okatie) doesn't necessarily mean that is entering the Okatie. He mentioned that a lot can happen between 170 and the headwaters of the Okatie (bacteria concentrations could decrease or increase).

Mr. Rybak mentioned that instructions to them is limit the amount of water that leaves the site and water that does leave has some type of filtering treatment system on it. Mr. Rybak will relay concerns.

7. Public Comment(s) – Mr. Auggie Martinez, Beaufort County resident for the past 37 years, brought the proposed RV Park in the Okatie area to the attention of the board. There is a petition with close to 2,000 signatures in opposition. Asking for assistance to help protect the Okatie River watershed. Mr. Martinez explained that he understands bacteria levels are rising and that there are some failing septic systems in the area of the proposed RV Park. Would like to see baseline testing in the area and a system in place to test if a stormwater system is designed, build, and

verified to be working according to what is promised by the developer. Would like to see steps taken to protect the Okatie watershed.

8. Next Meeting Agenda – Approved with Addition.

Discussion took place about having a special presentation by DHEC regarding the Able site or by Center for Watershed to provide an update on the Regional Stormwater Design Standard and Model Ordinance draft if they are available.

Addition to New Business: Special Presentation – TBD.

9. Meeting Adjourned