

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

November 13, 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
Steven Andrews
James Fargher
Patrick Mitchell
Allyn Schneider
James Clark

Absent

Marc Feinberg

Ex-Officio Members

Present

Neil Desai
Scott Liggett
Van Willis

Absent

Kim Jones

Beaufort County Staff

Daniel Rybak
Melissa Allen
Katie Herrera
Amber Woods

Visitors

Bill Baugher, Town of Bluffton
Bridgette Noonan, Town of Bluffton
Jeff Netzinger, Town of Hilton Head
Alan Warren, USCB
Alice Howard, County Council
Ellen Sturup Comeau, Clemson Extension

1. Meeting called to order – William Bruggeman

- A. Agenda – Approved.
- B. October 9, 2019 Minutes – Approved.

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/2019/111319.pdf>

A. Utility Update – Daniel Rybak

In reference to item #1, the committee met on October 16th to discuss comments made it through the ordinance and a quarter of the way through the design manual. A second meeting was held on November 6th to continue review on comments with another meeting scheduled for November 18th. Mr. Billy Bruggeman asked if there had been many comments. Mr. Dan Rybak replied there have been comments about approach and application and very positive discussion.

Regarding special presentations, DHEC has agreed to present on the Able Site during the December meeting.

In regards to the 2019 tax run, a meeting was held on October 28th with the Assessor's office and GIS to discuss the work process and how to improve

New item, the annual financial reports are due from the municipalities when available per the IGA.

B. Monitoring Update – Daniel Rybak

Dr. Allen Warren commented that sufficient rain fall is needed and the lab is ready. The lab is purchasing more equipment to outfit a Northern and Southern Beaufort County Lab.

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

Please reference the report, no additional updates.

D. Stormwater Related Projects – Daniel Rybak

In reference to 2c, a Shell Hall Community meeting was held on October 29th with Alice Howard and constituents to discuss drainage and flooding issues. A follow up meeting is planned to take place in January.

Item #3, Alljoy, hazard mitigation grant application has been denied.

Item #9, Lady's Island Plan/Sea Level Rise, the committee met on October 8th and 29th to discuss comments on the draft ordinance.

E. Professional Contracts Report – Daniel Rybak

In reference to 1A, Salt Creek and Shanklin Road, a 30% design meeting was held with consultant on November 5th.

Brewer Memorial project, staff is in the process of trying to get an easement to tie into an existing storm drain system to divert runoff into a pond.

F. Regional Coordination – Daniel Rybak

In reference to Mossy Oaks, Mr. Neil Desai shared that the City has received preliminary comments from some of the regulatory agencies and started coordination efforts with BJWSA about the project and the potential impacts to utilities at the two outfalls on the Spanish Moss Trail.

G. Municipal Reports – Daniel Rybak

Please reference the report, no additional updates.

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

Mr. Rybak briefly went over the MS4 activity comparisons and rainfall charts. He stated that Ellen provided the Lowcounty Stormwater Partners annual report on November 4th. Ms. Ellen Sturup Comeau shared that she hosted a Healthy Ponds Workshop, two Carolina Yard workshops, six Kids in Kayaks programs, and submitted the Annual report. She commented that even though the report was for a shorter reporting period, the numbers [impacts] improved. Ms. Sturup Comeau commented that there are 80 participants signed up for the Pond Conference tomorrow. [LSP Report Attached.](#)

Mr. Rybak shared that the department met with the Energov representative to review the preliminary work flow for permitting. In regards to the Able site, he commented that DHEC has agreed to present next month. Mrs. Katie Herrera shared that she met with DHEC last

Thursday and that Beaufort County does continue to sample. DHEC has also implemented a comprehensive monitoring plan.

I. Maintenance Projects Report – Daniel Rybak

Mr. Rybak shared that next meeting Superintendent Matt Rausch will be delivering the report. Major Project was completed at the Beaufort County Administration Building and has been reported on.

5. Unfinished Business – None.

6. New Business –

Mr. Neil Desai shared this is his last meeting representing the City of Beaufort. As of Monday he will be the Public Works Director for Beaufort County. Nate Farrow will be the new representative for the Stormwater Utility Board.

Dr. Alan Warren shared that he was thinking about the effort that Town of Bluffton is put in for bacterial source typing to identify failing septic systems. It made him think about Morgan's Island (Monkey Island) with 4,000 free rein monkeys and their waste. He monitored E.coli around Monkey Island and there are astronomically high numbers which was anticipated. He commented there are oyster harvesting sites not far from the island and is not sure whose issue this is.

Dr. Warren mentioned he made a request to the County for the vac-truck on St Helena, taking a lead from the State of California. He explained that the State of California look at the debris and trash collected from the catch basins with vacuum trucks to establish a baseline. He asked Matt if the crew could dump the debris and trash they collect in an area so the lab could examine it qualitatively and quantitatively. They are doing it for trash collected from St Helena last Friday and for Lady's Island that will be collected this Friday and make a comparison between the two. The lab will count and look at the volume of plastics, cigarette butts, styrofoam, food containers, etc. to see what the debris and trash issues are in the County and how effective those catch basins are in keeping it out of the waterways.

Mr. Rybak asked if it is vac-truck only or does it include the sweeper truck. Dr. Warren replied he would like for it to include both, but it is a new initiative. He commented it is not limited to the vac-truck he'd like to see what a sweeper truck comes up with. Ms. Comeau asked if the initiate would continue over the summer months to see if the visitors affect the trash generated. He commented he is not opposed to doing that.

7. Public Comment(s) – None.

8. Next Meeting Agenda – Approved with addition.

Addition to New Business – Special Presentation by DHEC

9. Meeting Adjourned

Lowcountry Stormwater Partners (LSP) Stormwater Utility Board Monthly Report
9/30/19 - 11/12/19

Stormwater outreach/involvement activities completed:

- Healthy Ponds Workshop
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau presented to homeowners on the basics of stormwater pond function, design, maintenance, and potential solutions to common issues. This workshop is being offered for the residents of the Indigo Run Plantation per the request of the property manager.
 - 10/1/19, Hilton Head, 15
- Cultivating a Carolina Yard: Part 1
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau gave the first part of her Carolina Yard workshop, which teaches homeowners sustainable landscaping practices with a watershed-friendly focus. This offering will focus on building healthy soil, nutrient management, and stormwater runoff. This workshop is being offered for the residents of the Indigo Run Plantation per the request of the property manager.
 - 10/3/19, Hilton Head, 12
- LSP Newsletter
 - An informative publication for the general public with a small article on a stormwater topic and information on past, current, and future events.
 - 10/11/19, online, 90
- Carolina Yards Overview
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau presented an overview of the Clemson Extension Carolina Yards program as part of the OLLI program. The Carolina Yards program teaches homeowners sustainable landscaping practices with a watershed-friendly focus.
 - 10/4/19, Bluffton, 34
- Kids in Kayaks
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau provided enviroscape demonstrations as part of The Outside Foundation's Kids in Kayaks program. The Kids in Kayaks program connects 7th graders to the natural world using science curriculum and hands-on activities.
 - 10/8/19, Hilton Head, 50
- Kids in Kayaks
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau provided enviroscape demonstrations as part of The Outside Foundation's Kids in Kayaks program. The Kids in Kayaks program connects 7th graders to the natural world using science curriculum and hands-on activities.
 - 10/17/19, Hilton Head, 32
- Kids in Kayaks
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau provided enviroscape demonstrations as part of The Outside Foundation's Kids in Kayaks program. The Kids in Kayaks program connects 7th graders to the natural world using science curriculum and hands-on activities.
 - 10/18/19, Hilton Head, 32
- LSP Annual Report Draft
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau had a draft of the 2019 LSP Annual Report to community partners for their comment and review.
 - 10/21/19, none
- Port Royal Oktoberfest
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau and Laura Lee Rose will table for Clemson Extension and the Lowcountry Stormwater Partners at the Port Royal Oktoberfest. Ellen had

- information on rain gardens, rain barrels, and water-wise gardens and Laura Lee had water-loving native plants for sale.
 - 10/26/19, Port Royal, 100+
- Making It Grow
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau was a panelist on SCETV's Emmy-award winning series, Making It Grow. She was interviewed about shoreline erosion and the upcoming pond conference.
 - 10/29/19, Statewide
- Kids in Kayaks
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau provided enviroscape demonstrations as part of The Outside Foundation's Kids in Kayaks program. The Kids in Kayaks program connects 7th graders to the natural world using science curriculum and hands-on activities.
 - 11/1/19, Bluffton, 28
- LSP Annual Report
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau submitted a final draft of the 2019 LSP Annual Report.
 - 11/4/2019, none
- Kids in Kayaks
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau provided enviroscape demonstrations as part of The Outside Foundation's Kids in Kayaks program. The Kids in Kayaks program connects 7th graders to the natural world using science curriculum and hands-on activities.
 - 11/5/19, Bluffton, 38
- Making It Grow
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau was a guest host on SCETV's Emmy-award winning series, Making It Grow. She managed the Facebook livestream as well as fielded the panel questions on sustainable landscaping.
 - 11/5/19, Statewide
- Beaufort County 4-H Homeschooling Group
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau led the homeschooler's 4-H group in a science-based curriculum regarding the natural world and food chains.
 - 11/6/19, Beaufort, 12
- Kids in Kayaks
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau provided enviroscape demonstrations as part of The Outside Foundation's Kids in Kayaks program. The Kids in Kayaks program connects 7th graders to the natural world using science curriculum and hands-on activities.
 - 11/7/19, Bluffton, 29

Stormwater outreach/involvement activities planned to take place:

- LSP Newsletter
 - An informative publication for the general public with a small article on a stormwater topic and information on past, current, and future events.
 - 11/28/19, online, 90
- 2019 Beaufort Area Stormwater Pond Conference
 - The 2019 Beaufort Area Stormwater Pond Management Conference will provide a forum to give the latest information, resources, and tools on stormwater pond management for the Lowcountry community. Topics include a plenary session, the current state of the knowledge on stormwater ponds, integrated pest management, aquatic weed management, wildlife habitat, sea level rise, and upland management. The conference is a partnership between Clemson Extension, S.C. SeaGrant Consortium, SC Dept. of Natural Resources, and the ACE Basin NERR Coastal Training Program.

- 11/14/19, Beaufort
- LSP Consortium Meeting
 - The LSP will meet with its partners and discuss current and upcoming events.
 - 11/19/19, Okatie
- Stormwater and the Saltmarsh presentation
 - Ellen Sturup Comeau will give this presentation to the Lowcountry Master Gardener Association on how stormwater works and how it affects the environment in Beaufort County as well as actions that homeowners can take to reduce their stormwater footprint.
 - 11/21/19, Beaufort
- LSP Newsletter
 - An informative publication for the general public with a small article on a stormwater topic and information on past, current, and future events.
 - 12/13/19, online, 90

Other related activities performed/considered:

- LSP 2019-2023 Strategic Plan writing (ongoing)
- 2019 Beaufort Area Stormwater Pond Conference planning (ongoing)
- LSP Annual Report data gathering (complete)