



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

March 10, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Beaufort County Council Chambers, Administration Building, Beaufort County Government  
Robert Smalls Complex, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina and via Webex

### Board Members

#### Present

Allyn Schneider  
James Clark  
Marc Feinberg  
Patrick Mitchell  
Steven Andrews  
Brian Watkins

#### Absent

### Ex-Officio Members

#### Present

#### Absent

Nate Farrow  
Van Willis  
Kim Jones

### Beaufort County Staff

Tiffany Patrick  
Katie Herrera  
Carolyn Wallace

### Visitors

Ellen Sturup Comeau, Clemson Extension  
Jeff Netzinger, Town of Hilton Head  
Alice Howard, County Council  
Bryan Durrance

### 1. Meeting called to order – Marc Feinberg at 2:00 pm

- A. Agenda – Approved
- B. Approval of Minutes – Approved

### 2. Introductions – Completed.

### 3. Public Comment(s) – None.

### 4. Reports

*Reports attached in agenda*

#### **Highlights:**

#### A. Utility Update – Katie Herrera

- ✓ Southern Lowcountry Regional Board (SoLoCo)
  - All project milestones have been reached and the design manual has been completed. Design standards were implemented February 1, 2021.
- ✓ A request was received from Mr. Andrews to present on the Battery Creek watershed and bacteria levels. Katie will present on that at the June board meeting.

- ✓ DHEC will be present at the September meeting to present their annual report summary.
- ✓ The county continues to work on delinquent accounts for the military installations. This is still being handled by the county's legal department.
- ✓ Reminder: Annual Financial report from the Municipalities are due – Per the Intergovernmental Agreements for the Utility, each year on September 30<sup>th</sup>, the City and Towns are required to submit a summary of revenue and expenditures for the previous fiscal year.
  - **Beaufort County** – Waiting on annual financial report, anticipating completion in April.
  - **Town of Hilton Head Island – Received.**
  - **Town of Bluffton – Received.**
  - Town of Port Royal – Not received.
  - City of Beaufort – Not received

**B. Monitoring Update – Katie Herrera**

***Highlights:***

- ✓ Drainage studies for Pepper Hall began.
- ✓ Okatie West Pond Bold and Gold testing results have been unsuccessful due to low bacteria.
- ✓ Port Royal redevelopment and Cypress Wetlands testing continues.

**C. Stormwater Implementation Committee (SWIC) Report – Katie Herrera**

***Highlights:***

- ✓ The annual report memo as well as the management fee memo was submitted to the municipalities. They have until April 1, 2021 to provide concurrence letters.

**D. Stormwater Related Projects – Katie Herrera**

***Highlights:***

- ✓ County staff continues to work on getting easements and meets monthly to review.
- ✓ The flyover bridge permitting and updating of new cost estimates has been completed. Beaufort County will be using the list of contractors under \$15,000 to complete the work.
- ✓ Shell Point Community – County staff will meet with Cranston Engineering on March 12, 2021 to extend the contract until May 31, 2021. The extended contract ensures all project milestones have been completed and the participation of Cranston Engineering in public hearings and meetings.
- ✓ Factory Creek Watershed Regional Detention Basin “Phase I” & Academy Park Subdivision – Construction is complete and ready for close out. Andrews Engineering is scheduled to complete the as-built by the end of March.
- ✓ Factory Creek Watershed Regional Detention Basin “Phase II – Construction has been completed and will only require an easement acquisition.

- ✓ Graves Property – Staff is meeting with developers and owners on a bi-monthly basis to make sure all departments within the county are fully aware of the steps still needed to be taken. Beaufort County has issued the first payment for \$375,000 based on the development agreement requirement to pay 50% of stormwater infrastructure and drainage costs that the developer incurs.
- ✓ Lady’s Island Plan, Sea Level Rise, and “no-fill” ordinance – The committee is working behind the scenes with the Charleston group and Community Development Director, Mr. Rod Merchant to finalize the plan.

**E. Professional Contracts Report – Katie Herrera**

***Highlights:***

- ✓ Salt Creek and Shanklin Road – All necessary permits have been obtained. Beaufort County is still working with DOT. The county is not getting community feedback. After Quarter One of Fiscal Year 2022, if there is no interest by property owners to participate in regional BMPs, they will be taken off the CIP list. The next step is to get the land acquisition lawyer involved to ensure that people are not interested in this project and then move forward.
- ✓ Brewer Memorial – Conditional final SRT approval has been received. The Beaufort County Open Land Trust has approved the plans as designed and the County is awaiting final SRT approval.
- ✓ Evergreen Regional Pond 319 – The final contract has been sent to CBG Incorporated for their signature and then the project can proceed.
- ✓ Stormwater engineering consulting services – Woolpert conducted in house training in February for Beaufort County employees and The Town of Bluffton, The Town of Hilton Head Island, The City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal staff. Woolpert completed a review of the TMDL that is to be written for Capers Creek.

**F. Regional Coordination – Katie Herrera**

***Highlights:***

- ✓ Mossy Oaks Task Force – Completion of construction is rapidly coming to an end for both phases of the project. The engineering analysis has demonstrated that the previous drainage system within that system was not constructed taking the entire area into consideration, this has now been corrected with the new plan. The final project close out is anticipated by late April or early May 2021. The project has been on schedule and on budget.

**G. Municipal Reports – Katie Herrera**

*Reports attached in agenda*

***Highlights:***

*Reports information.*

- ✓ Brian Eber, Town of Hilton Head Island MS4 Coordinator, Bill Bower, Town of Bluffton, and Katie Herrera met mid-February to discuss efforts with MS4 compliance.

- ✓ Town of Hilton Head Island (From Jeff Netzinger, Stormwater Manager)
  - Reports Received
  - Major capital improvements were completed last year overhauling the Jarvis Creek pump station. This fall the same will begin with the Lawton pump station in Sea Pines.
  - Application was submitted for the work on these pump stations with the Municipal Association of South Carolina in the Public Works category. The Town of Hilton Head Island was selected as the winner for that award.
  
- ✓ Town of Bluffton (From Kim Jones, Watershed Management Division Director)
  - Reports Received – attached to the minutes
  
- ✓ City of Beaufort (From Nate Farrow, Public Works Director)
  - No information was available at the time of this report.
  
- ✓ Town of Port Royal (From Van Willis, Town Manager)
  - No information was available at the time of this report.

## **H. MS4 Update – Katie Herrera**

### ***Highlights:***

- ✓ Permits, permit issuance, plan reviews and inspections have not subsided. The County had over 700 inspections last month.
  
- ✓ Rainfall Report – Beaufort County received quite a bit of rain but is not seeing an influx of drainage issues.
  
- ✓ Katie Herrera will be filming with the County Channel at Okatie West Pond to talk about the MS4 program and the history of the EPA and Clean Water Act.
  
- ✓ MS4 Statewide General Permit – Paul Quattlebaum has left DHEC; Beaufort County is anticipating delays on MS4 permits until his position is filled. The statewide general permit for construction was effective as of March 1, 2021. Anything less than one acre is going to receive automatic coverage for the NOI. Construction activities related to public emergency will not require permits to be in place prior to the work being started, they will have 30 days to let the state know that work has begun.
  
- ✓ Education Report - Ellen Sturup Comeau, Clemson Extension
  - Upcoming webinar, Keeping Ponds Healthy with Proactive Management will be held on March 31, 2021. The Clemson Extension water resources team is bringing back the Being a Neighbor for Clean Water webinars. More information can be found on the Facebook page.
  - The first ever rain barrel sale is in the works for this summer.
  - In person events are still limited at this time.

## **I. Maintenance Projects Report – Katie Herrera**

### ***Highlights:***

- ✓ One major project:
  - Buckwalter Parkway – Bluffton (SWUD 4): \$19,934.85
- ✓ Six minor or routine projects:
  - Lady’s Island Bush Hog – Lady’s Island (SWUD 7): \$19,837.48
  - St. Helena Island Vacuum Truck – St. Helena Island (SWUD 8): \$14,738.62
  - Roseida Road – Port Royal Island (SWUD 9): \$4,064.64
  - Chisholm Hill Road Channel #1 – Port Royal Island (SWUD 6): \$3,912.98
  - Bluffton Bush Hog – Bluffton (SWUD 4): \$3,646.15
  - Brickyard Point Road N – Lady’s Island (SWUD 7): \$1,980.68

## **J. Liaison Report – Beaufort County Council - Alice Howard**

### ***Highlights:***

- ✓ The mayors of The City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal have both written letters regarding their opposition to collecting stormwater fees from the military.

## **5. New Business –**

- ✓ Katie Herrera acknowledged Carolyn Wallace’s exemplary work on this year’s Stormwater budget.
- ✓ The budget summary was sent to the board on March 1, 2021. One question was received from Alice Howard regarding the stormwater engineering study of the Shell Point area and whether or not that was included in a category underneath the budget. Results from that study are still pending, once received a task force will be created to oversee that the correct participants are included and that the correct improvements are being funded. It will then be included in the budget. The board has concerns with the tardiness of the reports from Cranston Engineering. Katie stated that it has been noted by Beaufort County as well.
- ✓ FY22 Budget Summary Report –  
*Report attached in agenda*
  - The budget has been entered into the financial system and will be going to County Council for review beginning in April 2021.
  - Work is being done to update the MOUs and MOAs within municipalities.
  - Mr. Feinberg noted that it was anticipated last year that the budget would be \$500,000 and it is now up to \$750,000 for next year. The Stormwater budget has to absorb the increase. Katie responded that the increase for next year is due to the work on the roads and infrastructure that is going for final permitting at this time, the bulk of the infrastructure construction is expected to be completed in FY22.
  - Mr. Feinberg requested a presentation by the legal team tasked with the military delinquency fees.

## **6. Public Comment(s) – None**

## **7. Next Meeting Agenda –**

- ✓ Mr. Feinberg requested to move meetings to bi-monthly. Katie responded that Boards and Commissions would need to be consulted to make certain that FOIA requirements are being followed. The current schedule was created and approved by the board in November 2020 based upon important milestones throughout the year. A board packet is provided monthly to keep board members abreast of all information.
- ✓ Mr. Watkins motioned to set the meetings to bi-monthly. The motion failed by vote.
- ✓ Mr. Mitchell motioned that the next meeting will be as scheduled June 9, 2021 and at that time the board will revisit the schedule to make it bi-monthly if necessary. Motioned passed unanimously.
- ✓ Mr. Schneider motioned that the Stormwater Utility Board recommend that Beaufort County Council approve the budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
- ✓ Mr. Feinberg would like to add to the June agenda to have Beaufort County's legal personnel present to the board regarding the military's delinquent accounts.
- ✓ Mr. Feinberg would like a report from Dr. Montie added to the June agenda.
- ✓ Mr. Schneider moved to approve an amended June agenda with the two additions.
- ✓ Mr. Clark requested a Shell Point presentation be added to the June agenda.
- ✓ Mr. Mitchell amended his motion to: the next meeting will be as scheduled June 9, 2021 with the three amended discussions to be added to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
- ✓ Amended agenda approved by vote.

## **8. Meeting Adjourned**