



Beaufort County Stormwater Management Utility Board
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2026
Council Chambers, Beaufort County Administration Building
100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC 29902

Attendees:

Marc Feinberg, Chair
Ron Buchanan, Board Member
Steven Andrews, Board Member
Dennis Ross, Board Member
Ed Warner, Board Member
Nate Farrow, Ex-Officio Member – City of Beaufort
Andrea Moreno, Ex-Officio Member – Town of Bluffton
Jeff Netzinger, Ex-Officio Member – Town of Hilton Head
Tom Reitz, County Council Board Liaison
Paula Brown, County Council
Taylor Brewer, Stormwater Program Manager
Michelle Strader, Stormwater Business Manager
Jacob Bratz, Stormwater Project Manager
Sally McLeod, Public Works Sr. Administrative Specialist
Jacob Terry, Town of Hilton Head
Anna Roberts, USCB

Absent:

Patrick Mitchell, Co-Chair
Van Willis, Ex-Officio Member – Town of Port Royal
Stephen Carter, Stormwater Superintendent

Visitors:

Kurt Chapman

1. Call To Order – Meeting called to order by Marc Feinberg at 2:01 PM
 - Approval of Agenda – Motion and second by Ed Warner and Ron Buchanan; approved.
 - Approval of December 10, 2025 Minutes – Motion and second by Steven Andrews and Ed Warner; approved.
2. Introductions – Introductions were made.
3. Public Comment – Public comments were made.
4. Reports:
 - Monitoring Update: Anna Roberts stated quarterly sampling is in process for the County for the first quarter. Integrating a new member of the lab and current USCB student into daily operations. Sub-basin tracking work continues with the Town of Bluffton. The Citizen Monitoring Project continues with the Port Royal Sound Foundation and is looking to expand into the upper watershed with sampling sites. Mr. Feinberg asked if there is a training program for citizens to do the sampling. Ms. Roberts states yes, through the Port Royal Sound Foundation. Mr. Ross stated in the report there are sites recommended for relocating or eliminating due to poor flow or low accessibility. Given

the growth, will there be any other stations added on Lady's Island. Ms. Roberts stated there are not going to be any changes to the sites at this time even though we do have trouble with accessibility and flow issues, the locations where the sampling is taking place is still preferable.

- Municipal Reports:
 - Bluffton – Andrea Moreno stated the town will be rolling out a storm drain art program aimed at middle and high school students where they design art, we pick one for each school and it will be a vinyl decal transfer. The call for art is out until March 6th, and the decals will be installed in June. The town is undergoing revisions to its wetland ordinance, and it is currently out for public comment until March 2nd. Second Reading at Town Council in July for adoption of any changes that are made to the ordinance. A firm has been selected for development of the town's Resilience Plan; the contract will be awarded at the Council meeting in April. A presentation to update the Stormwater Management Utility Board on the Comprehensive Drainage Study was recommended for April.
 - Beaufort – Nate Farrow stated paving will be done at the Charles and Bay Street intersection which would open that up soon. The project will then move past that intersection, working its way towards Craven and then towards King Street, which would cause other closures. Everything can be seen on the City of Beaufort website on the Capital Improvement page.
 - Hilton Head – Jeff Netzinger stated the town is planning, pending Council approval, to start a Public Works Department and Stormwater crew. A weather monitoring program was started to provide actual rainfall data. Two monitoring stations have already been installed, two more will be installed by the end of the year with a build-out by fiscal year 2028 with 10 monitoring stations. This year there are 15 active Capital Improvement Projects; 2 of those are complete, 1 in construction and 12 in survey or design. One of those projects is an overhaul and upgrade to the Central Island Pump Station. The Resilience Plan is underway and should be wrapping up by September and starting a Stormwater Master Plan effort. The beach renourishment effort started last August and is just over halfway done; should be finished by the end of May. We are in the middle of a Land Management Ordinance rewrite and have made a lot of changes to the stormwater chapter.
- Maintenance Projects Report: Report was provided to the board.
- Liaison Report: Mr. Tom Reitz presented.
 - Project report tracking
 - BJWSA and USCB partnership
- Stormwater Utility Report: Taylor Brewer presented.
 - Stormwater Fee Restructure Update – Woolpert is conducting a Stormwater Utility Fee Study. At the direction of management, the approach was tweaked, so we are not only studying our fee structure, but we are in addition looking at our level of service and the current budgetary needs to see if that's aligned with where we need to be. They will provide options for restructuring at the end of the study, which is projected to take about six months.
 - SoLoCo Design Manual – Town of Bluffton has shared the manual they adopted through their Council. We're working to format the manual properly and reduce

any contradictions that were found before taking an adopt-worthy manual to the other municipalities and suggest implementation for them, as well. We would like to do a SoLoCo road trip to encourage neighboring counties to formally adopt the manual in an attempt to regionalize the planning and zoning. In addition, there is a partnership with The Port Royal Sound Foundation to create a toolkit to create the documents for adoption of the SoLoCo Manual for smaller counties that may not have the staff to create those documents on their own.

- Projects Report: Taylor Brewer presented.
 - Alljoy – Seamon Whiteside has completed the current conditions modeling. A community meeting to discuss the results with residents is scheduled for March 12th.
 - Bay Pines – Staff met with the resident of 33 Bay Pines, and they are agreeable to signing a maintenance agreement. A sample agreement was left for them to look over, but Kelsie Floyd, the new Right-of-Way Manager, is in the process of drawing up site specific documents to be executed. Fence installation has started; about 75% of the new poles are up and staff started preparing the removal of the old fence. The new fence should be installed prior to March 9th. The construction for upsizing the crossline pipes is over our threshold so that will go live with an invitation to bid this week, and we will move forward with bringing a contract to committee and council.
 - Shell Point – A community meeting is in process of being scheduled. The maintenance easement clearing project is being done in-house. A specific piece of equipment was ordered for this project and delivered on January 18th. The John Deere that the equipment attached to went down with a hydraulic leak and was sent to Savannah for repairs so that is now three weeks behind schedule.
 - Rivers End – The project was posted with an invitation to bid, and Gulfstream Construction Company was awarded the contract. Procurement is working to issue a contract and then the Notice-to-Proceed will be issued and a pre-con shortly after that. This should take place within the next two months with an estimated start date within three months.
 - Okatie River Park – Preliminary approval to have a bridge at the outfall of the pond that will better match the aesthetics of what has already been done for the new passive park. There will be educational signage to explain stormwater features to make it fun.
 - Royal Pines – Developing a buyout program has begun, which will be modeled after Greenville County. The Green Space Program did express desire to partner on larger scale projects in which they might be interested in purchasing the land and then stormwater would fund a BMP type project where the only condition would be that it would never be developed in the future. That might not be the perfect fit for Royal Pines, but it has brought up a larger partnership that could be taken advantage of in the future.
 - Arthur Horne – Restoration of wetland in Port Royal. This project is going to restore stormwater function and provide habitat for waterfowl. There has been talk of future connectivity to the Spanish Moss Trail and figuring out a connection to the Cypress Wetlands, as well. RFQ was issued and Black & Veach was selected as the engineering firm for design.
- Professional Contracts Report: Taylor Brewer stated three firms were selected for on-call contracts; Woolpert, Davis & Floyd and McAdams. Procurement is in the process of issuing contracts.

- Staff Update: Taylor Brewer stated a current position in Stormwater was approved and reclassified as a Stormwater specific GIS Analyst. This will help with program record retention and expedite having the maintenance program on a more regimented and automated system. For fiscal year 2027, proposed requests include a Vac-truck Operator, Foreman, two Maintenance workers and an additional CEPSCI Inspector.
5. Old Business: There was no Old Business.
6. New Business:
- FY2027 Stormwater Budget: Taylor Brewer presented. The proposed fiscal year 2027 budget was presented to the board.
 - After Stormwater staff met with the Finance Department, the proposed Capital Improvement Project was revised per Finance recommendations
 - Board recommends sending additional staff to the APWA conference
 - Board recommends an Operation & Owning Analysis to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of equipment. County should be looking at machines labeled intelligent machines.
 - Professional Services was increased to account for having three on-call engineering firms.
 - Legal services were moved from the Professional Services line item to the Legal Services line item
 - Land Acquisition is proposed at \$1,500,000. This amount is estimating three property buy-outs at fair market value.
 - Motion and second by Ron Buchanan and Ed Warner to recommend approval of the proposed 2027 budget; approved unanimously.
 - Election of Chair and Co-Chair for 2026
 - Motion and second by Ed Warner and Dennis Ross to nominate Mr. Mark Feinberg as Chair of the Stormwater Utility Board for 2026; approved unanimously.
 - Motion and second by Ed Warner and Ron Buchanan to nominate Mr. Patrick Mitchell as Co-Chair of the Stormwater Utility Board for 2026; approved unanimously.
7. Public Comment. Public Comment was made.
8. Next Meeting Agenda: April 8, 2026, in the Council Chambers.
9. Adjournment: Mr. Feinberg adjourned the meeting at 4:05 PM.