



**Beaufort County Stormwater Management Utility Board
Meeting Minutes**

April 8, 2026

Council Chambers, Beaufort County Administration Building
100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC 29902

Attendees:

Marc Feinberg, Chair
Patrick Mitchell, Co-Chair
Ron Buchanan, Board Member
Steven Andrews, Board Member
Dennis Ross, Board Member
Andrea Moreno, Ex-Officio Member – Town of Bluffton
Van Willis, Ex-Officio Member – Town of Port Royal
Bradley Harriott, Public Works Director
Pamela Cobb, Assistant Public Works Director
Taylor Brewer, Stormwater Program Manager
Michelle Strader, Stormwater Business Manager
Jacob Bratz, Stormwater Project Manager
Johanna Zoran, Sr. Administrative Specialist, Stormwater
Jacob Terry, Town of Hilton Head
Anna Roberts, USCB
Dr. Ty Pettay, USCB

Absent:

Nate Farrow, Ex-Officio Member – City of Beaufort
Jeff Netzing, Ex-Officio Member – Town of Hilton Head
Tom Reitz, County Council Board Liaison
Paula Brown, County Council Board Liaison
Stephen Carter, Stormwater Superintendent

Visitors:

Kurt Chapman
Bob Crimian
Felice LaMarca
Jim Lawton

1. Call To Order – Meeting called to order by Marc Feinberg at 2:00 PM
 - o Approval of Agenda – Motion and second by Dennis Ross and Ron Buchanan; approved.
 - o Approval of February 11, 2026 Minutes – Motion and second by Ron Buchanan and Dennis Ross; approved.
2. Introductions – Introductions were made.
3. Guest Presenter – Courtney Kimmel, Director of Conservation with Port Royal Sound Foundation
4. Public Comment – Public comments were made.
5. Reports:
 - o Monitoring Update: Anna Roberts stated first quarter county sampling is complete and is working on planning quarter two sampling. Collaborative monthly sampling with the

Town of Bluffton is ongoing. The Citizen Monitoring Project is also ongoing with the Port Royal Sound Foundation. Working to re-implement sampling throughout Palmetto Bluff.

○ Municipal Reports:

- Hilton Head – Jacob Terry stated the beach renourishment is ongoing and the Annual Report is being finalized for the State of South Carolina Department of Environmental Services.
- Bluffton – Andrea Moreno stated the town is working with the USCB Water Quality Lab to issue a new Memorandum of Understanding for the Microbial Source Tracking (MST) lab for another five-year term. We have two new Stormwater Technicians that are split between MS4 duties and watershed action plan duties. Working to finalize a contract for pond restoration. Request for Qualifications out right now for on-call stormwater consulting services. The winning designs for the storm drain art program will be finalized by Town Council in May and will be installed in June. We are undergoing proposed revisions for the Wetland Ordinance and as part of the approval process, it will go to Planning Commission for a workshop discussion at the end of the month. This does include the mapping effort where we're utilizing more accurate data to move away from the National Wetland Inventory as an indicator of the presence of wetlands. We will be presenting on our Wetland Ordinance at the South Carolina Resilience Conference and at the Environmental Law Institutes webinar. We are initiating a resilience plan; we have a contract going to Town Council in May for award to RK&K bio habitats. Undergoing comprehensive drainage studies and finalizing the Request for Qualifications for the Rose Dhu Creek sub watershed, which is under review by Town Staff. Once the FY27 budget and planning process is finalized for the county, we will discuss Beaufort County Stormwater assets that were identified as needing some work. Implemented a new PCSWMM, which is a GIS based modeling, for the May River headwaters, that has been developed by our consultant team at McCormick Taylor. We're undergoing training to be able to utilize the software and then hoping to undergo a comparison between a 2002 and 2018 model. Also looking to input scenarios on future action plan projects and see how that would function and benefit our watershed.
 - Mr. Feinberg asked the maps for shellfish harvesting – the areas near the Town of Bluffton – have been in the red for many years. Are the levels dropping to the point where someday you may be able to harvest oysters from that part of the May River? Ms. Moreno stated the goal would be able to reopen shellfish harvesting stations. Unfortunately, it's been a long time understanding that once they're closed, they're closed. Certainly, our efforts then focus on preventing future closures.
- Port Royal – Van Willis stated Paris Avenue is under construction between Parker's and Anchor Park with stormwater infrastructure upgrades, utility improvements and aesthetic improvements. Stormwater infrastructure is also being improved in what we call The Villages; 9th, 10th and 11th Streets. We have acquired a privately held wetland that we're going to include in the Cypress Wetlands Network. We are working with our consultants and owners to make it more of a wading bird type stormwater pond that fits with the other portions of that system. We put out to bid the improvements to some of the walkways, but they'll all be connected; there will be a network from one end to the other. We're trying to make this a more attractive and more functional and that's why

we worked with the owner to acquire it.

- Maintenance Projects Report: Report was provided to the board.
- Liaison Report: There was no Liaison Report.
- 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 there will be more analysis on what our department would need to up our level of service in a few different areas. So, we're going to do more of a departmental analysis prior to the fee restructuring. We will have a new structure implemented prior to tax year run of 2027, so there is an end in sight. We do want to make sure that we get it right and the more we dig into it right now, the more problems we find. Along with that we will have, for our municipal partners, SWIC Reports out this week.
SoLoCo Design Manual – Our goal is to have a draft edited version by the end of May. The idea is once we have the edited version, we will put it through Council to get it formally adopted and then we'll take that version to the original stakeholders for the SoLoCo Board in hopes of getting it regionally adopted and then reach out to our other local partners, as well. We really want this to be a regional design manual. Corrections to the manual were made after receiving input from the engineering community, developer community and the public.
- Projects Report: Taylor Brewer presented.
 - Alljoy – Seamon Whiteside has completed the current conditions modeling and tweaking it with the help of public input and provide preliminary recommendations. We were given an initial maintenance list of items that they discovered while they were doing the asset inventory, so we've already started on some of those; ditch cleanout and culvert cleanout. They've identified infrastructure like pipes and ditches that need to be upsized. We've also identified the potential for some bioswales to be installed. The county already owns a property to the north of the Alljoy community and if we can use that property to hold back some of the water, I think we can relieve some of the burden on the system. A stormwater specific community meeting will be held in the near future to discuss the proposed solutions. It is worth noting we are working with the Engineering Department as they develop their boat landing project to make sure those projects are cohesive and align in the proper way.
 - Bay Pines – The fence has been completely installed. Both easements are secured to upsize the crossline pipes that run underneath Bay Pines Drive. The project will close on April 14, and a contractor will be selected to move forward. There were eight contractors in the pre-bid meeting so there is interest in the project.
 - Shell Point – A community meeting was held March 26, and the updates were well received by the community. The maintenance shelf clearing project will start in late April.
 - Rivers End – Gulfstream Construction Company was awarded the contract, and a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled. We've received about half of the documents back that we need to be signed so we are looking at starting the condemnation process.
 - Okatie River Park – There was a meeting on March 5th with the contractors and

the Land Preservation Department to finalize design options; it will be a concrete weir with a walking bridge that will go over it to better match the aesthetics of the park. Stamped plans are expected within three to six months and then we can move forward with construction.

- Royal Pines – We are working on framing out the buyout program and hope to debut that program at the next meeting to get input from the board. Different counties and municipalities have handled it differently. Some let the property return to the wild after the building has been removed and some are managed as a mini stormwater park and BMP's are installed so there are several viable options.
- 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. The kick-off meeting will take place in May.

- Professional Contracts Report: Taylor Brewer stated three firms were selected for on-call contracts; Woolpert, Davis & Floyd and McAdams. The Carolina Clear contract, with Clemson Extension, will expire in June and will not be renewed since Valentina is on staff now. We are going to put together an official proposal for the municipalities that use to cost share with the Clemson Extension program to come in under Valentina's program.
- Staff Update: Taylor Brewer stated a current position in Stormwater was approved and reclassified as a Stormwater specific GIS Analyst. The position has been posted, and 12 applications have been received as of March 30. An example of the Stormwater Project Dashboard was presented. This will help communicate our efforts to the public. The idea is to have all of the maintenance and capital projects on it. It will show project phases, a timeline, pictures and any community meeting information.

6. Old Business: There was no Old Business.
7. New Business: There was no New Business.
8. Public Comment. Public Comment was made.
9. Next Meeting Agenda: June 10, 2026, in the Council Chambers.
10. Adjournment: Mr. Feinberg adjourned the meeting at 3:17 PM.