



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

June 10, 2026

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

Attendees:

Marc Feinberg, Board Member Chair
Ron Buchanan, Board Member
Steven Andrews, Board Member
Dennis Ross, Board Member
Adam Saslow, Board Member
Dee Simpson, 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
Stephen Carter, Stormwater Superintendent
Michelle Strader, Stormwater Business Manager
Jacob Bratz, Stormwater Project Manager
Valentina Palacio, Stormwater Education Coordinator
Ian deNeeve, GIS Analyst
Nichole Breton, GIS Analyst
Jacob Terry, Town of Hilton Head
Dr. Ty Pettay, USCB
Tom Reitz, County Council Board Liaison
Paula Brown, County Council Board Liaison

Absent:

Patrick Mitchell, Board Member Co-Chair
Nate Farrow, Ex-Officio Member – City of Beaufort
Jeff Netzing, Ex-Officio Member – Town of Hilton Head

1. Call To Order – Meeting called to order by Marc Feinberg at 2:00 PM
 - Approval of Agenda – Motion and second by Dennis Ross and Steven Andrews; approved.
 - Approval of April 8, 2026 Minutes – Motion and second by Ron Buchanan and Dennis Ross; approved.
2. Introductions – Introductions were made.
3. Public Comment – There were no public comments made.
4. Reports:
 - Monitoring Update:
 - Dr. Ty Pettay stated quarter two county monitoring is halfway through. Finalizing a MOU with the Town of Bluffton for source tracking work; that's the

genetic source tracking to identify where the fecal bacteria is coming from. A recent USCB grad, who had been working in the lab, is starting full-time to train current USCB students in water quality related tasks and monitoring. Work continues with the Port Royal Sound Foundation with their data collection for water quality around the Port Royal Sound and using citizen science scientists for that too.

Mr. Feinberg asked if you have intern positions? Dr. Pettay stated we have on the Beaufort campus about 25 or so interns working in the department and within the water quality lab, it ranges. We'll have two to three students in the summer working to do stormwater related stuff, but also just environmental monitoring of the tidal creeks and such around the county.

○ Municipal Reports:

- Port Royal – Van Willis stated Paris Avenue drainage/aesthetics/utility improvement project is on schedule, and anticipated completion is September 3. The Villages drainage project, which involved a complete restructuring of the entire system including replacing some roads with asphalt, is complete.
- Hilton Head – Jacob Terry stated the Town of Hilton Head was audited by South Carolina Department of Environmental Services on May 19 and awaiting the report of that. They reviewed the Stormwater Management Plan, conducted one non-residential inspection site, one residential construction site, inspected the fleet facilities for good housekeeping and one post-construction BMP. Two Stormwater Inspectors attended Auburn University Stormwater Week where they got hands-on training, one day of lecturing and two days of implementing Best Management Practices. We have acquired a quick view pole camera and are already using it for inspecting closed pipe systems and outfalls. We implemented two new weather stations. As of this morning, beach renourishment has concluded.
- Bluffton – Andrea Moreno stated the First Reading of the proposed amendments to the Town's Wetland Ordinance was passed at Council; Second and Final Reading will be next month. The town is looking at evaluating five firms for a Wetland Restoration Study to classify our wetlands and determine/feasibility of a possible Wetland Restoration Program. We will be opening our Stormwater Design Manual again for revisions for FY27 and looking to the county to get the proposed revisions that are coming through right now. Installation of the storm drain art is next week, weather dependent. July 1 is the start of the new fiscal year and implementation of a new strategic plan for the town. We are proceeding with a resilience plan; we had a kick-off meeting this morning. We have a current RFQU out for bid right now on Rose Dew Creek sub watershed.

○ Maintenance Projects Report:

- Stephen Carter provided his report to the board.
Mr. Feinberg asked if you have the full crew that you need? Mr. Carter stated we need to fill an Operator II position.

○ Liaison Report: There was not a Liaison Report.

○ Stormwater Utility Report: Taylor Brewer presented.

- Stormwater Fee Restructure Update – We have met with upper management, and they like where we're headed. Woolpert will be giving a presentation at the Public Facilities Committee (PFC) meeting on Monday showing what our

structure is like now and the options moving forward.

Mr. Ross asked if it appears that they are relatively close now that this fee restructuring has been going on for quite some time. Ms. Brewer stated yes, we should have a proposed new structure by August or September in order to start moving through the approvals necessary to institute it ahead of tax run next year. SoLoCo Design Manual – An edited version will be sent to Stormwater Board members well ahead of the August meeting. We are open to all comments from the board before we give that to committee for approval in August.

- Projects Report: Taylor Brewer presented.
 - Alljoy – Infrastructure crews are working through the list of maintenance items that we received from Seamon Whiteside that they noted going through their asset study. A Walk the Watershed event took place on May 18; the Engineers came out and walked the entire project area with us, and we spoke to some citizens about some choke points and concerns with the drainage system. We're making sure that all three projects in Alljoy are talking to each other so that we will have a comprehensive system when we're done. A report will be available to the board in late July. They're done with the modeling and asset collection and working on proposed solutions. It's looking like a combination of upsizing some assets, cleaning out some ditch systems and then installing bioswales. The timeline is to have stamped plans by the end of September so we're still on track to meet that deadline.
 - Bay Pines – The contract for the pipe upsizing for the two crossline pipes was given to Jarrell Brothers. We are working on the official easement documents. They were presented at May PFC and Council and subsequently being presented at June Council for approval. We are also working with the resident at 21 Bay Pines because we will have to take her fence down and replace it during the construction process. We have discussed installing a temporary fence and working with her on a temporary access agreement so that everyone will be in agreement before we start that process. We are also planning a community meeting for late July to go over the construction designs and what's expected during the construction process.
 - Shell Point – We have made really good progress on the maintenance shelf clearing project; Walnut, Broad River Rd., Morning Mist ditches and associated shelves have been cleared. At the time of my report, Baynard was in progress so that one should be wrapped up soon.
 - Rivers End – Gulfstream Construction Company was awarded the contract, and we are working on a start date; hopefully between July and August.
 - Okatie River Park – The PO has been issued. We held a meeting with the design engineers and we're expecting stamped design plans within three to six months. We have been instructed by Jared to bid it out at the 90% design phase so that we can be ready and have a contract issued once those plans are complete.
 - Royal Pines – A Task Order will be issued to our new on-call, McAdams. They're very familiar with framing buyout programs and have worked with a lot of different municipalities to fit programs to what works for that municipality. We're hoping to roll something out by late July or early August. As always, I will welcome any kind of comment or suggestions from the board before we initiate that buyout program. Jared Fralix, our Assistant County Administrator, will be giving a presentation on Monday at the Public Facilities Committee (PFC) meeting on future project plans proposed. Mr. Feinberg stated it probably would behoove us, if we want this to pass

through Council, to give the people in the surrounding areas an idea of what it's really going to be like afterwards, what we anticipate that land to be in its final stage.

- Arthur Horne – Kick-off meeting was held on May 12. We will create something similar to Cypress Wetlands that can not only educate the community, but function for stormwater.

- Professional Contracts Report: There was not a Professional Contracts Report.
- Staff Update: Taylor Brewer presented.
 - Interviews were held for the GIS Stormwater Specialist position; we did choose a person, and they are moving through the onboarding process with HR.
 - There was an issued statement in the 68 Calhoun Plantation case. The Court of Appeals voted in favor of Beaufort County saying that we upheld all of our requirements and regulations in our MS4 review. The Connors were planning on being here today. They might be coming to the board with a proposal, but legal staff will be there to advise us through that process. If there are any questions on that, I will defer to our Legal Department and put you in touch with the person who is handling that case, Mr. Dylan Kidd.

5. Old Business:

- Stormwater Project Dashboard. Mr. Ian DeNeeve with Beaufort County GIS presented.
- Education Coordinator Update. Ms. Brewer stated Valentina will officially fall under Stormwater as of July 1 and will add her to the reports section going forward. Ms. Valentina Palacio presented.

6. New Business:

- Mr. Ross suggested Stormwater should be its own unit:
 - It would need a cost-benefit analysis; five-year timeframe
 - Is it cheaper to continue paying for contractors or would it be cheaper to have full-time Engineers working directly for the Stormwater Department?
 - Agenda items to be brought up to Council of the possibility of at least doing a study into this
 - Suggested Planning & Training sessions for months when a Board meeting isn't scheduled to discuss more in-depth projects
 - Mr. Harriott stated Stormwater previously had an Engineer on staff and they weren't busy. A MS4 position and a second Project Manager position were requested for FY27; if approved, let's see how that runs for a year. We will be fully staffed come the 22nd; in 2022 we were down 17 positions, so we have made huge strides in the Stormwater Department. There were a lot of turnovers over the past few years before any of our faces were even involved with it. I think we have a good vision now; Taylor has a really good vision, and I support her in that.
 - Mr. Ross asked if we have ever hosted any Stormwater conferences and invited people with the newest and latest technology that might be a benefit to the county? Mr. Harriott stated we have a Resiliency Conference that the Engineering Departments puts on. It's a new conference, but maybe we can introduce that as part of that conference. Ms. Brewer stated the Southeastern Stormwater Association is a regional organization, and they do choose to have their annual conference every other year in Hilton Head. It brings a lot of Stormwater Managers to our area, and they are impressed with what they see us

- doing in Beaufort County. I do sit on that board, so we are very well involved.
- Mr. Saslow stated there are programs that are the gold standard. There are organizations that have done studies on the size and positions and structures of county government and stormwater programs. We don't have to study it ourselves and I'm more than happy to get that baseline.

- Aldi Parking Lot – City of Beaufort

- Mr. Feinberg gave a shout out to the City of Beaufort for setting the standard when creating the Aldi parking lot. There are methods of making smooth, although they do take some maintenance, permeable methods of creating parking lots and walkways. Mr. Harriott stated on the other side of the Arthur Horne building it is very similar to this; it has some real nice bioswales and pavers. Even though it is in the City of Beaufort, it was designed by Beaufort County.

7. Public Comment. Public comments were made.
8. Next Meeting Agenda: August 12, 2026, in the Council Chambers.
9. Adjournment: Mr. Feinberg adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM.