

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

July 2, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in County Council Executive Chamber
Final draft July 16, 2008

Board Members

Present	Absent
Donald Smith	
John Youmans	
Ronald McKenney	
Allyn Schneider	
Brad Samuel	

Ex-Officio Members

Present	Absent
Scott Liggett	
Jeff McNesby	
Jan Paul Sherwood	
Bob Gross	

Beaufort County SW Staff

Daniel B. Ahern
Eddie Bellamy
Carolyn Wallace
Lori Sexton

Visitors

Bryan Snow, GEL
Suzanne Larson, BC PIO
Amanda Flake, BC Planning
Billie Lindsay, BC Planning
Charles Truax, DHEC
Denise Parsick, Beaufort S&W Conservation Dist.
Joe Croley, HAAOR
Jack Walker, GEL
Audra Antonacci, BC Codes Enforcement
Chris Marsh, Lowcountry Institute
Reed Armstrong, CCL

Visitors' cont.

John Dukee, E2S
Joe Coffey, GEL
Laura Lee Rose, Clemson Ext
Doug Plank, Sustain
George and Kathy Johnston, Enviroexec

County Council

1. Meeting called to order by Mr. Donald Smith.
2. The June 4, 2008 SWMU Board final draft meeting minutes were approved
3. **Initial Opportunity for Public Comment** – George Johnston expressed his uneasy feeling about the Utility's efforts to prevent water quality degradation. He felt we needed to be on a war footing against water quality degradation. Felt BJW&S Authority did a good job on their recent report on quality of the water supply, but that the county does not have a report saying if our waters are better in 2007.
4. **Stormwater Control Regulations – BMP Manual Update** – Reported that Phase 2 proposed changes to control nitrogen are now on county website. Board members were given copies of press release and proposed letter to be sent to Engineers and Development community, inviting them to workshop at September Board meeting. Rich Wagner of CDM will be at this workshop. Ron McKenney asked on the number of planned workshops. Currently there is only one workshop

planned. The Utility is hoping to get input from the May River Technical Advisory Committee on whether our waters are nitrogen limited. Utility is also going to invite input on whether we should consider nitrogen mitigation if new development cannot meet the new nitrogen requirements.

The Utility also updated the board on Stormwater related presentations. Rich Wagner of CDM will be presenting “Evolution of the Beaufort County BMP Manual” at the Annual AWRA Water Resources Conference in November in New Orleans. County staff will be presenting at Storm COM in August and Southeastern Stormwater Association in October in Charleston. The presentations will be on Bacterial Source Tracking and Outreach Programs.

The Utility will be a partner with the Center for Watershed Protection on their grant on “Promoting Innovative Stormwater Solutions for Coastal Plain Communities” This work will start in the fall.

5. County Buffer Requirements – Amanda Flake presented a power point presentation on the River Buffer Ordinance and its requirements. A river buffer extends inland 50 feet from the OCRM critical line. OCRM requires permits for bulkheads, rip-rap, and other erosion devices in this buffer area. The county requires a number of other criteria be met before Zoning will issue a development permit. Compliance is by Building Codes department. She also explained set backs, view corridor and waivers. Enforcement procedures for violations were also explained.

6. Water Quality Monitoring – GEL introduced monitoring team and presented a Year 1 Report on the Utility’s Stormwater Quality Monitoring. They reviewed the four initial purposes of the monitoring contract. These were

- Establish Baseline Water Quality
- Determine and Track long-term trends
- Bacterial Source Tracking
- Measure Efficiency of selected BMPs

They gave review of decisions made the first year on data use. This included, establishing action levels on key parameters, selection of first BMP location and establishing some procedures to conduct trend analysis.

GEL also described the lessons learned in the first year. These included using precipitation event-based sampling, moving sample locations upstream to reduce salinity impacts and discontinuing bacteria source tracking. They plan to submit a first year report to the county by end of July. This will also be submitted electronically so County can post report.

There were many questions from the board. They included:

- When will BMP results be known – need at least 6 samples and only have two. This BMP selection might not be a good case and there is a possibility that we would move to another site.
- Are we coordinating activities with others doing monitoring – yes – all entities (Towns of Bluffton and Hilton Head Island and DHEC) attend utility meetings with GEL. Sampling sites are linked to GPS coordinates and can be shared.
- Are there any trends in Fecal Coliform – no and it is too early to determine trend. Dr Chris Marsh cautioned on determining linear trends on data that might have seasonal variation like Dissolved Oxygen.

Mr. Bellamy cautioned on use of the data, because many of the sampling points are in ditches and there are no standards for ditches. He also said that DHEC won't make a change in shellfish status until they have at least 3 years of data.

7. Maintenance – Project Summaries - Reported on 5 projects over \$1,500 in cost. Also reported 2 other project summaries under \$1,500 were completed. One of the projects in the City of Beaufort identified the need to determine amount of debris removed from each catch basins to determine the appropriate interval for cleaning.

8. Public Information – Clemson Extension – Laura Lee Rose reported on the previous 4 months of activities. These activities included work on the following:

- Consumer Education and Outreach – speaking engagements, Plant Clinics, and workshops are estimated to have contacted 700 people
- Water Quality – activities included a new School District Landscape committee that hopes to include rainwater harvesting in new and existing buildings. The extension has purchased rain barrel harvesting systems and has one installed at the extension building and plans to utilize at schools.
- Recycling - supporting efforts of Keep Beaufort County Beautiful and Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods addresses the issues of recycling and yard wastes.
- Master Gardener Efforts – Laura Lee estimates 5000 MG statewide and 250 in Beaufort County. MG volunteer efforts lead to 1500 hours of effort in the reporting period.
- Programs for Landscape and Maintenance Professionals – 53 people in his arena received training in this area.

9. Post HB 4337 Strategy – Ron McKenney requested this topic to discuss actions to not be surprised, if this stormwater exemption bill for undeveloped land is reintroduced in the next session. His thoughts on preparation included:

- Staff development of fairness statistics on BC rate structure
- Develop a show and tell on SW for the legislative affairs committee.
- Evaluating why counties generally charge for vacant land and cities do not.

The board had discussion on this and asked how we determine if the bill will be prefiled. It was determined that prefilings would occur in December. There was some question the county and utility position on HB 4337. Mr. Bellamy said that staff and county are opposed to this exemption and the County Council passed a resolution opposing this bill.

The board passed a motion that “Utility Staff will put together a fairness document of SFU rates”

10. Utility Administration – Regional Cooperation-County/Municipal Workgroup – Reported on groups' first meeting on June 17, 2008. The teams' two goals are to:

- Coordinate stormwater issues throughout the county
- Develop recommendations for implementing the Beaufort County Stormwater Management Plan.

Board was given copies on minutes to the first meeting and it was reported that some of the decisions made in the first meeting were:

- Have implementation recommendation by February 2009
- Monthly meetings till recommendations made
- Identified 8 coordination opportunities
- Next Meeting July 17, 2008 in Bluffton

11. Utility Administration – Military Base Collection Effort – It was reported that Jacksonville and the Naval Air Station are still in negotiation on amount of credits that will be allowed the Base. The consultant for Jacksonville still feels credit will be about 50% and there is a critical meeting on July 9, 2008 to finalize the City's proposal to the Air Station.

A demand letter has been prepared to send to Camp Lejeune General in charge of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) in preparation for further action. If Jacksonville is successful in getting their Air Station to pay Stormwater Fees, and there is no progress on the demand letter, then the utility will recommend potential joint legal action by the county and the City of Beaufort to challenge the assertion by the MCAS that the Stormwater Fee is a Tax. Costs of this effort are being evaluated.

12. Utility Administration – 2009 Budget Update – Carolyn Wallace reported on three topics:

- SFU Rate increase – The recommendation for an increase of \$5.57 has passed the first reading of County Council on June 23, 2008. Municipalities have been notified of this action by letter and City of Beaufort and Town of Port Royal have been advised by email of the time frame necessary to incorporate revised fees into this year Tax Bills.
- New Project Pricing – the new labor and equipment costs will be applied to projects starting after July 1, 2008. Mentioned that equipment receiving limited use would have an upset rate no higher than FEMA rates.
- FY09 Budget – The budget passed its third and final reading on June 23, 2008. Unfortunately the Utility will not receive the approved budget until a few weeks from now. We are assuming no changes but won't know for sure till we get a budget.

13. Final Opportunity for Public Comment – Doug Plank, representing the Rainwater Catchment Association wanted to advocate the benefits of rainwater catchments systems. He said a 5,000 sq. ft. residential roof line/driveway home could handle 25% of the stormwater runoff with a catchments system

14. Next meeting agenda – After considerable debate the board decided to move the meeting to August 13, 2008 and investigate having meeting in the Bluffton area. The Beaufort County Public Works, South Complex (Bluffton area) Conference Room has been reserved for this meeting

- Stormwater Control Regulation
 - o BMP Manual

- PSMS Enhancements
 - Not scheduled
- Water Quality Controls for Existing Development
 - Not scheduled
- Water Quality Monitoring
 - Not scheduled
- Annual Maintenance
 - o Project Status Reports
- Additional/Ongoing Study and Analysis
 - Not scheduled
- Public Information
 - o Friends of the River
- Utility Administration
 - o Military Base Collection Update
 - o Regional Workshop Follow-up
 - o FY 2009 Budget Update

15. Meeting adjourned.