



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

April 20th, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Cypress Wetlands Pavilion, 1700 Paris Ave, Port Royal, South Carolina 29935 and via Webex

### Board Members

#### Present

James Clark  
Allyn Schneider  
Steven Andrews  
Patrick Mitchell  
Marc Feinberg

#### Absent

#### Beaufort County Staff

Katie Herrera  
Neil Desai  
Carolyn Wallace  
Julianna Corbin

### Ex-Officio Members

#### Present

Nate Farrow  
Van Willis

#### Absent

Jeff Netzinger  
Bill Baugher

#### Visitors

Alice Howard, County Council  
Denise Parsick, Beaufort S&W Cons. DisT.

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

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

### 2. Introductions – Completed.

### 3. Public Comment(s) – None.

### 4. Special Presentations

#### A. Cypress Wetlands Presentation – Van Willis, Travis Folk and Dean Harris

- o Dean Harris and Travis Folk presented the historic and environmental impact that the Cypress Wetlands project contributes to the larger Beaufort County ecosystem, namely the natural habitat to the Colonial Nesting Waiting Birds; which include the Great Egrets, Snow Egrets and Anhingas. Cypress Wetlands is comprised of five acres of natural wetlands that flows from natural basins in the Beaufort County area. The project contains multiple islands within the wetland boundaries which provide protection for endangered bird species from natural predators.

## 5. Reports

### *Highlights:*

#### **A. Utility Update – Katie Herrera**

##### *Highlights:*

- ✓ Southern Lowcountry Regional Board (SoLoCo)
  - Amendments to manual and ordinance were approved and implementation of new standards were effective as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
- ✓ Special Presentation
  - Research performed by Dr. Montie is still to be anticipated to be presented in the spring 2022.
  - Cypress Wetlands – Katie stated that the hopes are that the meeting can be done on site if weather permits.
- ✓ A reminder that the different municipalities need to have the financial reports provided to us by a certain timeframe. This is important to consistency across all of the IGA's especially with the amendments that Neil and Brittany spoke about earlier.

#### **B. Monitoring Update – Katie Herrera**

##### *Highlights:*

- ✓ Quarter 1-2022 - No issues; we received normal water quality samples and special projects continue.

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

#### ***Highlights:***

- ✓ We are still missing budget concurrence letters that were provided in early-February.

### **D. Stormwater Related Projects – Julianna Corbin**

#### ***Highlights:***

- ✓ Shell Point Community – The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application was completed and we are waiting to hear back for final requirements; if necessary? Additionally, we submitted proposals for an engineer to design, permit, and engineer any projects associated with the larger project; which closed April 8, 2022.
- ✓ Factory Creek and Academy Park – The closing documents have been prepared and once the owner pays the property taxes, we will begin moving forward. **Note:** County cannot pay property taxes for private property. The ownership of property cannot be transferred until the current owner of the property pays property taxes. Until then, we cannot move forward with the Academy Park Pond.
- ✓ Factory Creek, Phase 2: Legal is currently routing the necessary documents.
- ✓ Graves Property and Whitehall property – Construction continues.
- ✓ Tuxedo Park Pond Dredging – We’ve had two bids; both were over budget, and due to the broad scope, the criteria could not be sufficiently met. We will resubmit a new proposal with more specified requirements that fall within our allotted perimeters.
- ✓ Huspah Court North – Will be complete within the following days and preparing to align with the drainage conveyance.

### **E. Professional Contracts Report – Julianna Corbin**

#### ***Highlights:***

- ✓ CIP – Salt Creek and Shanklin projects have been removed.
- ✓ Mossy Road – It was determined to move this project off the CIP list.
- ✓ Brewer Memorial – Construction continues. Note: The contract for that contractor ends June 10th.
  - They are waiting on supplies and materials to move along with the project.
- ✓ Evergreen Regional Pond 319 – The project has moved forward. There was a preconstruction meeting on April 8th to discuss new plans, in which the Utilities Engineer, The County, and the Contractor were all present on-site.
- ✓ Stormwater engineering consulting services – Woolpert
  - Scope #5 – Ordered a Trash Truck to address the trash issues occurring with the Battery Creek Pond near the Walmart shopping center.
  - Scope # 8 – St. Helena Drainage Study – We are looking at different modeling methods and we are currently developing proposals to establish direction for this study.
  - Scope #9 – Arthur Horn Park 319 Grant application has been submitted, and we met on April 5th at the location with NRCS to discuss the project. Note: Application deadline was March 31st and we completed six days ahead of schedule. As a result, NCRS is advancing our funding to the second stage with the possibility of assigning a representative to engineer and design the project.
  - Scope #10 – Lady Island study is nearly monitored daily by Woolpert and surveys are being modeled.

## **F. Regional Coordination – Katie Herrera**

### ***Highlights:***

- ✓ Mossy Oaks – Continue working with USCB to monitor the effects of construction has had on the water quality.
- ✓ Due to retrofitting of Arthur Horn Park, Katie and Danielle have weighed the extension of special water quality monitoring with intent of capturing prior, during and after construction phases.

## **G. Municipal Reports – Katie Herrera**

*Reports attached in agenda*

### ***Highlights:***

*Reports information.*

- ✓ Town of Bluffton (Allyn Schneider, Board Vice Chairman-Bluffton)
  - No updates.
- ✓ Town of Hilton Head Island (Jacob Terry, NPDES Administrator)
  - Town Manager, Mark Orlando, signed the Annual Report.
- ✓ City of Beaufort (From Nate Farrow, Public Works Director)
  - Getting assistance from Golden Harvest regarding the flap-gates on the Spanish Moss Trail. We discovered a bushing issue that prevents proper operation.
  - Doing work on the Duck Pond on 1st Blvd and drainage maintenance on South Side Park.
  - Beginning Pond maintenance in Battery Shores.
  - Roadside-clean up throughout the City of Beaufort.
  - Cojoining with DDOT and the Downtown District to execute backdrop work.
- ✓ Town of Port Royal (From Van Willis, Town Manager)
  - Obtaining a \$3M General Obligation Bond for resurfacing some sidewalks and adding stormwater in the neighborhoods.
  - April 30th will be Birthday for the Birds at 9 a.m., Cypress Wetlands.

## **H. MS4 Update – Katie Herrera**

### ***Highlights:***

- ✓ Plan Review – See the attached chart for Beaufort County Stormwater staff plan review workload for the past 12 months.
- ✓ Stormwater Permits – See the attached chart for Beaufort County Stormwater permits issued for the past 12 months. Note: ‘Permit Issuance’ is being handled electronically.
  - General Permit – No update.
    - Met with Army Corps of Engineers in Charleston, South Carolina at the Office of Costal Resource Management Representatives on April 8th and discussed practical steps to facilitate the permit application process.
    - We have to pay for mitigation.
    - Senator Sandersin was present and concurred with the states jurisdictions and is closely observing the impact of Federal entities.
    - We have submitted a FOIA request to obtain the USACE comments pertaining to the County’s response and how they will address our concerns

which was presented in 2020.

- ✓ Monthly Inspection summary – We are over 860 inspections. Currently, Inspections are being handled electronically, however, the applications are being handled physically and in-person.
- ✓ Hiring for an additional inspector to join the team and serve in a more senior role and organize the overall program.
- ✓ Weather Station Data – Report unavailable
- ✓ Education Report – See attached report. Ellen led an Earth Day-event on Parris Island as part of the Clemson Extension and Low Country Stormwater Partner’s team.
- ✓ Staff Update
  - Jon Spencer is the new Stormwater Administrative Assistant for Katie Herrera.
  - There are quite a few vacancies in the Infrastructure department and are continuing to advertise these openings.

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

##### ***Highlights:***

- ✓ Major projects:
  - None
- ✓ Six minor or routine projects:  
*Reports attached.* – Digging, Bushhogging, and improvements to the Southern Magnolia subdivision’s roadside ditches, jettings, and a few driveway pipe replacements.

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

##### ***Highlights***

- ✓ On April 7th, held a meeting with Jim Hart and roughly 40 residents of the Shell Point community to provide an update on stormwater projects, traffic and safety issues; the meeting went well.

#### **6. Unfinished Business – None**

#### **7. New Business – Allyn Schneider**

- ✓ FY23 Budget – Carolyn Wallace
  - We are adjusting our fiscal year 2023 budget to accommodate the new 5% Cost-Of-Living allowance. We had budgeted for 3% but the County is granting a 5% increase so that NET value was an increase of \$134,000 more to the revenue budget.
- ✓ Shell Point Project – Katie Herrera
  - Katie has called for a special meeting to occur on May 18th to review proposals for three potential contractors and decide which would be the best partner moving forward with the project.
  - Mr. Schneider requested a motion to approve the meeting made by Mrs. Herrera; motion passed.
- ✓ Vacant Utilities Board Seat – Allyn Schneider
  - Mr. Brian Watkins has resigned and moved out of the state. Recommendation to fill this vacancy will be submitted to the Boards and Commissions, SWIC, and council

members that are involved.

**8. No Public Comment**

**9. Meeting Adjourned**