



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

February 19, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
County Council Chambers, 100 Ribaut Rd, Beaufort, SC

Board Members

Present

Patrick Mitchell, Co-Chair
James Clark
Ron Buchanan
Dennis Ross

Absent

Steven Andrews
Marc Feinberg
Ed Warner

Ex-Officio Members

Present

Van Willis

Absent

Jeff Netzinger
Nate Farrow
Bill Baugher

Beaufort County Staff

Bradley Harriott
Taylor Brewer
Tammy Doe
Sally McLeod
Matt Krause
Pamela Cobb
Stephen Carter
Dylan Kidd
Valentina Palacio-Ruiz

Visitors

Dr. Ty Pettay, USCB
Jacob Terry, Town of Hilton Head
Ellen Sturup Comeau, Clemson Extension
Anna Roberts, USCB
Jessie White, Coastal Conservation League
Calhoun Plantation Residents
Charlie Sullivan, Wapro, Inc.

1. Meeting called to order – Mr. Mitchell at 2:00 pm

A. Agenda – Approved

B. Approval of Minutes – Approved with edits

2. Introductions – Completed

3. Public Comment(s)

- ✓ Mr. Mitchell requested that comments be held for Calhoun Plantation issues until the second Public Comment Section since an Appeal was being heard for Calhoun Plantation with a Public Comment section following thereafter. No other Public Comments were brought forth at this time.

4. Special Guest – Mr. Charlie Sullivan, Wapo. Inc.

Highlights:

- ✓ Mr. Sullivan demonstrated the Wa-Stop In Line Check Valve system that his company has created to control storm water from intrusion of contaminants into the water and from water back-flowing into the drainage system causing flooding upstream. He provided an in-depth demonstration of the system and examples of systems in place. There is one system in place in Beaufort County with one more being planned for Backache Acres.

Reports

Reports sent to the Board prior to meeting for their review

Highlights:

A. Monitoring Update – Anna Roberts, USCB

- ✓ Working on meeting the annual QA/QC Requirements with Direct Certification.
- ✓ Working on county sampling – almost completed except for five dry sites left to sample. Everything looks normal at this time of year (cold and rainy)
- ✓ New staff member joining the team in the lab, Mikayla Brown. She is a recent USCB Alumni.

B. Municipal Reports:

Highlights:

- ✓ Port Royal – Van Willis
 - Currently in the middle of the West Parris Avenue, Marid, Paris Avenue Improvements – some road closures
 - Testing the system at this time.
- ✓ Hilton Head –Jacob Terry
 - Kelly has been promoted to Stormwater Operations Manager.
 - The annual report is coming up very soon.
- ✓ City of Beaufort – no report at this time.
- ✓ City of Bluffton – no report at this time. The report was contained in the Board Packet.

C. Maintenance Projects Report –

- ✓ Stormwater Utility – Stephen Carter
 - Detailed projects were outlined in Board Packet.
 - Wapro system will be input in Backache Acres within the next few weeks. Will provide pictures at next meeting of the installation.

D. Liaison Report – No report at this time. Mr. Mitchell expressed thanks to Ms. Howard for her service to this Board. Paula Brown and Tom Reitz will be Liaisons for this year.

E. Education Outreach Report – Valentina Palacio-Ruiz

- Go Green Talks are being held at various County Libraries on the topics of Stormwater, Recycling and Composting.
- Provided a rain barrel and stormwater talk at Low Country Montessori. They are interested in installing a rain barrel system.
- Earth Day – April 25; Beaufort County Employees and partners participate in collecting litter throughout the county. Open to all Beaufort County employees but Public Works is mandatory. “United for the Low Country”
- Attended FinFest at USCB. A marine life event – spoke on education of the public on stormwater and how it affects marine life.

F. Stormwater Manager Report – Taylor Brewer

Highlights:

G. Projects Reports – Taylor Brewer

- ✓ Reminder to municipalities that expenditure summaries and revenue reports are due. Please send them to Sally McLeod.
- ✓ Stormwater Utility Fee Restructure –
 - February 6 meeting was held with Woolpert and the Original Stakeholders; presented process for steps to structure fees; stakeholders had the opportunity to give input on what they would like to see in a restructure. Once this has been formalized it will be presented to the Board.
- ✓ SOLOCO Manual –
 - Bluffton presented the manual with their drafts and edits to their Council Workshop in January and it went well. A draft of all edits was emailed to the Board, and we are open to the Board’s comments.
 - Considering hiring a third party to look at the manual to make sure it’s feasible for responsible development in Beaufort County.
 - Mr. Ross asked if other counties’ manuals have been reviewed to see if there is anything we could add or change to our manual; Ms. Brewer advised that we have worked with other counties in the past and will continue to reach out to other counties in the future as well.
- ✓ Alljoy –
 - Drainage Study- Seeman Whiteside was selected as the firm that will conduct the study. Procurement is in the process of issuing the contract as we do have to work with RIA because we have a grant. Work is anticipated to start next month.
- ✓ Bay Pines –

Kick off meeting was held on site in January. Assured that Woolpert included all the drainage areas that have gotten to the point that we are looking at redoing for a comprehensive look. Onsite meeting scheduled for 3/5 with Mr. Moore and Mr. Reitz for a full walkthrough to see the plans, what is being surveyed and the plan to address the issues.

- ✓ Shell Point –J. Bragg has requested a meeting with the County Administrator to address their proposal to continue the contract. As soon as there is information to share from that meeting, it will be shared with the Board. The proposal was \$442,000 and 24 months for design.
- ✓ Rivers End – Woolpert is issuing stamped plans in the next few weeks with work beginning around the second week of March.
- ✓ Tuxedo Park – Passed at January PFC and will go to Council for final approval in February.
- ✓ Hickory Hill –Passed at January PFC and will go to Council for final approval in February.
- ✓ Okatie River Study – Passive Parks project. Met with interim director of Capital Parks this morning to make sure we are all on same timeline; Woolpert is developing the design for maintenance repair for that dam. It has a failing pipe making a tunnel beneath the dam. Waiting on the dam designation from DES to determine how robust our pipe needs to be. Updates will be forthcoming after we hear from DES.
- ✓ Royal Pines – Found an old report that didn't give feasible corrections for the area. We are in contact with DOT regarding a few maintenance issues on their side that would be beneficial. Once those are complete, we are open to suggestions from the Board on how to proceed to remedy the problem.
- ✓ Arthur Horne –Future Project – USDA/NRCS grant still waiting to hear back from the Federal government on the grant for this project. There have been internal discussions regarding putting back money internally in FY27 to do project if the grant is still being held up.

H. Professional Contracts Report – Taylor Brewer

Highlights:

- ✓ Woolpert is our current on call consultant. Their contract expires October 2025
- ✓ Have been given approval to have up to three (3) firms selected for stormwater services when their contract is up.

I. Staff Update – Taylor Brewer

- ✓ In the restructuring of Public Works, there will be a new Project Manager position opening soon. This will be a position specifically for the Stormwater Division.

5. Unfinished Business –

- ✓ Shell Point project Mr. Morris and Mr. Mitchell both had questions; Bragg has had a hold on this project for a better part of a year. Board members questioned why we are engaging with this company. Ms. Brewer explained that currently we have been given one deliverable of a map of 12 easements that the County owns; the determination is that these need to be cleared and maintenance shelves created; we have that project out to bid currently. Other than that, one outfall has been identified that runs under Board River, Hamrick Drive, that needs to be upsized. We will await the outcome of the meeting with the County Administrator to see the path for this project.

6. New Business-

- ✓ Appointment of Chair
 - Nomination of Marc Feinberg made by Patrick Mitchell; seconded by Ron Buchanan. Unanimous vote in the affirmative.
- ✓ Appointment of Co-Chair
 - Nomination of Patrick Mitchell made by James Clark; seconded by Ron Buchanan. Unanimous vote in the affirmative
- ✓ Approval of Budget
 - Motion to Forward the Budget for approval made by Patrick Mitchell and seconded by Ron Buchanan; Unanimous vote in the affirmative.
- ✓ Calhoun Plantation Road Appeal Recommendations – ***Highlights – for more detailed information please view the meeting on BCTV on Demand.***
 - All Board members were provided a copy of the full Appeal prior to this meeting.
 - Mr. Sam Connor, aggrieved party, addressed the Board to outline his areas of concern for the permit that has been issued at 468 Galvin Plantation Road. The Board had been given a written detailed appeal to review prior to the meeting.
 - Mr. Dylan Kidd, Attorney for Beaufort County, then spoke to the Board. Mr. Kidd said that it is the County's position that the Connor Appeal is not properly before the Board at this time because the matter is before the Circuit Court. If the Circuit Court determines that they need recommendation from the Board, the Board should be prepared to do so. Otherwise, the Board will take this matter under advisement until the matter has been heard and ordered upon by the Circuit Court.
 - Mr. Connor asked why he was permitted to speak before the Board if there were no recommendations made. Mr. Mitchell explained that while there would be no open discussion by the Board, all information would be taken into consideration if the Circuit Court requested a recommendation or if there was further need for a recommendation of the Board within the ordinances of Beaufort County.
 - Residents and Consultants in support of Mr. Connor's appeal spoke to the Board and their remarks were also taken under advisement.
 - Mr. Mitchell thanked all community members for their input during the Public Comment section of the meeting.

7. Next Meeting Agenda – Approved.

8. Meeting Adjourned

- ✓ Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm