



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

October 15, 2025

Arthur Horne Building, 2nd Floor Meeting Room
104 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC

Board Members Members

Present Absent

Marc Feinberg, Chair
Patrick Mitchell, Co-Chair
Steven Andrews
Dennis Ross
Ed Warner
Rob Buchanan

Absent

Ex-Officio

Present

Jeff Netzing, Hilton Head
Nate Farrow, Beaufort
Van Willis, Port Royal

Beaufort County Staff

Taylor Brewer, Stormwater Manager
Sally McLeod, Public Works
Bradley Harriott, Public Works
Pamela Cobb, Public Works
Michelle Strader, Stormwater
Jacob Bratz, Stormwater

Visitors

Carol White
Euesbio Faura
Ellen Comeau, Clemson Ext
Dr. Ty Pettay, USCB
Anna Roberts, USCB

1. Call To Order – Meeting called to order by Marc Feinburg at 2:00 PM
 2. Approval of Minutes – Motion and second by Ed Warner and Ron Buchanan; approved
 3. Introductions were made.
 4. Public Comments were completed.
 5. Reports:
 - Monitoring Update: Dr. Ty Pettay stated that monitoring is continuing for Q3 and Q4 for the County and the Town of Bluffton. Bluffton has been doing more intensive monitoring looking at more specific problems at May River. Stormwater and Dr. Pettay have been doing site visits around the County as well.
 - Municipal Reports:
 - Port Royal – W. Paris Avenue has been completed, and work is beginning at the Villages; also completing SW master plan at this time; also developing Capital Improvement projects and reevaluating the fee structure at this time.
 - Hilton Head – Stormwater workshop with Town council was held discussing program and challenges, wrapping up phase 2 of resilience plan with one of the outcomes being to start up a stormwater master plan.
 - Beaufort – The larger projects are currently in downtown with Waterfront Park and Charles Street project; contact city's website at Capital Projects list to obtain any further details on projects.
- andport – Clemson Extension has two major education weeks – Be Septic Safe week – giving away information and septic kits; Stormwater Awareness week was held as well

and Fall Festival seasons are ongoing.

- Liaison Report – none currently as Council members are in a meeting with the Governor on Hilton Head Island.
- SW Utility Report- Taylor Brewer – still working on Stormwater utility fee restructure; will be meeting with Mr. Moore in October to go before SOLOCO Board in November; Design manual is undergoing edits and amendments at this time – will be closing pairing Bluffton's manual. Speaking with surrounding municipalities regarding adopting the manual as a regional manual.
- Projects:
 - Alljoy – Seamon Whiteside has completed collection of survey data and assets inventory.
 - Bay Pines – Worked with adjacent community on fence type and placement.
 - Shell Point – Maintenance shelves that need clearing and maintenance appear to be tight on personal property; Public Works staff will be doing a drive along to determine how much drainage improvement will be gained versus damage to property; 13 maintenance shelves are involved in this project. J. Bragg is given the task of the pond design behind Food Lion and the outfall at Hamrick Drive; documents have been requested and provided to the Legal Department regarding a forensic accounting on the county's funds as it relates to J. Bragg; Mr. Feinberg asked that Ms. Brewer follow up on his request for the forensic accounting update; Mr. Feinberg asked where the county stands on a re-application process for funding to do this project; Ms. Brewer stated that we have a new Grant Administrator, Allison Kirby, who is working on grant requests for this project. If we are not awarded a grant, this will be taken out of Stormwater budget; Mr. Feinberg asked Ms. Kirby be invited to a Board Meeting. Mr. Ross asked if the community has been notified and kept up to date on the project. Ms. Brewer stated that a community meeting will be forthcoming in November or December.
 - Rivers End – Community meeting will be held October 20; final plans from Woolpert will be ready for the meeting; all documents have been prepared for an easement for the pond and will be ready for signing at that meeting. A failing pipe system is being taken out, and Stormwater will be adding bioswales.
 - Okatie River Park – This is a county land preservation project; the dam was failing and we now have a Geotech engineer report; have met with Capital Improvements and Land Preservation staff to get preferences in keeping with the theme of the pond. This is a non-regulated dam, and we can move forward with design.
 - Royal Pines – There are massive issues with this area; many staff members have been out and walked drainage issue multiple times; staff and experts have been meeting to determine best steps; a 6 inch pump was installed in September in an attempt to lower the water in the pond at 6 Turtle Lane which has been working on and off; looking to pumping tactics but the biggest issue is lack of grade; looking into larger scale projects that could lend relief but at this time we are not giving up; looking into the feasibility of buyouts which Legal Dept is researching at this time. We did get SCDOT to speak with us in September and they have agreed to partner with the county to upsize some of their assets (pipes, cross pipes, choke points, etc). There was a dip on Middle Road that the county filled in to mitigate any damage.
 - Arthur Horne – Restoration of wetland in Port Royal; Black and Beech were selected as Engineers for this project; procurement is working out contract with the firm. This is a two-phase program – one to get the wetland functioning

properly and the second phase will make it an amenity mimicking Cypress Wetlands.

- Professional Contracts – We have RFQ's out to accommodate contracts for three (3) on-call Engineering firms. Selection will be made when the RFQ expires in October.
- Staff Update – We have a new Business Manager, Michelle Strader who has joined us transferring from Planning Department.

6. Old Business:

- Mr. Ross asked where the department stood on getting spreadsheets loaded on the website for the public to see what projects are being worked on. Mr. Harriott stated that we are looking forward to beginning the use of Smartsheet; staff are already training on this software, and we should have it operational by beginning of 2026. Ms. Brewer stated that staff have continued training on BC Connect as well.

7. New Business:

- Mr. Ross asked if there would be an increase in fees to adequately respond to all the issues the county is having. Ms. Brewer stated that this fee is being looked at and has been recommended by Mr. Moore. Mr. Feinberg stated that the data should be available to substantiate the request for an increase in fees due to the amount of linear feet of clearing performed yet the need to clear ditches is more than we are able to do.
- Mr. Feinberg spoke on Spanish Wells subdivision. He presented pictures of the issues that the area is having regarding clearing of ditches and flooding issues; Oak Marsh is a housing development adjacent to this area that was permitted to be built and the development exacerbates the issues that is already occurring in this area; this is a town, county and state issue and will be a difficult situation with unique engineering to develop a fix. Mr. Feinberg stated he is using this time as an alert that this is an area that needs attention. Mr. Harriott stated that the County is aware of the matter and stated that the drainage is unique in that the drainage is undersized. Town of HHI and County will be meeting to work on some drainage problems for this area as well as others ongoing.
- Mr. Andrews stated he understood that the department is overwhelmed with all the demands of stormwater issues. He stated what we are missing is outfalls; asked if there are identifiable outfalls available that will give relief for the citizens. Maybe we can put additional resources into those areas to see if we can't get movement going on these projects, Ms. Brewer stated that there have been meetings on these specific matters. The Board is willing to help in any way they can to help with easements or whatever is permitted within the borders of their authority. Mr. Feinberg stated that during 2026 the board members may want to be invited to some of the workshops and meetings with engineers, etc. so that they may be educated in the matters at hand as well as support the department.
- The 2026 schedule for Board meetings was presented and put to vote for approval. Motions were made to approve by Patrick Mitchell, and Dennis Ross; approved.

8. **Public Comment.** Public Comment was made.

9. **Adjournment** – Mr. Feinberg adjourned the meeting at 3:15 PM.