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

August 20, at 2:00 p.m.

Beaufort Library, 311 Scott Street, Beaufort, SC

Board Members		Ex-Officio Members	
Present	**Absent**	**Present**	**Absent**
Marc Feinberg, Chair	Patrick Mitchell, Co-Chair	Bryan Durrence	
Steven Andrews		Bill Baugher	
Dennis Ross		Jacob Terry	
Ed Warner		Brooke Plank-Buccola	
Rob Buchanan			

Beaufort County Staff
Taylor Brewer. Stormwater Manager
Sally McLeod
Pamela Cobb
Stephen Carter
Jared Fralix

Visitors
Dr. Ty Pettay
Kurt Chapman
Eusebis Faurs
Jeff Stoner
Carol White
Taylor Hassig
John White

1. **Meeting called to order –** Mr. Feinberg called meeting to order at 2:00; the Board has a quorum.
   - **A.** A moment of silence was held in memory of James Clark, Board Member.
   - **B.** Approval of Agenda – Motion to Approve by Ed Warner and seconded by Ron Buchanan; approved.
   - **C.** Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve by Dennis Ross and seconded by Ed Warner; approved.

2. **Introductions –** Completed

3. **Public Comment(s)**

   Public Comments were made.

4. Reports –
   - Dr. Ty Pettay – USCB; Have finished Q1 and Q2 samples for the County. They are continuing reporting for Bluffton and the County for Q3. The lab manager is out on maternity leave at this time, so updates were not added to report; Citizens monitoring program with Port Royal Sound Foundation has begun and is growing. Also are writing grants to research Stormwater monitoring in the area.
   - Town of Bluffton – MST Program – coordinating with USC Water Quality Lab is ongoing. Also moving into a Pet Waste program for proper waste management; Also, some education/outreach programs are ongoing. Pritchard Street Steetscape program is still in place to remove pollutants along the road and hoping to start construction before the end of the year.
   - Hilton Head Island – currently at full staff; Have a project in the Spanish Wells area where there is a failing pipe system; also doing water level monitoring in several areas.
   - Town of Port Royal – Town received a grant to do a stormwater mapping from Bell Bridge across to McTeer Bridge; mapping is almost completed; finished up a SKIP grant to include stormwater improvement.

- City of Beaufort – Nothing to report

- Projects: Stephen Carter, Stormwater Infrastructure gave a report of projects ongoing in Beaufort County.
- Laison Report: None
- Manager's Report:
  - Utility Update: SWIC group met to discuss history of SW Utility funds and options. The outcome is that the BC Staff will present the current code to upper management in the fall; SOLOCO Board.
  - SOLOCO Design Manual – BC will be adopting with some minor changes, the Bluffton manual.
- Projects:
  - Alljoy – Drainage study has begun; a new flooding feedback QR code is on their community page where photos and data can be downloaded. This information will be in addition to all the historical data that has already been compiled. All information will be shared with Seeman Whiteside.
  - Bay Pines – The ditch passed the water slowly but acceptably; hydroseeding is coming in and the next step is to install four gates in designated areas for safety measures; the contractor that was chosen for the fencing is Graybar; working with the citizens with fence placement. Outstanding items – fences, replanting some shrubbery that were destroyed during the project
  - Shell Point – The county has withdrawn their application for the grant with SCEMD for this project for a variety of reasons mainly it was originally budgeted to make the match on the grant; Mr. Ross asked for more detail on why this funding has stopped; originally we were looking of a $3M grant from SCEMD; the feasibility of the timeline was in question as we had not begun any real work on this matter; the original funds commitment was for $300,00, however when the benefit cost analysis came back at $7M for the project, the county did not have budged the commitment funds of $700,000. Mr. Ross asked how this would be address for the residence. Ms. Brewer stated we would need to get a new RFQ to begin this process again which will be covered through SWU funds in lieu of the grant. Mr. Feinberg asked if we didn't have a high enough balance to cover this commitment of $700,000; Ms. Brewer stated that she was unsure if the length of the process was, and since the deadline was August 15, the application needed to be withdrawn. Mr. Feinberg is concerned that the emergency funds were not looked at and used for this grant match. Mr. Werner stated he was concerned the Board was not contacted about this and asked who made the decision to withdraw from the application. Mr. Fralix, ACA, stated for funds to be obligated they must be appropriate which is done via the budget process. What was appropriated was not equivalent to the need. To amend that appropriation, three readings of Council would need to be completed. Due to the time constraint, there was not enough time for this to happen. Mr. Ross asked why there was no emergency action performed on this matter for the citizens of Shell Point; Mr. Fralix stated that Ms. Howard is aware of the matter and is not taking this lightly. In working with SWU funds, we are looking for future opportunities or using some funds to accomplish the concerns for this project. A bid has been put out for ditch cleaning, but this bid was not awarded. We are working on requesting another bid offer and are hopeful of making improvements. At some point there will be a community meeting with the people of Shell Point. Mr. Feinberg asked that a meeting be held as soon as practical because the people deserve to know what has happened.
  - Rivers End – Proposed solution is to replace the lower level of pipe with RC and then have a bioswale system on top of it. It will be the first installation of green infrastructure that Beaufort County Stormwater maintains; Letters to residents are going out this week with a community meeting forthcoming.
  - Tuxedo Park – Complete.
  - Hickory Hill - Final grading is the only thing left on this project along with hydroseeding.
  - Okatie River Park – Final report has been received stating entire embankment needs replacing; in process of working with contractor to coordinate the replacement along with the

construction of the park.
  - Royal Pines – The department is aware of the issues in the area; there are no easy fixes on this project. All maintenance has been done but larger scale options are being considered. This may be offering buyouts and other options. All options are being considered. Also working with DOT to help come up with creative solutions. A community meeting will be held once Legal Department has approved.
  - Arthur Horne – current interviews being held with engineering firms for RFQ. This is a unique project requiring ecological aspects which bring excitement to firms. This possibly will mirror Cypress Lakes making a duck impoundment and not a rookery. First goal is to restore SW function, and the ecological aspect will come on the back end of the project.
- Professional Contracts Update: Our contract with Woolpert will expire in October. We will be placing this contact out for bid and have been instructed to have three (3) firms on call going forward. The RFQ will be forthcoming.
- Staff Update: Tammy Doe has left her Business Manager position. We are currently interviewing for this position and should have someone in this position within a few months. There is also a new Grants Administrator, Allison Kirby, in place in the county who will be looking for all grant funding opportunities going forward.

5. OLD BUSINESS:
  - Mr. Ross stated he asked about project management communications with residents; Ms. Brewer stated that all projects are listed online on the website; Possible new software systems are being looked at for projected projects.
  - Mr. Ross asked about the Alljoy pathways, Ms. Brewer stated that Public Facilities Committee passed the pathways project; this will require one reading from County Council.
  - Mr. Ross would like more attention paid to the Forest Fields area in Burton as the issues are not being resolved.
  - .

6. NEW BUSINESS:
  - Mr. Andrews asked what the Board can do to help with all the concerns. Mr. Feinberg stated that he needs to do a better job to speak directly to Council. He stated he tried to go through Council people to get our point across, but now he will begin to speak directly to Council. Also encouraged all Board members to go to Council meetings personally. The Board needs to be a stronger advocate for the people. Mr. Ross made a motion that the Chair or his representative show up at Council meetings to represent the Board if there is something of concern to this Board; motion seconded by Ed Werner; unanimously approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment has been made.

8. ADJOURNMENT; Meeting Adjourned by Marc Feinberg at 3:24 pm.