Beaufort County Stormwater Management Utility Board
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2026
Council Chambers, Beaufort County Administration Building
100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC 29902

Attendees:
Marc Feinberg, Board Member Chair
Patrick Mitchell, Board Member Co-Chair
Ron Buchanan, Board Member
Steven Andrews, Board Member
Dennis Ross, Board Member
Adam Saslow, Board Member
Dee Simpson, Board Member
Andrea Moreno, Ex-Officio Member – Town of Bluffton
Jeff Netzinger, Ex-Officio Member – Town of Hilton Head
Van Willis, Ex-Officio Member – Town of Port Royal
Bradley Harriott, Public Works Director
Taylor Brewer, Stormwater Program Manager
Michelle Strader, Stormwater Business Manager
Jacob Bratz, Stormwater Project Manager
Valentina Palacio, Stormwater Education Coordinator
Amanda Acord, Stormwater GIS Specialist
Matt Krause, Beaufort County Disaster Recovery Manager
Jacob Terry, Town of Hilton Head
Dr. Ty Pettay, USCB
Tom Reitz, County Council Board Liaison

Absent:
Pamela Cobb, Assistant Public Works Director
Nate Farrow, Ex-Officio Member – City of Beaufort
Paula Brown, County Council Board Liaison

1. Call To Order – Meeting called to order by Marc Feinberg at 2:00 PM
    - Approval of Agenda – Motion and second by Adam Saslow and Dennis Ross; approved.
    - Approval of June 10, 2026 Minutes – Motion and second by Adam Saslow and Ron Buchanan; approved.

2. Introductions – Introductions were made.

3. Public Comment – Public comments were made.

4. Reports:
    - Monitoring Update:
        - Dr. Ty Pettay stated quarter three county monitoring has started. A nutrient analyzer is running in the lab for nitrogen and phosphorus, but not certified with the state yet. MS4 samples are sent to Eurofins in Savannah because they are

certified for that. For example, Town of Bluffton has special projects that don't need certified, so we are in talks with them about running those in-house as opposed to sending them out. It's also good training for the students. We're using it for research purposes and monitoring the Port Royal Sound.

- Municipal Reports:
  - Bluffton - Andrea Moreno stated since the 2015 rate study, Town of Bluffton residents have been paying a CWI fee that represents half of the CWI cost-share amongst SWUB partners. In just the last 5 years, this CWI fee has been between $26-28 per billable unit, which based on the number of billable units in Bluffton's jurisdiction, this equates to approximately half a million dollars per fiscal year. When asked by Council during the Public Facilities Meeting on June 15th, Beaufort County staff could not answer why the Town's portion is so much greater than the other partners, making up half of the overall cost-share. I understand and appreciate that Beaufort County and their consultant Woolpert are revaluating this fee for the future, but I'd like to know what the County has done with the 2.5 million dollars acquired from Town of Bluffton residents in the last five years.

    According to previous CWI reports provided to the Town of Bluffton for FY16-25, only $185,000 worth of work has been done, with $110,000 worth of work occurring in the last 5 years. This leaves roughly 2.4 million dollars (in just the last five years) unutilized to address Beaufort County infrastructure within the Town of Bluffton.

    When comparing stormwater infrastructure projects completed by Beaufort County between FY16-25, of the total 15.6 million dollars spent, only $185,000 or 1.18% has been spent within our jurisdiction. Again, Town of Bluffton residents pay the largest portion of the CWI cost-share and get roughly 1.18% out of it. Provide me with your expenditures to show otherwise.

    Town staff have been reporting infrastructure concerns via Beaufort County Connect and directly to Town staff requesting specific repairs. This includes the Verdier Cove outfall off Thomas Heyward Street, which eroded during Tropical Storm Debby in 2024 and was reported to the County immediately following the storm. As of today, 2 years later, this outfall has not been repaired.

    Furthermore, staff have provided Beaufort County a copy of the Heyward Cove owner asset report, providing asset condition information along with observed maintenance needs. As of today's meeting, the Town's project manager has not heard anything from the County since February. Continued communication is key to ensure these projects are funded, scheduled, etc. Were these funds included in the FY27 budget? If not – utilization of CWI fees would be appropriate.

    The Town has concerns about lack of involvement of municipal partners in Beaufort County decisions as it relates to contracts (e.g., Carolina Clear contract), agreements (e.g., deadlines not being met as outlined in the IGA, MOAs for MS4-related activities, SWIC memo), SWU fee restructuring, and maintenance activities. The Town of Bluffton has not yet received an accurate SWIC memo, that would have been utilized to allow the Town to appropriately

budget for FY27 and allow for the next SWU tax run. These are very important things that are falling through the cracks - what can be done to help? Should we get the SWIC together to address so that it's not a continued issue?

Overall, how can we improve upon current processes to ensure proper expenditures of tax payer dollars, prioritization of failing/damaged infrastructure, and overall communication between Town and County staff to alleviate our concerns and allow for successful outcomes of both partners?

- Hilton Head – Jeff Netzinger stated that he echoes the Town of Bluffton concerns as it related to missing deadlines that were written in the previous IGA that is now expired. Hilton Head Town Council did unanimously approve signing a new IGA at their meeting last night. When we don't get the annual SWIC Memo that gives us administrative numbers and cost shared in time for us to capture that in our annual budget, we can only budget for what we experienced in previous years.

- Ms. Brewer stated if I may. There were questions on where the $128,000 came from as far as the restructure, but the rest of the information is accurate in the memo that was sent out. The $128,000 that was appropriated for the restructure was approved as part of the FY26 budget, which included discussions from the SWIC members, that was pushed forward to this year because we didn't complete the task. We are in the middle of the Stormwater Utility Fee restructure now. We do recognize that historically the CWI fees have not been appropriate in billing or in expenditures so it has been the recommendation of Beaufort County staff to do away with the CWI fees in the new restructure so that is being discussed, as well. Ms. Moreno stated there was never a cost share established between the county and the municipal partners for the $128,000 so if the remainder of the SWIC Memo is correct, it would just be our request that you provide us with an updated SWIC Memo not reflective of the $128,000 cost share.

- Liaison Report: Councilman Reitz presented.

- Maintenance Projects Report: Taylor Brewer presented.
  - Stormwater Superintendent Stephen Carter is no longer with the County. His position has not been filled, but it is currently posted. All maintenance projects, reports and associated costs can be found on the Project Dashboard. Mr. Ross stated this dashboard has been really good and, in the infancy, we talked about how folks are unsure when their ditches are going to be cleaned out or when maintenance is going to be taken care of in that area. Can that be added to this to lessen your burden? Mr. Harriott stated Taylor is currently working on that; she's met with a couple of software providers that will be able to coordinate and work with our GIS system. Not sure if that's going to be public facing yet, but we have to get it on our end first and then we can figure out if that can be public facing.

- Stormwater Utility Report: Taylor Brewer presented.
  - Stormwater Fee Restructure Update – We have provided all the information requested from Woolpert for them to analyze. Once we get the new proposed structure, we will talk to our upper management and then we'll bring it to the municipalities to get their feedback and preferences, and then we'll come to the

board with the new structure. Woolpert has been on the clock since March of this year; there were issues with the PO and getting everything set-up financially. We will have a recommendation before December of this calendar year. The presentation that was given to committee by Mr. Hal was a generalized presentation of what you have already seen when we started this process. It was establishing the issues with the current process and letting them know about the new structure. The presentation can be uploaded in the SW folder.

- Projects Report: Taylor Brewer presented.
  - Alljoy – There is a draft report from Seamon Whiteside. The proposed solutions include upsized drainage pipes, reestablished ditches and some bioswales that will increase water quality. We are working closely with the Engineering Department because they're designing the boat landing that our outfall runs through so we're making sure that the outfall is appropriately sized for the fixing of the upstream system. We have given that draft report to the RIA and we are not allowed to publicize anything until they have reviewed it. Once we get back a proposed draft that we can release, we will have a community meeting with the Alljoy members to get feedback before we move forward to the final plan set.
  - Bay Pines – We have installed the berm that runs down behind Mr. Schroder's house; we need to hydroseed it. We did clean out the main drainage ditch this week because there were some blockages over the last couple of days of rain.
  - Shell Point – The maintenance shelf clearing project is finished and are working with the Engineering team on the Hamrick outfall design.
  - Rivers End – Construction will begin in September. A community meeting was held, and everyone was pleased that we are fixing the issues out there. We are still in the process of collecting 127 signatures for the pond. For us to clean it out or make sure that it's maintained properly, we will have to obtain an easement from every resident or put the pond into condemnation.
  - Okatie River Park – The bridge manufacturer wants us to sign a separate contract with them; they do not want to work as a subcontractor under Woolpert. Our Procurement Department doesn't like that, so we are working through that process.
  - Royal Pines – I encourage you to watch the August 3rd Natural Resources Committee Meeting where Assistant County Administrator, Jared Fralix, explained the proposed project. It did pass through committee, giving it the authority to continue negotiations and it will go to Finance Committee on August 17th. This project is proposed to help with the issue on Needlerush. There will be some additional connections that will have to be made by the county to specifically drain that property, but we are hopeful that this project will be a solution to their issues.
  - Arthur Horne – Design has started and once we have something that we think is viable to present to the community, we will have a community meeting for all the stakeholders. We plan to start a community page and that will be distributed to all of the community members via letter, so that they can get access to get updates and give feedback.

- Professional Contracts Report: There was not a Professional Contracts Report.

- Staff Update: Taylor Brewer presented.
  - Mandy Acord was introduced as the new Stormwater GIS Analyst.

- MS4 Compliance Coordinator and Foreman positions are both posted.
  - Ms. Brewer will schedule a MS4 meeting between the County and municipalities

5. Old Business: Taylor Brewer presented.
   - SoLoCo Manual – Town of Bluffton recently adopted their most recent edited version of the SoLoCo Manual. I did send that out for comment. We will also be sending it out to the original stakeholder group for comment from them, as well. Unless there's any objection, the Board can vote to send that to Committee in October.

6. New Business:
   - Bi-monthly workshop to review Stormwater Projects will begin at 1:00 prior to Board Meetings.

7. Public Comment. Public comments were made.

8. Next Meeting Agenda: October 14, 2026, in the Council Chambers.

9. Adjournment: Mr. Feinberg adjourned the meeting at 3:33 PM.