

**TOWN OF BLUFFTON MAY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**
Council Chambers, Town Hall
Thursday, January 23, 2020

Present: Chris Burden, chair; Eric Montie; Emmett McCracken; Al Stokes; Chris Shoemaker

Absent: Wes Jones; Larry Toomer, vice-chair

Staff: Bryan McIlwee; Kim Jones; Beth Lewis; Bridgette Noonan; Kelsey Timmerman

Guest: Dr. Kimberly Ritchie, USCB Associate Professor; Juliana Smith, Coastal Conservation League

Media: None

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. NOTICE REGARDING POSTING OF MEETING PER SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOIA) REQUIREMENTS
- III. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM
 1. Members introduced themselves.
- IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
 1. Mr. McCracken moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. Mr. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.
- V. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 24, 2019 MEETING MINUTES
 1. Mr. Shoemaker moved to adopt the Minutes as presented. Mr. McCracken seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT
 1. None
- VII. PRESENTATIONS, CELEBRATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS
 1. **Biomeme qPCR Update – Dr. Kimberly Ritchie, Associate Professor, University of South Carolina – Beaufort**
Dr. Ritchie provided an update on the development of Biomeme qPCR (**Attachment 1**).
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 1. **Water Quality Monitoring Program (standing item)**
Ms. Lewis provided an update on the following monitoring data:
 1. Weekly Sampling Update **Attachment 2a**
 2. Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Update **Attachment 2b**
 - a. Dr. Montie recommended that Town staff update the “Microbial Sources Detected within the May River” map to show each sampling site’s microbial sources as a percentage of the sample set,

- b. Mr. McCracken recommended that Town staff define what thresholds are considered low, moderate, or high for E. coli concentrations, and
 - c. Dr. Montie recommended that Town staff have Dr. Alan Warren with USCB's Water Quality Laboratory conduct a historical analysis of the Town's weekly water quality monitoring data.
3. SCDHEC Shellfish Data **Attachment 2c**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Stormwater Utility Fee (SWU) Fee Rate Discussion

Ms. Jones and Mr. McIlwee discussed a proposed a Town Stormwater Utility Fee (SWU) fee increase (**Attachment 3**).

The Town's SWU Fee Rate Model consultants, Raftelis, recommended on 1/4/19 that the Town's SWU fee increase from \$98 to \$148 in FY2020 and remain at \$148 for the next 5 years. The new rate would not provide for an increase to the current Level or Extent of Services or any additional Capital Improvement Projects for the next 5 years.

Ms. Jones requested the committee's feedback on whether the Town should consider implementing a SWU fee increase annually or once every five (5) years. Mr. Stokes suggested increasing the fee to the recommended amount over the next five (5) years. Mr. Burden added that while an annual increase isn't desirable, annual reviews of projected revenue versus expenditures may require another increase prior to five (5) years.

Mr. McIlwee stated that the Committee would make a formal recommendation to Town Council on the Stormwater Utility Fee at the February meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

1. Unanimous decision to adjourn. Next meeting: February 27, 2020 @ 9:00 AM

Attachments:

1. Town of Bluffton Update – Biomeme qPCR
2. Water Quality Program
 - a. Weekly Sampling Update
 - b. Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Update
 - c. SCDHEC Shellfish Data
3. Town of Bluffton Stormwater Utility (SWU) Fee Discussion