



MAY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

APPENDIX F:

ACTION PLAN ADDENDUMS



Memorandum

To: May River Watershed Action Plan
From: Ron Bullman, Director, Stormwater Management Division
Date: October 19, 2011
cc: Anthony Barrett, Town Manager
Bob Fletcher, Director of Engineering
Subject: May River Watershed Action Plan Public Workshop (10-12-11)

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the following items be added to the May River Watershed Action Plan for consideration:

1. Aquifer injection of stormwater.
2. Require 0% discharge for new development.
3. Implement Mandatory Transfer of Density within sensitive watersheds.
4. Implement Moratorium of building within PUD's with regard to the Development Agreement language requiring all development to "design storm water management systems in such a way that the storm water quality delivered to the receiving waters is mitigated to a level which is no more than that associated with ten percent (10%) coverage."
5. Consider installation of tidal gages as originally recommended to Town Council in 2009.
6. Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Board should be added as a potential partner, in addition to a potential funding source.

Background: The Town held a public workshop on October 12, 2011 for the draft version of the May River Watershed Action Plan. This workshop was held specifically to address all comments received during public comment period (July 18, 2011 – August 17, 2011). Approximately XX individuals attended the workshop and provided valuable input and feedback for the Action Plan.

All comments and recommendations were recorded and have been attached to this memo. After staff review, five of those recommendations were deemed appropriate to include as considerations in the Action Plan.

It should be stressed that this is a recommendation for consideration, not implementation. None of these items have been vetted or reviewed on any level. Implementation of these recommendations will require an in-depth cost/benefit analysis to determine their true value to the Town, including but not limited to legal review. Further, if staff determines that any of these items deem a value to the Town, an approval by Town Council will be required.

May River Watershed Action Plan Public Workshop (10-12-11):

Notes:

1. Can we tax homeowners by how much they runoff of their property? Dehlonga, GA might do this. (Lane)
2. Town should consider moratorium on building until the May River is repaired. (Koenig) Maybe 6 months is more appropriate.
3. TDR Program should be mandatory, not elective (Johnston).
4. Development Agreements require 10% impervious. We could require each community to stop building based on that. (Johnston)
5. We are in an 'economic moratorium' now, we should use this time to fix the problem. (McCracken)
6. We should consider aquifer injection. (Jones)
7. What is the absorption capacity of the May River? (Jones)
8. Based on some state standards, some permits require engineers to prove no impacts to shellfish beds (Modzelewski)
9. All development should have 0 discharge. (Keonig)
10. We need to be proactive and think outside the box. (Hamilton)
11. Rose Dhu Creek should never have been developed. (Holland)
12. Bluffton is making progress and is more progressive than others in the similar situations. (Holland)
13. We should consider a special tax district around the river to help fund these initiatives. (Jones)
14. There should be a tax incentive for cisterns. (Lane)
15. Downspout Disconnection Ordinance with associated fees & credits. (Lane)
16. Should maybe clarify the difference between retention and detention ponds in terms of volume control for the Action Plan (Modzelewski).
17. Use salt blocks??? (Johnston)
18. Need a visual representation of the TDR sending and receiving zones.
19. Need to declare a state of emergency. All funds directed at May River.
20. How will the Town "drive" discussions to retire density or move it through a TDR program? (Brown)
21. Need to capture flow data from the developments for the model and better understanding of what's happening. (Millikan)
22. The Waterbody Management Plan Implementation Committee made a recommendation to Town Council to install 2 tidal gages at Rose Dhu & Stoney Creeks and they voted it down. This should be brought back up. (Johnston)
23. Expand the scope of monitoring to include Dr. Holland's recommendations. (Johnston)
24. Require grey water line for irrigation instead of potable water in new PUDs. (Millikan)
25. Retention ponds are too full to store runoff. (Waring)
26. Legal resources will be required in addition to engineering and science. (??)
27. We should check weekly stages in all ponds to make sure they are functioning properly.
28. Need to get started on a May River Watershed Model.

29. Stormwater control is a relatively young science. It is being refined as knowledge is gained to determine what works. When developments in Bluffton were engineered in the early 2000s they were designed to what were progressive standards at the time.
30. "Old Engineering" stormwater management was more focused on flood/peak control, not water quality.
31. The Town's volume control is as strict as Beaufort County.
32. Bluffton is not alone. Water quality problems are prevalent up and down the coast.
33. Who will run a TDR program?
34. We've been talking about the degradation of the May River for 20 years. Need action now.
35. What is the goal/endgame for the May River (not making it any worse or trying to improve it) and this action plan?
36. Will the portion of the May River that has been closed ever be re-opened? Holland answered that he didn't know.
37. What is the status of the Rural and Critical Lands Program funding and can it be used for the May River. (????)
38. Are the flows coming out of the development's ponds what the engineers said they would be.
39. Volume is a pollutant
40. The Town should provide a place on the website to show the answers to all the comments.
41. Irrigation re-use should be an easy county wide initiative to accomplish.