Present: Chris Burden, chair; Larry Toomer, vice-chair; Al Stokes; Eric Montie; Emmett McCracken; Chris Shoemaker

Absent: Wes Jones

Staff: Beth Lewis; Kim Jones; William Baugher

Guest: Larry Hughes, Lowcountry Oyster Trail; Ellen Comeau, Lowcountry Stormwater Partners; Danielle Mickel, USCB Water Quality Laboratory; Jamileh Soueidan, USCB Graduate Student

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 JUNE 27, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

1. Mr. McCracken moved to adopt the Minutes as presented. Dr. Montie seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. PRESENTATIONS, CELEBRATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

1. Lowcountry Stormwater Partners – Ellen Comeau, Clemson Extension Water Resources Agent

Ms. Comeau presented on Lowcountry Stormwater Partners. A PDF of Ms. Comeau’s presentation is included as Attachment 1.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Water Quality Monitoring Program (standing item)

Ms. Lewis provided an update on the following monitoring data:

   1. Weekly Sampling Update
   2. Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Update
   3. SCDHEC Shellfish Data

2. Strategic Plan Status – Sewer Extension in May River Watershed
Ms. Jones provided an update on the Town’s Sewer Connection and Extension Policy which was one of WAPAC’s Strategic Plan FY19 – 20 Work Plan priorities. A PDF of Ms. Jones’ presentation is included as Attachment 2.

Following Ms. Jones’ update, Mr. McCracken made a motion to recommend that Town Council consider reconvening the Joint Councils Meetings with Beaufort County to discuss funding strategies. Dr. Montie seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers
Ms. Lewis stated that the Committee by-laws adopted in March 2018 included the election of Chair and Vice-Chair annually each July, or as soon thereafter as possible. The July meeting was cancelled; therefore, the item was placed on the August agenda. The Committee had a brief discussion. Following discussion, Mr. Shoemaker made a motion to keep Mr. Burden as Chair and Mr. Toomer as Vice-Chair. Dr. Montie seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

2. Proposed Water Quality Monitoring Program Changes
Ms. Lewis presented proposed changes to the Town’s water quality programs for Microbial Source Tracking (MST), MS4 regulatory sampling, and weekly sampling utilizing USC’s Water Quality Laboratory. The Committee had several questions and stated their desire to continue the MST sampling program following current program protocols. Ms. Jones stated that she would have staff re-visit the proposed changes and would return this to the committee at a later date with a staff report delivered to the Committee prior to discussion.

V. DISCUSSION

1. Regional Stormwater Ordinance Update
Ms. Jones stated that Mr. Bill Hodgins with the Center for Watershed Protection would be providing an update on the regional stormwater ordinance next month.

2. Fall Agenda Items
Ms. Jones stated that Dr. Montie would be providing his research findings in October.
The Committee requested that Town staff reach out to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) to see if shellfish harvesting monitoring data for other regional shellfish areas could be shared with the Town.
Ms. Jones stated that staff would be bringing the Committee multiple items for their review and feedback over the next several months in preparation for Council’s FY21 – 22 Strategic Planning session in January 2020 and Watershed Management’s Budget Preparation for FY2021.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

1. Unanimous decision to adjourn. Next meeting: September 26, 2019 @ 9:00 AM
The Lowcountry Stormwater Partners

• Striving for fishable, swimmable, Lowcountry waterways

• 31 partners
  • Clemson Extension
  • MS4s
  • Municipalities
  • State agencies
  • Local organizations
2017-2018 Highlights

MCM 1: Public Education
• 1,167,533 impacts
• 266% increase from 2016-2017

MCM 2: Public Involvement
• 169,899 impacts
• 26% increase from 2016-2017
2018 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
“That’s MY Truck” Coloring Contest
Rain Garden Lunch and Learn
Healthy Ponds, Healthy Communities Workshop
Floating Wetland Workshop
“Cultivating a Carolina Yard” Workshop
“Success with Stormwater” Training
RECENT EVENTS
Oldfield’s Sustainability Fair
Soft Shell Crab Festival
Lowcountry Master Gardener Association’s Annual Symposium
May River Clean Up
4H20 Youth Camp
UPCOMING EVENTS
2019 Beaufort Area Stormwater Pond Conference
2019-2023 Lowcountry Stormwater Partner Regional Strategic Outreach Plan

LOWCOUNTRY STORMWATER PARTNERS
A Service of Clemson Extension
Cultivating a Carolina Yard Workshop
Contact Info

Ellen Sturup Comeau
Water Resources Extension Agent
ecomeau@clemson.edu
843-473-6023

Lowcountry Stormwater Partners
www.facebook.com/LowcountryStormwaterPartners
www.clemson.edu/extension/carolinaclear/regional-consortiums/lsp/index.html
Sewer Connection and Extension Policy Update
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sewer Connection and Extension Priorities</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Planning</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Promote sewer extension projects in Town’s jurisdiction via 5-year CIP</td>
<td>Six (6) phases programmed for FY19-22 CIP within 500’ buffer of river &amp; coves in Historic District. <strong>In progress</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Prioritize Ghost/Orphan Roads acquisition in Bluffton within 500’ of river &amp; coves</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Increase the Town’s Stormwater Utility Fee in support of sewer extension</td>
<td>Raftelis contracted to update Stormwater Utility Fee Model to generate rate options for Town Council’s consideration. <strong>Rate Model Completed. Utility Fee Changes – In progress</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regional Coordination Partnerships</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. BJWSA CIP prioritize funding for sewer extension &amp; connection in Bluffton</td>
<td>Joint Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County Councils have begun discussions with BJWSA for prioritization of sewer extension in portions of the May River Watershed. BJWSA developing phasing and cost estimates for priority projects recommended by Town &amp; County. Completion anticipated by 12/31/18. <strong>In progress</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Beaufort County implement May River Sewer Master Plan in its jurisdiction</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Town of Bluffton Code Revisions and Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Allow on-going hardship deferments for Ghost Roads until sewer is extended &amp; available</td>
<td>1/25/18, WAPAC recommended removal of the on-going hardship provision as it is inconsistent with the Town's goals to eliminate septic tanks and clarify Ghost Road ownership.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Clarify language in existing Sewer Connection Ordinance requiring connection within 180 days upon written notification contingent upon a qualifying event</td>
<td>2/22/18, WAPAC recommended clarified language and timeline for connection for Town Council’s consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mandate connection to sanitary sewer within 12 months of written notification of sanitary sewer availability regardless of a qualifying event</td>
<td>4/10/18 Town Council First Reading and tabled until Septic to Sewer Conversion Program is established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Encourage private connection by offering financial incentive components tied to a clear public purpose supported by these incentives (e.g. capacity fees and connection construction for qualified individuals)</td>
<td>WAPAC input provided 3/22/18 and 4/26/18 with a recommendation for Town's Council's consideration provided on 5/24/18. Town Council Workshop held 7/17/18 for further input. Adopted without revisions to WAPAC recommendations on 9/20/18. <strong>Completed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Provide lateral line construction &amp; connection as funding sources allow</td>
<td>In progress via grants and Neighborhood Assistance Program. <strong>On-going</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Proactive Education and Programs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Septic system inspections conducted in response to reports &amp; lab test results</td>
<td>Conducted by Staff as indicated by MST results. <strong>On-going</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Educational/Outreach programs to ensure septic owners have adequate knowledge, skills and abilities for proper septic operation and maintenance.</td>
<td>In partnership with MS4 regional outreach partner Carolina Clear - Lowcountry Stormwater Partners and by Staff, as requested. <strong>On-going</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional Coordination Update

Excerpt of report from Beaufort County Stormwater Manager to Utility Board and County Administrator on 8/14/19:

Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County Joint meetings on Sanitary Sewer in the May River watershed – Staff from the County and Town met with BJWSA staff July 18, 2019 to discuss status of the various projects in the plan.

BJWSA 4 year and 10 year CIP plan adopted as part of their FY 20 budget process. BJWSA has put funding in the 10 year plan to cover 1/3 of the estimate cost for each phase, assuming participation from the Town and County. They have not scheduled the projects into a particular FY but will do so once funding commitment is made by the Town and County. This could be as early as FY 21. The 4 year plan has the Stoney Creek project in it. This project is a subset of the first phase in that area.

Here are the most recent cost estimates from BJWSA presented cost estimates for all phases of work:

- Alljoy Gravity Sewer - $12,500,000
- Old Town Gravity Sewer - $2,600,000
- Cahill Low Pressure Sewer - $3,700,000
- Gascoigne Low Pressure Sewer – $2,100,000
- Stoney Creek Vacuum - $4,700,000
- Pritchardville Vacuum - $9,500,000
Regional Coordination Update

• Next Steps:
  – Beaufort County Stormwater Utility Board has recommended County Council consider these projects, but not with Stormwater Utility funding.
  – County Staff anticipates possible Council consideration of Stoney Creek (highest priority project) funding in FY21.
Regional Coordination Update

• Next Steps:
  – Policy Decisions:
    • County Council will need to consider and approve funding for County portion.
    • Town Council will need to consider and approve funding for any cost-share in the watershed, but outside its jurisdiction.
  – Possible WAPAC recommendation to Council to reconvene Joint Councils Meeting (last held in June 2018) to discuss funding strategy.