TOWN OF BLUFFTON MAY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Large Meeting Room, Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building
Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Present:  Wes Jones, chair; Ted Huffman, vice-chair; Reed Armstrong; Barry Connor; Al Stokes;

Absent:  Troy Lucas

Staff:  Kim Jones; Jeremy Ritchie; Beth Lewis; Bill Baugher; Andrea Berry; Sam Connor

Guests:  Rebecca Baker, BC Stormwater MS4 Coordinator; Bryan Baker, Coastal Conservation Association; Beaufort County Councilwoman Cynthia Bensch

Media:  Lucas High, Island Packet; Scott Thompson, Bluffton Today

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL
   1. Members introduced themselves.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
   1. Mr. Huffman moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

IV. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 27, 2015 MEETING MINUTES
   1. Mr. Barry Connor moved to adopt the Minutes as presented. Mr. Huffman seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT
   1. There was no public comment.

VI. OLD BUSINESS
   1. MS4 PERMIT UPDATE
      Mr. Bill Baugher provided the MS4 permit update to the committee. Mr. Baugher stated that the Town had received official notice from the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and was an MS4 community as of December 1, 2015. Mr. Baugher said Town staff was reviewing ordinances and developing new Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s) for the Town’s Erosion and Sediment Control program and the Town’s Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program. Mr. Baugher stated the Town had eighteen months to submit to SCDHEC based on the permit timeline. Mr. Jones requested that Mr. Baugher provide a brief explanation of the MS4 program for members of the audience. Mr. Baugher provided a description of the MS4 program.

   2. MAY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN UPDATE
      a. Projects/Programs Update - Ms. Jones updated the committee on Town Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) that could cause a disruption of use to our local Town citizens and visitors. Ms. Jones first provided details regarding the Oyster Factory Park renovations including updating the
parking areas of the Park, the addition of the floating dock, and sidewalk. The anticipated completion date for Oyster Factory Park is April 15, 2016, prior to the May River Cleanup.

Ms. Jones then updated the committee on the May River Rd. Streetscape Project. Ms. Jones spoke regarding the $200,000 that would be utilized for stormwater improvements. Mr. Armstrong asked where the stormwater discharges would be directed from the project. Mr. Ritchie responded multiple locations however the primary outfall would be near the cemetery and through the Stock Farm community. Mr. Richie stated there would be a small increase in impervious surface in design from the existing condition. Mr. Jones asked if piping would be a better alternative. Ms. Jones responded it is better environmentally to have detention opportunities through ditches and Stock Farm will offer greater treatment of stormwater runoff.

Ms. Jones updated the committee on staff’s plans to begin updating the May River Watershed Action Plan (henceforth, Action Plan) in the near future. Ms. Jones stated that the Town would be looking to coincide the Action Plan update with the Comprehensive Plan update.

b. 319 Grant Phase 2 Update – Mr. Sam Connor stated that construction in Pine Ridge would begin in February and be completed in May. Mr. Sam Connor stated that the deadline for grant closeout is August 5, 2016. Mr. Huffman inquired how the project would be maintained in the long term. Mr. Sam Connor replied the Town would be responsible for maintenance through the easement agreement with the Pine Ridge community. Mr. Armstrong inquired which properties would be irrigated once the project was complete. Mr. Sam Connor replied it will be subsurface irrigation in open spaces within the community and some properties along McCracken Circle.

Mr. Jones inquired about the inspection of stormwater ponds to ensure existing ponds are kept at the appropriate engineered pond depth. Mr. Baugher replied that Town staff was working to incorporate post BMP maintenance as part of the MS4 Program.

Mr. Sam Connor then updated the committee on the Town’s water quality model. Mr. Sam Connor provided background on the model. There are three model scenarios which include:

1. 2002 - Pre-Development, this is the earliest date of data available
2. 2013 - Existing Development, which is the most recent/accurate data available; and
3. Multiple build-out options for future development.

Mr. Sam Connor stated that the water quality model will aid in prioritization to convert concentration to load for single rain events or continuous simulation. Mr. Barry Connor inquired about the Town’s need for flow data. Mr. Sam Connor stated that the Town is collecting flow data in Stoney Creek. Mr. Baugher stated handheld equipment had been purchased and staff was awaiting arrival. Mr. Sam Connor stated this
data would be used to calibrate the model. Mr. Armstrong inquired if the model would have the ability to compare a parcel of land’s existing runoff with different model scenarios and if the model would be able to compare future clustered development versus sprawl development. Mr. Sam Connor responded yes to both. Mr. Barry Connor inquired if the Town would require design engineers to submit stormwater design data for inclusion in the model in the future. Ms. Jones replied it will require Town Council approval for an ordinance change. Mr. Barry Connor stated that he felt the watershed model was the only way for the Town to address the challenge of shellfish impairments facing the Town. Mr. Baugher stated that it was an effective tool to help prioritize.

c. Weekly Sampling Update –Ms. Lewis presented the findings for the New Riverside Pond sampling locations. Mr. Armstrong inquired what the results from this project mean for the Town’s future best management practices (BMPs). Mr. Ritchie stated although it appears that siting a stormwater pond closer to the river is advantageous for fecal coliform, all parameters should be considered. Mr. Huffman inquired about piping treated pond water directly to the outfall. Mr. Ritchie stated that stormwater pipes can also be a source of fecal coliform contamination. Ms. Jones requested that Ms. Lewis do a quick literature search on pipe sources of fecal coliform and piping freshwater directly into a saltwater environment.

Ms. Lewis also provided an update on the cumulative fecal coliform geomeans for the current calendar year to date. Ms. Lewis highlighted that fecal coliform “hot spots” remain consistent with data from previous calendar years. Ms. Lewis informed the committee that Town staff would be working to change the Town’s water quality sampling program to incorporate key outfalls which are a part of the MS4 requirements.

3. DHEC Shellfish Data

Ms. Lewis presented the DHEC sampling data for stations 19-19, located in the headwaters of the May River, down to station 19-16. Ms. Lewis utilized FDA standards to provide the data in the 90%ile and Geometric Means. This methodology mimics that used by SCDHEC thus, giving the Town a better understanding of the data/predictions.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. No Wake Zone

Ms. Jones stated that the Town’s No Wake Zone application to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) had been previously denied. Mr. Collins has made great headway in the science on effects of wake on our coastal ecology. Mr. Collins spoke to the committee that the case should be built that a No Wake Zone should take into account not only safety but this ecology. He requested that the committee consider including this information in the request.

2. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control’s (SCDHEC) funding request for additional water quality sampling.

Mr. Jones referenced the Island Packet article – Could more money for testing mean a cleaner May River published on January 19, 2016. Mr. Jones requested
that Town Council consider SCDHEC’s funding request with a letter of support to the state legislature. Mr. Barry Connor moved to forward Mr. Jones’ request to Town Council. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Mr. Barry Connor moved to adjourn. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE – April 26, 2016 @ 10:00 AM