Town of Bluffton May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee
Large Meeting Room, Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building
Thursday, September 22, 2016

Present: Wes Jones, chair; Larry Toomer, vice-chair; Reed Armstrong; Troy Lucas; Al Stokes

Absent: None

Staff: Bryan McIlwee; Kim Jones; William Baugher; Sam Connor; Beth Lewis; Andrea Berry;

Guests: Rikki Parker, Coastal Conservation League; Dan Wood, Bluffton Town Council

Media: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL
1. Members introduced themselves.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 17, 2016 MEETING MINUTES
1. Mr. Armstrong moved to adopt the Minutes as presented. Mr. Toomer seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. ADOPTION OF DRAFT PUBLIC SEWER CONNECTION POLICY

   BACKGROUND

Ms. Jones reminded members and guests that the committee had reviewed in depth the Draft Town Public Sewer Connection Policy at the last committee meeting held August 17, 2016. As septic system failures have been identified as a potential source of fecal coliform pollution, a recommendation of the May River Watershed Action Plan is to develop such a policy.

Ms. Jones stated that the changes to the policy were highlighted in red text. These changes were the committee’s recommendations from the August 17th meeting and written recommendations provided via email by Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Jones pointed to section 2.d.3. Mr. Jones pointed to concerns with regards to having a lien on the property as the only mechanism for enforcement. Mr. Jones suggested that staff include alternative options such as a promissory note, which could be assumed by another owner, a bond, or a lien as options for enforcement.
Mr. Lucas pointed to section 3.b. Mr. Lucas requested clarification on the intent of that item. Mr. Armstrong provided clarification based upon his recommendation for inclusion into the Policy. After some discussion, Ms. Jones stated that staff would edit this item to more clearly state that the Town would consider a minimum lot size to allow for septic.

After hearing no other concerns, Ms. Jones requested that the committee make a motion to adopt the Town Sewer Connection Policy as presented and with the understanding that staff would make the edits that were discussed. Mr. Armstrong moved to adopt the Town’s Public Sewer Connection Policy. Mr. Lucas seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

UPDATE ON STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ms. Jones stated that Town staff had made several accomplishments since the last committee meeting held in August. Ms. Jones stated that Town staff met with a Public Service District (PSD) located on Hilton Head Island with regards their current sewering projects being performed in conjunction with the Town of Hilton Head. Ms. Jones stated staff had also met with the Community Foundation to discuss taking the $200,000 allocated for sewering by the Town and setting up a Project Safe Fund through the Foundation. Ms. Jones stated that Foundation was willing to accept and vet the applications received.

Ms. Jones then stated that Town staff had selected four locations for Microbial Source Tracking (MST). Ms. Jones stated that these locations were, MRR06 and MRR10 which are the Stoney and Rose Dhu Creek sampling sites off of May River Road, PBR9 located off of Palmetto Bluff Road, and SC13 located further downstream of the Stoney Creek sampling site at May River Road.

Ms. Jones stated that staff would be looking to align sampling efforts with an outgoing king tide event. Mr. Armstrong asked if the Technical Advisory Committee had provided clarification on single sampling versus multiple sampling efforts. Ms. Jones stated that they discussed options and that the Town would be sampling multiple times. Mr. Toomer asked if MST could be performed on tissue and upper soil samples. Ms. Jones responded that the company staff had spoken with did have that ability. Mr. Lucas stated that the sampling protocol should ensure that staff has the appropriate weather conditions prior to sampling. Ms. Jones stated that staff always utilized regionally based guidelines previously developed. Mr. Armstrong asked for clarification on whether different species could be identified and if each was quantifiable. Ms. Jones stated that the quantification technology was not extremely accurate at this point in time. After some additional discussion by the committee, Ms. Jones stated that Town staff would sample the four sites previously discussed but would also add a location at South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)’s shellfish harvesting station 19-19. Ms. Jones also stated that staff would sample water, soil, and tissue from each of these areas and would be working with SCDHEC to determine when the state shellfish program would be performing their next monthly sampling. Ms. Jones stated that Town staff would be reporting this information to the committee as it was received by staff.
VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Draft Watershed Management Division Policy & Programs

Ms. Jones stated that the committee had received the Draft Watershed Management Division Policy and Programs work plan. Ms. Jones provided the committee with major highlights within the work plan. Mr. Armstrong asked if staff had included the Town’s Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program into the work plan. Ms. Jones thanked Mr. Armstrong for pointing it out and stated that it would be added to the plan.

2. Initial Review of Stormwater Management Plan for MS4 Report

Mr. Bill Baugher provided the committee with an overview of the Town’s efforts to prepare their Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP) as required by the MS4 permit. Mr. Baugher stated that Town staff would be submitting the Draft SWMP to the Town Manager in October, sending to SCDHEC by December 1, 2016, and then bringing back to the Committee following receipt of SCDHEC comments for review. The Final SWMP will be submitted SCDHEC in February 2017.

VIII. DISCUSSION

1. Ms. Jones stated that the committee could choose not to meet in October. Mr. Lucas and Mr. Stokes stated they would both be unavailable. Ms. Jones stated that staff would remain in touch with the committee regarding this meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE – October 27, 2016 @ 10:00 AM