TOWN OF BLUFFTON MAY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Rotary Community Center, Oscar Frazier Park
Thursday, January 25, 2018

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

Absent: Wes Jones

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

Guests: Councilman Dan Wood; Dick Deuel, BJWSA

Media: Maggie Angst, Island Packet

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL
   1. Members introduced themselves.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 26, 2017 MEETING MINUTES
   1. Mr. McCracken moved to adopt the Minutes as presented. Mr. Toomer seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT
   1. None

VI. NEW BUSINESS
   1. USCB Presentation on Real-Time Microbial Source Tracking Technology

Mr. Stokes presented information regarding Biomeme, a handheld, real-time microbial source tracking instrument developed by Bigelow Laboratory in Maine. With proper DNA primers developed by USCB, the device can be used to detect human fecal coliform presence. Additional primers for other fecal sources, e.g. dogs, raccoons or deer, and viruses such as Vibrio species can also be developed. This detection has a direct impact on management decisions and USCB is requesting financial support to develop the human primers.

Dr. Montie moved that the WAPAC recommend that Town Council consider amending the current Memorandum of Understanding with the University of South Carolina – Beaufort (referring to Water Quality Laboratory) to support development of Biomeme application for Town water quality purposes. Chairman Burden seconded. No discussion. Unanimous ayes.
2. **Review of Proposed Historic District Sanitary Sewer Project Areas**
   The Committee reviewed Staff recommendations of the six (6) priority areas for sewer extension and connection as directed by the Sewer Connection & Extension Policy.

   Chairman Burden moved to recommend that sewer extension be prioritized as presented. Dr. Montie seconded. No discussion. Unanimous ayes.

3. **Draft Revision to Code of Ordinances Chapter 12. Article V. Sewer Connection**
   Ms. Jones reviewed the redlined version of the proposed changes with the Committee. They agreed to:
   a. Offer connection deferrals to Section 12-134 Connection requirements.
   b. Remove the ability to request an on-going deferral for ghost road situations based on legal recommendation to do so.

   Staff will bring a clean version for review and approval at the February 22nd meeting.

VII. **OLD BUSINESS**
1. **Update on Recommendation to Expand the WAPAC Committee by One Seat**
   Ms. Jones introduced Council’s new committee member, Mr. Chris Shoemaker.

2. **Update May River Watershed Action Plan Strategic Plan Priorities FY19-20**
   Ms. Jones reported that Town Council accepted the Committee’s proposed work plan priorities for Strategic Plan years FY19 – 20.

3. **Water Quality Monitoring (standing item)**
   Ms. Lewis provided an update on the following monitoring data:
   a. Weekly Sampling Update
   b. Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Update
   c. SCDHEC Shellfish Data

VIII. **DISCUSSION**
1. Dr. Montie requested a letter of support for an equipment request grant to the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry prior to the date of the site visit, 2/23/18. The Committee unanimously agreed that Town Council should support the request with letter of recommendation.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**
1. Unanimous decision to adjourn.

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2018 @ 10:00 AM