



**STORMWATER COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 ♦ 12:00 P.M.
SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Elliott called the workshop to order at 12:00 o'clock p.m. Members present: Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Mabry, and members Beck, and Crouch. Member Mull was absent. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Clerk Herrmann, Public Works Director Adair, Events Supervisor Debbie Ellis, and CWSEC Coordinator Lisa Swanger.

WORKSHOP. Chairman Elliott explained that the workshop was called to finalize the plans for the Family Festival on Saturday, October 1st. Details are:

- Committee members will staff the tent beginning at 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
- A banner will be posted "FLOOD & STORMWATER"
- Public Works will provide various handouts for the public, including magnets and a magnetic board upon which to display the magnets
- Coastal Waccamaw Watershed Education Consortium (CWSEC) will have interns manning a booth next door so the two groups can work together
- CWSEC will have display panels, a hands on flood plain model, and various information for the public
- CWSEC will bring "Simon" to meet and greet the public and provide photo opportunities
- Mr. Crouch will provide water and snacks for Simon
- CWSEC will provide dog waste bags that can be attached to a leash

DISCUSSION. Any items of Interest or Concern to Committee Members

Chairman Elliott asked Ms. Swanger which fertilizer was not supposed to be used in this area. Ms. Swanger said low or no phosphorus is desired, because high phosphorus occurs naturally in this area.

Chairman Elliott asked the clerk to contact Dr. Libes to determine a date for a public education session using the presentation "Reducing Runoff Pollutants in Your Home" before the end of October or at least before Thanksgiving on a week night starting between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. Mr. Adair suggested a brief presentation on the town's stormwater infrastructure and system. The entire presentation should not last more than 45 minutes or an hour. A discussion ensued about including county residents, meeting room sizes, etc. Mr. Crouch said originally the plan was to have a presentation for just town residents. Another presentation can be scheduled at a later date to include Horry County staff and area residents. Ms. Swanger suggested collecting names and email addresses at the Family Festival from those who were interested in attending future workshops. The committee **CONCURRED**.

Mr. Bob Benson asked if the presentation "Reducing Runoff Pollutants in Your Home" was specific to this area. Ms. Swanger said yes, this was a generalized program that applied to any homeowner. Mr. Benson was more interested in what was going on in town, including the maintenance program, and how our system relates to the community on the other side of Highway 17. He believes a generic presentation would fail, because people are looking for ways to solve problems. Mr. Crouch said the residents need some basic understanding of what their part is before hearing about the county stormwater plans.

Chairman Elliott asked if Mr. Adair planned to take the councilmembers on the stormwater tour to view the infrastructure and see how the system worked. Mr. Adair said yes; the full council is seated now and that would be scheduled. There are many misconceptions about our stormwater system. It might be helpful to add some information to the web. Chairman Elliott asked if the public could be given the tour. Mr. Adair believed it would be more beneficial for citizens to attend the stormwater committee meetings and workshops to learn about stormwater.

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56 Mr. Adair said that the town is authorized by the state to discharge water into the ocean. A
57 grant funded the "Poop Fairy" magnets; a Poop Fairy sign is also on the garbage truck. An additional 100
58 drain markers were ordered to mark the drains. Mr. Crouch said we have a responsibility that includes
59 making sure that fecal matter does not pollute the water. He believed that was the basic information
60 that most people do not have. Mr. Adair repeated for the benefit of those attending the meeting, all of
61 this comes from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is mandated under the
62 Clean Water Act of 1972 and is administered by the South Carolina Department of Health and
63 Environmental Control (SCDHEC) in South Carolina. We have to do to the maximum extent practicable,
64 which is an MEP, a catch-phrase for the industry, to discharge clean water into the ocean. Other
65 challenges exist through the delivery system that conveys the water to the ocean.
66

67 Chairman Elliott asked if the screen at the water park was part of that. Mr. Adair said yes, it is a
68 BMP, best management practice that is part of the water quality. Mr. Crouch said this is exactly the kind
69 of information that should be in his presentation for the public. Mr. Adair said locally things could
70 improve greatly by citizens changing their practices just a little bit.
71

72 Mayor Childs said the "snow birds" (senior adults that visit during the off season) are some of the
73 biggest offenders of picking up pet waste. I walk a couple of miles every morning. During the winter the
74 amount of pet waste triples. Maybe the realtors could be involved so they could notify their renters to
75 help them understand what we're trying to do. The snow birds are leaving pet waste on the sidewalk,
76 and I don't see that in the summer time as much as I do in the winter.
77

78 Mr. Adair said during last year's visioning process the need for a dedicated funding source to
79 repair the town's aging stormwater infrastructure was discussed. Town Council authorized a proposal for
80 an interim stormwater utility fee, which is in the final stages of preparation. The rain event on
81 September 2nd caused the Myrtle swash bulkhead to fail. Council authorized an emergency repair and the
82 contractor has already been contacted.
83

84 Chairman Elliott said it was stated at the last council meeting that the road would be closed. Mr.
85 Adair said there is a 40 or 50 year old wooden pile bridge that was built by the South Carolina
86 Department of Transportation when the boulevard was a state road. That bridge and the one at
87 Dogwood Swash were added to the list of priority improvements to be replaced. Town Council
88 authorized the engineering to get bidding process started for the bridge at Myrtle swash.
89

90 Mr. Mabry asked if the town considered any cost of maintenance or repairs when it took over
91 Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Adair said the town has assumed all maintenance responsibility for Ocean
92 Boulevard. Mr. Mabry asked why the town took over the road. Mr. Adair did not know, that was done
93 before he was hired. Mr. Mabry remembered that it was so the state would not have to be contacted to
94 close the road so the Christmas parade could be on it. The town took on a lot of responsibility, because
95 of a little bit of inconvenience.
96

97 Mr. Beck said we are dealing with a major cultural change of getting people to think about
98 managing stormwater; how to deal with grass clippings; dog waste, and feeding the animals. Fifty years
99 ago, people would turn their dogs out and let them go. About 20 years ago, leashes began being used.
100 The town has had a leash law for a long time. Picking up waste requires people to do something that is
101 not so pleasant. It's tough teaching old dogs new tricks. We've got a cultural change where people are
102 more "me" centered; I don't want to inconvenience myself, than community centered to think I have to
103 do this for my town, my county, or my area. That's a challenge that sometimes is helped by public
104 embarrassment. I think that is why many people have started picking up waste, because it's expected.
105 The more signs that are up the better, because it is more embarrassing to feed geese in front of a sign
106 that says don't feed the geese. That has helped at the lake near my house. I no longer see the lady
107 come by with a bag of bird seed feeding the animals. When I got the "Poop Fairy" magnet, I wondered if
108 I dared put it on my neighbor's door, who says, "I've never picked up after my dog, and I don't ever

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109 intend to." Mr. Beck said I may put in on my mailbox, because I find waste right next to it many times.
110 Gradually, I think things are getting better in our culture and in our society. As we keep advertising,
111 doing little things in Surfside will help. But it is not going to happen overnight. He believed the sense of
112 community in town helped with participation as much as anything; it should continue to be promoted.
113

114 A discussion ensued about sign placement and verbiage; offenses that occur, and various tools
115 that are used, like signs on the garbage truck; habits of snow birds; educational opportunities; bio-
116 degradable dog waste bags, and stormwater management via treatment plants versus ocean discharge.
117

118 Mr. Mabry said about 25 years ago, Mr. John Tellet came to the podium during a meeting and
119 demonstrated how to use plastic bags to pick up dog waste. He made it very simple, and I for one, had
120 never thought of that.
121

122 **ADJOURNMENT.** Chairman Elliott declared the workshop adjourned at 1:03 .m.
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124 Prepared and submitted by,
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126 _____
127 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk
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129 Approved: October 18, 2016
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132 Sandra Elliott, Chairman
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135 P. L. Mabry, Vice Chairman
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135 Alan Beck, Committee Member
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138 Ron Crouch, Committee Member
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138 Tabitha Mull, Committee Member
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141 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded,
142 and not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the
143 town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a flash drive. In accordance
144 with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and
145 interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at
146 Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at www.surfsidebeach.org
147 and the marquee.