



**STORMWATER COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2017 ♦ 2:00 o'clock p.m.
Surfside Beach Town Council Chambers**

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1. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Elliott called the meeting to order at 2:00 o'clock p.m. Members present: Chairman Elliott, Vice-Chairman Mull, and members Beck, Crouch, and Mabry. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Clerk Herrmann, Public Works Director Adair, and Michelle LaRocco, Coastal Training Program Coordinator (CTP), North Inlet-Winyah Bay (NI-WB) National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR,), and Lisa Swanger Coastal Waccamaw Watershed Education Programs Coordinator.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Chairman Elliott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. OFFICER ELECTION

A. Chairman: Mr. Crouch moved that Ms. Elliott be elected chairman. Ms. Mull second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B. Vice Chairman: Mr. Crouch moved that Ms. Mull be elected vice chairman. Mr. Beck second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. AGENDA APPROVAL. Mr. Crouch moved to approve the agenda with amendments to add reports from Ms. LaRocco and Mr. Adair. Ms. Mull second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. MINUTES APPROVAL. Ms. Mull moved to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2016 regular meeting and the September 19, 2016 workshop as submitted. Mr. Crouch second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items. There were no public comments.

7. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

A. CWSEC Coordinator Lisa Swanger. Chairman Elliott said thank you for helping us at the BBQ Festival last year. We're looking forward to the March 11th BBQ Festival this year, and look forward to your interns assisting again. Ms. Swanger said she will follow up later for details on this year's festival. There is a new dog named Malabar that was selected at the 2nd Annual Grand Strand for Canines for Clean Water contest. Malabar is a sweetheart, and is owned by actually USGS staff member that works at University.

- February 7, Water Quality Communication Workshop, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce to target the Hospitality Association, tours, and group that frequently converse with tourists
- February 11, 2017 Waccamaw Conference, Horry County Museum
- March 16, Town of Surfside Beach Education Session, 6:00 p.m.

B. Dr. Susan Libes. Dr. Libes was absent.

CTP Michelle LaRocco. Ms. LaRocco said the Consortium's three main concerns are: 1. Water Quality; 2. Climate Change, and 3. Habitat Protection. The stormwater committee stormwater committee has an influence in your local community on water quality and climate change. You are already actually dealing with climate change and on the front lines of that issue. Thank you for your hard work in dealing with stormwater and water quality. Stormwater is the front line on climate change in our local community coast wide, because we already have built pipes and outlets and weirs and structures onto our waterways. The connections between stormwater, water quality, and climate change that occur are the main impacts that interface with climate change. Precipitation changes things like major flood events. Things that can be done to improve water quality are: clean up after pets; don't fertilize your lawn before a

58 rain; properly disposing of hazardous waste so the pollutants don't get into the water stream during storm
59 events; store on a minimum of hazardous products at your residence; clean ditches and storm drains, and
60 the town has two hazardous waste pick-up events.
61

62 Mr. Mabry asked how this information was shared with Horry County. Ms. LaRocco said she
63 visits County Council when invited, and the county has several committees to deal with these issues.
64 One of our key educational messages is about the watershed and that we all live downstream. The town
65 receives water coming the rest of the county. Horry County is downstream of North Carolina. You are
66 impacted by watersheds above you. Working on these at multiple levels is very important, so that that
67 message is delivered that we all live in a watershed network connected to our neighbors.
68

69 **DIRECTOR'S REPORT.** Mr. Adair said since the hurricane, a lot of restoration work is going on.
70 The Myrtle Swash the north side bulkhead alongside Sea Cloisters has been replaced with the same
71 material used at 3rd Avenue South. The next project will be the adjacent Myrtle Swash culvert bridge
72 over Ocean Boulevard. That is also in very bad shape and that needs replacing. We are currently
73 pursuing a \$0.5 million grant through the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority to get the funding.
74 Maintenance work has continued, including cleaning catch basins. We are going to be doing some more
75 aggressive this cleaning out a lot of the ditches. After big rain we had in September and in the hurricane
76 in October, the areas that have problems were highlighted. My staff will continue over the next couple
77 months with a full-court press on ditch openings. Just before Hurricane Matthew hit, an aeration system
78 was installed in Palmetto Lake to improve the oxygen levels. He explained how other lakes are
79 superheating and alternative actions being taken to control water temperatures, like planting trees. The
80 town lost 10 to 15 trees around the smaller lake banks during the hurricane, because they could not
81 withstand the wind. The trees stabilize the bank with their root systems and also serve to shade the lake.
82 Hopefully those losses are not going to manifest itself in an algae problem or erosion problem moving
83 forward. The volunteer water monitors have given us some good information; it was reported in Dr. Libes'
84 report a few weeks ago that the Dogwood Lake testing at the outfall had shown some elevated bacteria
85 and turbidity levels. I questioned the county; initially they said nothing was going on, but then that
86 development up by Huckabee Complex at Mallard Landing expanded the size of its retention pond. The
87 developer pumped out the small temporary construction retention pond and the sediment control devices
88 that they had installed were insufficient to handle that level. So, a lot of that cloudy water got through into
89 our system. We all know bacteria binds itself to sediment waters. I think that accounts for the spike
90 Dogwood and that should now go away.
91

92 Mr. Beck said Ms. LaRocco talked about the effect of the increased tide flow and that we are
93 rebuilding the Myrtle swash. I'm not sure if it makes any sense at all, but I just wondered if we should try
94 to block the tide when it blows all the salinity back up into Myrtle Lake. Mr. Adair said Myrtle Lake has
95 always been tidal. It's a fact that the sea level is rising each year. A kinds of coastal communities across
96 the east and west coasts are rethinking their coastal development. That is one of the reasons why we
97 require 3 feet of freeboard for coastal construction above the base flood elevation level. In terms of the
98 town's drainage system, there is not a lot that can be done. Mr. Beck also asked about the Palmetto
99 Lake bubbler effectiveness. When we get to warmer weather June July August. I wonder if we should be
100 checking the DO (dissolved oxygen) levels in that lake to see if there really better than they were last
101 year. We don't normally check that lake. This goes back to the time of the fish kill. This past year, Mr.
102 Harth checked 7th and 10th Avenues twice to establish a base line. The DO was borderline. Palmetto will
103 definitely be tested again. Mr. Beck suggested tracking weather conditions when the testing was done.
104

105 106 **8. BUSINESS**

107
108 **A. Resolution to Support the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) Stormwater Fee.** Chairman
109 Elliott said we have a resolution prepared for the committee to adopt to notify Town Council the
110 stormwater committee supports adopting an ERU stormwater fee. Ms. Mull read the resolution, a copy of
111 which is on file.
112

113 Mr. Beck moved to adopt the resolution to support the ERU. Mr. Crouch second.

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114
115 Mr. Mabry opposed the resolution, saying that Town Council took ownership of Ocean Boulevard
116 without realizing the impact it would have on the town financially. He saw no justification for the town
117 residents to pay a fee, because Town Council acted badly. Mr. Mabry has served on this committee
118 since its inception, and has worked hard to create a stormwater management system, which public works
119 manages and maintains very well.
120

121 Chairman Elliott agreed it was a bad decision, but the town does not have time to fight about this,
122 because there are bridges that need repair. Town Council approved funding for the ERU study to be
123 performed. She spoke with several councilmembers that support the ERU. The committee is not
124 "creating" the fee; the committee is simply saying that it supports Town Council's implementing the fee as
125 a source for the maintenance and up keep of the town's system.
126

127 Mr. Beck said the road belongs to the town; the stormwater infrastructure must be maintained.
128

129 Mr. Crouch understood Mr. Mabry's points, but said the committee needed to move forward with
130 this resolution as a unified body. He asked if Mr. Mabry could support the resolution with a caveat that he
131 or any other committee member attend the Town Council meeting when it was presented and express his
132 concerns to councilmembers. Mr. Crouch said I'm concerned about two things. One is we have to have
133 money to maintain the stormwater infrastructure. The committee clearly waited until after the election so
134 that nobody could be charged with trying to tax their neighbors. There's no money today, because the
135 funds were used for other purposes. Over the last 18 months, Mr. Adair has determined that Surfside
136 Beach is the only community coastal community that does not have an ERU. The issue here is it's not
137 going to be a tax. It's going to be a stormwater water utility fee, possibly collected on the water and sewer
138 bill.
139

140 Mr. Mabry said he could support a unanimous decision, but it bothered him that the citizens have
141 this burden.
142

143 Mr. Adair said stormwater utility fees have been upheld as fair and equitable in the Supreme
144 Court. Fees collected would be placed in a designated fund and could not be expropriated for any other
145 purpose.
146

147 Ms. Mull asked for clarification that the town owns Ocean Boulevard, and must maintain it. Mr.
148 Adair said that was correct. Ocean Boulevard is only a piece of what needs to be done. When 5 mils
149 was collected for stormwater beginning in 2003 only amount to about \$300,000 a year; since that time,
150 the number of projects and related project cost have escalated exponentially.
151

152 All members voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
153

154 **B. Second Avenue Ditch.** Chairman Elliot showed Mr. Adair some pictures of the 2nd Avenue
155 area ditches that were taken after a normal rain. Mr. Adair said one of the ditches is included in the next
156 phase of work to be made wider, and bigger, depending on funding as part of the next phase of the north
157 side drainage project. Elephant ears and vegetative matter left in a ditch disintegrates quickly. Once the
158 next phase is completed, water will no longer sit in that ditch.
159

160 **C. BBQ Festival.** Chairman Elliot said a schedule would be made for members to help with the
161 BBQ Festival. Mr. Adair and Ms. Swanger were gathering information to be passed out. Interns from the
162 Coastal Waccamaw Watershed Consortium, and Malabar, the Stormwater Canine, would also attend.
163

164 Mr. Crouch said that the committee deliberately scheduled the education seminar on March 16 so
165 that flyers can be passed out at the BBQ Festival on March 11th. While the seminar is aimed at Surfside
166 Beach residents, homeowners, and small business owners, the fact that people who come to our event
167 are more than likely are from inland, and it won't hurt us, if they show up. Something we haven't
168 addressed is a way to get the flyers to the small businesses.
169

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170 Ms. Mull asked if there was one flyer and what would be done at the festival. Chairman Elliott said
171 Ms. Swanger will prepare the flyer for the education seminar, and it will be available for the BBQ Festival;
172 on the town's social media, website, and also distributed to the town's email subscription list. Mr. Crouch
173 said there will be many give-away items at the festival to keep encourage keeping our water clean.
174

175 **9. DISCUSSION.** There was no discussion.
176

177 **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS.** There were no public comments.
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179 **11. COMMITTEE COMMENTS.** There were no committee comments.
180

181 **12. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Crouch moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m. Ms. Mull second.
182 All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
183

184 Respectfully submitted,
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Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

189 Approved: April 18, 2017
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192 Sandra Elliott, Chairman
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195 Tabitha Mull, Vice Chairman
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Alan Beck, Committee Member
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198 Ron Crouch, Committee Member
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P. L. Mabry, Committee Member
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201 *Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and not*
202 *intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a free*
203 *copy of the audio will be given to you provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive. In accordance with FOIA*
204 *§30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties via the*
205 *town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting*
206 *notice was also posted on the town website at www.surfsidebeach.org and the marquee.*