



STORMWATER COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 29, 2015 ♦ 5:00 o'clock p.m.
Town Council Chambers ♦ Town of Surfside Beach

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6 **1. CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Elliott called the meeting to order at 5:00 o'clock p.m.
7 Members present: Chairman Elliott, Vice-Chairman Mabry, and members Beck, Crouch, and Mull.
8 Member Meccia was absent. There is one vacancy. A quorum was present. Others present: Town
9 Clerk Herrmann, Public Works Director Adair, and CBO Otte.

10
11 **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Chairman Elliott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

12
13 **3. OFFICER ELECTION**

14
15 **A. Chairman:** Mr. Crouch moved to elect Ms. Elliott as chairman. Ms. Mull seconded. All voted
16 in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

17
18 **B. Vice Chairman:** Chairman Elliott moved to elect Ms. Mull as vice chairman. Mr. Crouch
19 seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

20
21 **4. AGENDA APPROVAL.** Mr. Mabry moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Crouch
22 seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

23
24 **5. MINUTES APPROVAL.** Mr. Mabry moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2014
25 meeting as submitted. Mr. Crouch seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

26
27 **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items.** There were no public comments.

28
29 **7. COMMUNICATION**

30
31 **A. Stormwater Education Consortium, SWSEC Coordinator Lisa Swanger.** Ms. Swanger
32 introduced herself to the committee. She is the coordinator for the Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater
33 Education Consortium. The consortium is composed of six education providers essentially assisting
34 member MS4 communities meet their permit requirements for the Clean Water Act. The specific focus
35 was on minimum control measures number 1, public education, and number 2, outreach and public
36 participation and involvement, but the consortium also addresses other measures. The 2014 annual
37 report was completed and distributed to all the members. An environmental education intern was recently
38 hired who is working on various projects, including the storm drain marking program. The Hurricane
39 Awareness Tour will be held May 6th at the Myrtle Beach Airport. This is a collaboration between Horry
40 and Georgetown Counties Emergency Management agencies. The consortium's next meeting is
41 tentatively scheduled on June 26th. The committee was invited to attend. She asked the committee
42 members to let her know of any questions or specific training they might want.

43
44 Mr. Crouch asked if the intern was paid. Ms. Swanger said yes, funding is provided by the MS4
45 members. The intern program aids the town in meeting the permit requirements under NPDES (National
46 Pollutant Discharge Elimination System); it is the permit program phase 2. The information is included in
47 the annual report, which is submitted to DHEC (South Carolina Department of Health and Environment
48 Control) by the MS4 members.

49
50 **B. Director's Report.** Public Works Director Adair said the town's capital projects budget
51 includes all the stormwater expenses, including maintenance, hardware, pipes, DHEC annual MS4 fees,
52 education, laboratory testing, a share of testing at the water treatment plant on the Waccamaw River,
53 participation in the stormwater consortium, and other items. Town Council was presented proposed
54 revisions to the stormwater ordinances at its meeting last night. First reading will be at the next meeting
55 to include the required "Enforcement Response Plan (ERP)," that outlines actions to correct violations
56 when found. Copies of the proposed ordinance and the ERP were distributed. Mr. Adair explained the
57 changes in the ordinance. The current phase of the Myrtle and Magnolia basins drainage project was
58 completed in January. Approximately one mile of perforated pipe was installed along with about 50 deep

59 sump catch basins that retain water in the bottoms to let as much water as possible to drain into the soil.
60 This is the current best management practice to promote good water quality downstream. Funds are
61 being saved for the next project, possibly to begin in 2016-2017. The 2011 Basin Study completed by
62 DDC Engineers cites the critical areas in the two basins, which are being improved by order of priority to
63 eliminate residential flooding.

64
65 **C. Volunteer Water Monitoring Report – 4th Quarter 2014 and 1st Quarter 2015, Chairman**
66 **Elliott.** Ms. Mull read the water monitoring report, a copy of which is on file. Dr. Susan Libes, Director,
67 Waccamaw Watershed Academy and Professor of Marine Science and Chemistry, Coastal Carolina
68 University, distributed a turbidity record for Dogwood Lake, a copy of which is in file. The volunteers
69 measure turbidity, the cloudiness of the water, to determine whether sediment has entered the lakes.
70 Turbidity indicates the volume of particles present in the water. Because the record began in July 2010,
71 the volunteers' data made a persuasive case. Everyone quickly agreed that turbidity levels were high.
72 Mr. Adair was able to notify Horry County officials that particles were coming into the lake from the
73 county. The Horry County stormwater manager performed an illicit discharge detection and elimination
74 evaluation, which is one of the requirements under the stormwater permit. This was a perfect example of
75 how the system should work, because the stormwater manager needed to act quickly to reduce the
76 pollution source. A contractor was found that did not have silt fences or other sediment and erosion
77 controls in place, which are legal requirements. Turbidity levels in Dogwood Lake have declined to 10
78 from a high of 36, but have not yet reached normal level of about 5.

79
80 Mr. Beck said the lake water level was dropped during some recent construction, which created
81 exposed shoreline all around. Now, the lake is partly filled, but not to the original level. There is 6 to 8
82 acre feet of water still missing that facilitated filtering the water. The lower water level will also allow
83 bottom dwelling plants to grow. The committee was not consulted before the town began the project. Dr.
84 Libes said a high E. coli reading was made that coincided with the lake lowering. Mr. Beck said the lake
85 had a zero E. coli reading last summer, over the last three years, the average was 33.

86
87 Dr. Libes said the lake measured very high ammonia, which comes from the breakdown of
88 organic matter, such as fecal material, so it was consistent that the two readings both increased. The
89 good news is that sampling taken yesterday was low again. This is why having a long time series of data
90 is important. Mr. Beck said there were some new geese families on the lake that might impact readings.
91 Dr. Libes said it was interesting to learn how lowering the lake affected the readings. Mr. Beck said
92 lowering the lake removed many of the recreational benefits, because paddles hit the bottom when you
93 row. Dr. Libes believed that lowering the lake level affected the water quality benefits. Mr. Beck said the
94 water would be warmer and also affect the oxygen level.

95
96 Dr. Libes explained the remainder of the handout saying that the information was available on the
97 <http://www.coastal.edu/www/> website. She said for water quality data it was better to use a box plot,
98 which showed median data. Mr. Beck said the rumor that pollution coming out of the dog parks was
99 unfounded based on the E. coli trends. Dr. Libes said the trend also confirms that the DHEC numbers
100 had not decreased. The data indicates that source might be geese on Myrtle Lake or seagulls on the
101 beach. Dr. Libes thanked the volunteers for their efforts.

102
103 **8. BUSINESS.**

104
105 **A. "Stormwater 101," the Committee's role with the Community Rating System (CRS) for**
106 **FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).** Mr. Adair explained that the town participates in
107 CRS through FEMA. Every property owner in town that is in a flood zone is required to have flood
108 insurance. The CRS program requires best management practices that result in insurance premium
109 savings for homeowners. The Biggert-Waters Act of 2012 was adopted in response to Hurricanes Katrina
110 and Sandy for which there were over \$20 billion in payouts for flood claims. The problem was that older
111 property owners were only paying a few hundred dollars per year because of subsidies and many
112 properties were underinsured. The government was underfunded, and "lost their shirt." Over the next
113 several years, the Act will remove subsidies from flood insurance policies and everyone will eventually
114 pay full market rates. The town gets points for any activity done above the minimum requirements. Every

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115 500 points reduces flood insurance premiums by 5-percent for in-town property; 1,000 points equals a 10-
116 percent discount. The town is currently rated a '9' and has a 5-percent discount. Director Morris from the
117 planning, building and zoning department worked tirelessly on CRS. Recently a flyer about bulk debris
118 pick up was distributed to residents for which the town gained points. Mr. Adair discussed several other
119 ways in which the town gains points and the new ordinances.

120
121 Mr. Crouch asked if committee members or citizens should report street drainage or other public
122 drainage problems to public works. Mr. Adair welcomed those reports, as the eight staff members in the
123 street department cannot be everywhere. The department responds to every call or email message. Of
124 course, if it is a construction site, Mr. Otte should be contacted, because that is private property. He said
125 that CRS requires that every component of the public drainage system be checked annually, so that
126 schedule is in place so the entire system is inspected and maintained during the year.

127
128 Mr. Beck asked what the impact was of piped ditches that have filled in. Mr. Adair said those
129 pipes would have to be cleaned out. Usually only the first few feet were blocked.

130
131 Chairman Elliott asked if the committee would ever be involved in recommending projects for
132 capital improvement. Mr. Adair said the committee could make a suggestion for evaluation by an
133 engineer. Current projects are based on an engineering study prepared by DDC Engineers in 2011. In
134 the early 2000's the town undertook three large drainage studies and projects: Melody Basin, Floral
135 Basin, and part of Myrtle Basin. Those projects corrected all the repetitive flooding problems in those
136 basins. The DDC study picks up with the Myrtle Basin and includes Magnolia Basin to correct flooding on
137 the streets. Mr. Adair distributed the current project list to the committee members and explained that the
138 engineer modeled the entire basin against the 20-, 100-, and 500-year storms to determine priorities.
139 However, most municipalities construct stormwater systems based on 25-year storms.

140
141 **B. "Floodplain Management," CBO Otte.** Mr. Otte said that he deals with private property in
142 town. The floodplain management ordinances address what property owners are required to do to meet
143 the flood guidelines. Stormwater plans are now required for all zones for construction unless it is for an
144 accessory building under 200-square feet and then only with an engineer's letter that certifies the 200-
145 square feet building will not affect stormwater runoff. Mr. Otte reviews all stormwater plans by verifying
146 the number calculations. Since he was not an engineer, he did not question the plan itself; but would
147 question the water volume capacity, or if his calculations were different. Once permits were issued,
148 periodic inspections were performed at the construction sites and also when complaints were received.
149 Water cannot be diverted off the property onto neighbors' property. Generally, contractors are compliant
150 with the silt fencing requirement. Trenches and swales were inspected to insure correct depth and width.
151 Pipes and emergency overflows were also checked. The final inspection before issuance of the
152 completion certification (CO) includes checking grass on the swales and on trenches and that the
153 engineer's design was executed properly. There are about 15 houses under construction now, and some
154 more plans were recently submitted.

155
156 Chairman Elliott asked how the 3-foot freeboard would affect the 55-foot height limit. Mr. Otte
157 said that some structures have actually had to trim the roofline to meet the height limits.

158
159 Mr. Beck asked if there was a determination of water coming off a 200-square foot building. Mr.
160 Otte said engineers had told him about 5-gallons of water. The building code uses 200-square feet as the
161 minimum square footage before a building permit is required, which was the bases for the code. Mr.
162 Beck said he would be very upset if he planned to build a 4-foot by 6-foot dog has and was told he had to
163 pay an engineer to get a letter. He believed this was an onerous, unnecessary requirement.

164
165 Mr. Mabry said the issue was that every building added square footage to the amount of land
166 upon which water could not drain, like adding a paved driveway or patio. Mr. Otte said that was correct,
167 and pervious/impervious calculations were required for those projects.

168
169 After further discussion, Mr. Beck moved to ask the planning and zoning commission to reconsider
170 paragraph 8 to delete the requirement for a certified statement from an engineer on structures less than

171 200-square feet. Mr. Crouch seconded. Mr. Crouch moved to amend that Mr. Adair review the document
172 as well. Mr. Beck accepted the friendly amendment as part of the motion and explained that if there was
173 no impact for a 5-gallon water displacement, he believed the engineer's certification was an onerous
174 requirement on the Surfside Beach citizens. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
175

176 **C. Leaf pickup.** Chairman Elliott asked if anyone was concerned that the town requires leaves
177 to be placed in plastic bags for dumping at the County landfill, where the bags become part of the mulch
178 created from the leaves. She was concerned that the town was not leaving a clean footprint. She
179 suggested that leaves be gathered loosely at the curb. Mr. Beck said he could image the problems
180 picking up the leaves, if they were loose at the curb. Some communities have suction devices to gather
181 leaves. He places his bush clippings and leaves in bags, because that is what the town requires.
182 Surfside is excellent at collecting those bags. Chairman Elliott said nothing against Surfside, they are
183 excellent. She was concerned with additional plastic going into the mulch. Plastic does not disintegrate.
184 Mr. Crouch said there are biodegradable plastic bags that could be used, but it was more expensive.
185 Unless the county agreed to change, this might be an easy option for residents. He would personally ask
186 his landscaper to use biodegradable bags. Chairman Elliott said many landscape companies were
187 unconcerned that leaves were blown into ditches. She often tells landscapers the ditches go into the
188 lakes or ocean. She suggested that each property have a barrier into which leaves could be blown, and
189 then the town collect them so a clean footprint is left for our grandchildren.
190

191 **D. Flooding on Streets.** This issue was discussed during Mr. Adair's presentation above.
192

193 **9. DISCUSSION.**

194

195 **A. Time of Meeting.** After discussion, Mr. Beck moved that the committee meet at 5:00 p.m.
196 Ms. Mull seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
197

198 **B. Signatures on Approved Minutes.** The committee concurred for all members to continue
199 signing approved minutes.
200

201 **C. Committee Membership.** Chairman Elliott said that Mr. Meccia had verbally resigned from
202 the committee, and had also been absent for the last three meetings. Ms. Mull moved to recommend to
203 Town Council to declare the seat vacant. Mr. Mabry seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
204

205 A discussion was held about changing the membership to five instead of seven, because there
206 are currently five active members. Mr. Beck did not believe that it was appropriate for the committee to
207 make that decision. The committees were set up to have a certain amount of citizen representation.
208 Chairman Elliott said the committee would make a recommendation to Town Council. Mr. Crouch said
209 the issue was the meeting last week did not have a quorum. A five member committee would only
210 require three members to establish a quorum. Chairman Elliott said this happened twice. Ms. Mull said
211 there had been a vacancy since 2013. Mr. Beck asked if vacancies count in determining a quorum.
212 Chairman Elliott, Mr. Crouch and Ms. Herrmann responded yes. Mr. Beck believed it was based on the
213 number of seats filled. After further discussion, Mr. Crouch moved to recommend to Town Council to
214 reduce the membership from seven members to five members. Mr. Mabry seconded. Chairman Elliott,
215 Vice Chairman Mull and Members Crouch and Mabry voted in favor. Member Beck voted against.
216 **MOTION CARRIED.**
217

218 **D. Any items of Interest or Concern to Committee Members.**

219

220 Mr. Crouch said he has seen people walking their dogs around Dogwood Lake inside the fenced
221 area. He would not enter the area with his dog, because fences usually are to keep people out. He
222 asked whether the town need to consider some type education for the residents that live around the lake,
223 or place some signage. Mr. Beck believed there was a town ordinance requires pet owners to clean up
224 after their pets. Mr. Crouch said there is an individual that regularly walks their dog without cleaning up.
225 The response staff gave him was that there was no number to report such activity. The words used were
226 "public shame might be effective." Mr. Mabry suggested that Mr. Crouch attend a Town Council meeting

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227 and make those comments before the Town Council. He did not suggest that Mr. Crouch or any citizen
228 try to enforce a code, because it might cause a problem. Mr. Crouch believes as the stormwater
229 committee is aware of this problem, signage and/or education was in order. Mr. Mabry did not think that
230 was the answer, because the problem exists throughout the town. Mr. Beck said not all the town lakes
231 were fenced, and that problem was insignificant compared to goose that put out 4-pounds of excrement
232 per day per goose. He noted that two geese raise eight geese per year.
233

234 Chairman Elliott asked if the committee would like to hear from the water testers to explain what
235 they do. Dr. Libes said it was time for a volunteer water quality monitoring meeting and invited the
236 stormwater committee and Town Council to attend.
237

238 **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS.** There were no public comments.
239

240 **11. COMMITTEE COMMENTS.** There were no committee comments.
241

242 **12. ADJOURNMENT.** Ms. Mull moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Mr. Crouch
243 seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
244

245 Ms. Herrmann reminded the committee members that the next regular meeting is July 21st at 5:00
246 p.m.
247

248 Prepared and submitted by,
249

250 _____
251 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk
252

253 Approved: July 21, 2015
254

255 _____
256 Sandra Elliott, Chairman
257

258 _____
259 P. L. Mabry, Vice Chairman
260

258 _____
259 Alan Beck, Committee Member
260

261 _____
262 Ron Crouch, Committee Member
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261 _____
262 Tabitha Mull, Committee Member
263

264 _____
265 Vacant Seat
266

264 _____
265 Vacant Seat
266

267 *Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting and are not intended to be a complete*
268 *transcript. Appointments may be made with the town clerk to hear recordings or you may provide your own flash*
269 *drive to obtain a copy. In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media*
270 *and the email public subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers, and in*
271 *the Town Hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on the Town marquee.*
272