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

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

3. OFFICER ELECTION
   A. Chairman: Mr. Crouch moved to elect Ms. Elliott as chairman. Ms. Mull seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
   
   B. Vice Chairman: Chairman Elliott moved to elect Ms. Mull as vice chairman. Mr. Crouch seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

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

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

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

   B. Director’s Report. Public Works Director Adair said the town’s capital projects budget includes all the stormwater expenses, including maintenance, hardware, pipes, DHEC annual MS4 fees, education, laboratory testing, a share of testing at the water treatment plant on the Waccamaw River, participation in the stormwater consortium, and other items. Town Council was presented proposed revisions to the stormwater ordinances at its meeting last night. First reading will be at the next meeting to include the required “Enforcement Response Plan (ERP),” that outlines actions to correct violations when found. Copies of the proposed ordinance and the ERP were distributed. Mr. Adair explained the changes in the ordinance. The current phase of the Myrtle and Magnolia basins drainage project was completed in January. Approximately one mile of perforated pipe was installed along with about 50 deep
sump catch basins that retain water in the bottoms to let as much water as possible to drain into the soil. This is the current best management practice to promote good water quality downstream. Funds are being saved for the next project, possibly to begin in 2016-2017. The 2011 Basin Study completed by DDC Engineers cites the critical areas in the two basins, which are being improved by order of priority to eliminate residential flooding.

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

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

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

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

8. BUSINESS.

A. “Stormwater 101,” the Committee’s role with the Community Rating System (CRS) for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). Mr. Adair explained that the town participates in CRS through FEMA. Every property owner in town that is in a flood zone is required to have flood insurance. The CRS program requires best management practices that result in insurance premium savings for homeowners. The Biggert-Waters Act of 2012 was adopted in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy for which there were over $20 billion in payouts for flood claims. The problem was that older property owners were only paying a few hundred dollars per year because of subsidies and many properties were underinsured. The government was underfunded, and “lost their shirt.” Over the next several years, the Act will remove subsidies from flood insurance policies and everyone will eventually pay full market rates. The town gets points for any activity done above the minimum requirements. Every
500 points reduces flood insurance premiums by 5-percent for in-town property; 1,000 points equals a 10-percent discount. The town is currently rated a ‘9’ and has a 5-percent discount. Director Morris from the planning, building and zoning department worked tirelessly on CRS. Recently a flyer about bulk debris pick up was distributed to residents for which the town gained points. Mr. Adair discussed several other ways in which the town gains points and the new ordinances.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After further discussion, Mr. Beck moved to ask the planning and zoning commission to reconsider paragraph 8 to delete the requirement for a certified statement from an engineer on structures less than
200-square feet. Mr. Crouch seconded. Mr. Crouch moved to amend that Mr. Adair review the document as well. Mr. Beck accepted the friendly amendment as part of the motion and explained that if there was no impact for a 5-gallon water displacement, he believed the engineer’s certification was an onerous requirement on the Surfside Beach citizens. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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

D. Flooding on Streets. This issue was discussed during Mr. Adair’s presentation above.

9. DISCUSSION.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Crouch said he has seen people walking their dogs around Dogwood Lake inside the fenced area. He would not enter the area with his dog, because fences usually are to keep people out. He asked whether the town need to consider some type education for the residents that live around the lake, or place some signage. Mr. Beck believed there was a town ordinance requires pet owners to clean up after their pets. Mr. Crouch said there is an individual that regularly walks their dog without cleaning up. The response staff gave him was that there was no number to report such activity. The words used were “public shame might be effective.” Mr. Mabry suggested that Mr. Crouch attend a Town Council meeting.
Chairman Elliott asked if the committee would like to hear from the water testers to explain what they do. Dr. Libes said it was time for a volunteer water quality monitoring meeting and invited the stormwater committee and Town Council to attend.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS. There were no public comments.

11. COMMITTEE COMMENTS. There were no committee comments.

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

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

Prepared and submitted by,

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: July 21, 2015

Sandra Elliott, Chairman

P. L. Mabry, Vice Chairman

Alan Beck, Committee Member

Ron Crouch, Committee Member

Tabitha Mull, Committee Member

Vacant Seat

Vacant Seat

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