



STORMWATER COMMITTEE MEETING
January 17, 2012 ♦ 5:00 o'clock p.m.
Town Council Chambers ♦ Town of Surfside Beach

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1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mr. Harth called the meeting to order at 5:00 o'clock p.m. Members present: Chairman Harth, Vice-Chairman Sine, and members Harbin, Kohlmann, and Mabry. Members Lane-Laveglia and Ross were absent. A quorum was present. Staff Present: Public Works Director Adair. Others present: Leigh Wood, Coastal Waccamaw Education Consortium, and Town Clerk Herrmann.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Chairman Harth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **AGENDA APPROVAL.** Mr. Mabry moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Harbin seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Dr. Susan Libes, Coastal Carolina University, said she came to offer technical assistance and answer questions the committee might have.

4. **MINUTES APPROVAL.** Mr. Mabry moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2011 meeting as submitted. Mr. Harbin seconded. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Agenda Items. There were no public comments.

6. **DISCUSSION.**

A. Vegetated Buffers - Mr. Adair. Mr. Adair said the proposed Land Development Regulations provide a 10-foot buffer around bodies of water. He explained that if the committee desires an amendment, it can direct staff to prepare a revision for its consideration and possible recommendation to town council. Mr. Mabry moved to direct staff to prepare a draft ordinance. Mr. Kohlmann seconded. Mr. Harth asked what the buffer size should be. Mr. Adair said a draft would be presented based on other ordinances adopted throughout South Carolina, and model ordinances; the ordinance would provide for appeals, hardships, exceptions, landscaping, etc. Mr. Adair said the Waccamaw Regional Council of Government recommends a 15-foot buffer. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the process and problems that might be encountered to implement a buffer. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B. Harbor Lights Communication Update – Mr. Sine. Mr. Sine deferred to Mr. Harbin who said the committee had previously discussed developing communication with the Harbor Lights owners about the buffers. He recently moved to Harbor Lights and volunteered to be the contact person. There are no occupied homes on the lake at this time, but he expects six or seven families to move in soon. He suggested that those families be given information to make informed decisions about the lake front. Mr. Adair said that plans were approved pursuant to existing code, and other measures could not be enforced. Mr. Harbin believed approaching the homeowner to comply was the best course.

C. Harbor Lights Education – Ms. Wood. Mr. Harth suggested inviting Harbor Lights homeowners to attend the stormwater meetings. Ms. Wood suggested providing education materials to the homeowners; having an on-site education and possibly a demonstration project in the area that would serve as an example of a properly maintained buffer. Mr. Kohlmann said action should be taken before owners begin their landscaping efforts. Mr. Adair asked if there is a homeowners association (HOA) and whether an appeal could be made to incorporate rules in the restrictions. Mr. Harbin said the covenants were already adopted. The developer seems to have complied with the request to not disturb the bank. The developer still controls the HOA, but believes it will be three to six months before it transfers to the owners. Once the owners control the HOA, they can adopt policies, but he doesn't believe the developer will make any changes. He supports education for the homeowners and asking them to use best practices. Mr. Harbin said he would invite the owners to the meetings, and suggested that training be held in April or mid-May. There is a retention pond on the property that could be used for a demonstration area. Mr. Harth asked how that would be funded. Mr. Harbin suggested the town or consortium might provide funding and/or manpower. **COMMITTEE CONCURRED.**

59 Dr. Libes said the Grand Strand Stormwater Pond Management Conference 2012 is scheduled
60 March 3, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Springmaid Resort Conference Center. Committee members can
61 attend with no charge. A flyer was distributed to the members.
62

63 D. February Training/Education Session Topics – Mr. Smith, Mr. Harth. Ms. Wood said that Mr.
64 Smith's research included collecting samples throughout the Grand Strand over the past two years.
65 There are ponds in town that were included in the project. Mr. Smith is currently assessing the data and
66 would like to share it with the committee in February. Mr. Harth suggested the Harbor Lights owners and
67 the stormwater testers be invited. **COMMITTEE CONCURRED.**
68

69 E. Potential Solid Waste Facility Tour. Mr. Harth said this was previously proposed. If any
70 member is interested in touring the facility, please contact Mr. Harbin who will coordinate.
71

72 F. Street Sweeper Update – Mr. Adair. Mr. Adair said the sweeper is being used; he was pleased
73 with the equipment. The town is separated into sections that allow every street to be swept twice a
74 month, once the initial cleaning is done. The first sweep is taking extra long because the streets have
75 never been cleaned. Mr. Kohlmann asked what was done with the sand picked up. Mr. Adair said sand
76 is discarded as it was before, and explained that the commercial district and beach parking lots are swept
77 each time before beginning the route. In the past it took staff an entire day to manually sweep parking
78 lots that are now cleaned in about 30-minutes.
79

80 G. Water Shed Walk Comments. Mr. Harbin said he would like to see the video and asked if it
81 could be presented to the committee. Ms. Wood distributed a website address where members could
82 view data: www.northinlet.sc.edu/training/media/2011/11152011DogWoodwashTour/index.html.
83 Approximately 20 people participated; feedback was good. The tour encouraged collaborative
84 conversation between the town and county.
85

86 H. Pier Water Monitoring Proposal Status. Mr. Adair said town council approved the pier as a
87 site for the monitoring equipment, but did not authorize any funding. Dr. Libes said external funding
88 sources are being sought. Construction on the pier will delay the installation. She said National Oceanic
89 and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grade meteorology equipment that was purchased through a
90 grant for another purpose was available at no cost to the town. Operational cost is about \$20,000 per
91 year, which is less than estimated, because the equipment is different and some of the monitoring (biotic
92 and radon sensor) will not be done. She plans to ask the Horry County Legislative Delegation for
93 permission to transfer the \$10,000 funds that Horry County designated for Apache pier to use for the
94 Surfside pier. Horry County also offered to cover some town costs. Mr. Harth asked who was
95 responsible for the pier construction, and notifying Dr. Libes of the status. Mr. Adair said town council
96 authorized the administrator to move forward with inspections and requests for proposals. Dr. Libes said
97 she would get updates on the pier from Mr. Adair and the code enforcement official as they moved
98 towards installation.
99

100 Mr. Harbin moved to put the pier status update on the April meeting agenda. Mr. Sine seconded.
101 Mr. Mabry asked how much space the equipment would take. Dr. Libes said approximately a 4-foot by 6-
102 foot box that sits on the end of the pier underneath the structure. The box could be used as a table, and it
103 was recommended that educational signage be placed on the box. There will also be a vertical mast
104 projecting about 15-feet above the pier deck that holds the weather station. All voted in favor. **MOTION**
105 **CARRIED.**
106

107 I. 2011 Committee Annual Report Status/Feedback – Mr. Harbin. Mr. Harbin said he reviewed
108 the report and signed it as chairman. The 2011 Year End Report was submitted to town council at its
109 January 10th meeting. All committee members had an opportunity to make contributions and/or
110 corrections.
111

112 J. Dog Park concerns – Mr. Harth. Mr. Harth said a neighbor at the dog park was concerned
113 about runoff into Myrtle Lake. He personally inspected the dog park and commended public works staff

114 as the park is very-well maintained, saying "it's clean as a whistle." The water in Myrtle Lake is clean as
115 or cleaner than any other in town.
116

117 K. Water Testing Status – Mr. Harth. Water is tested on Myrtle Lake and Dogwood Lake.
118 Neither a nitrate nor a nitrite presence was found in the water, nor is there any ammonia in those waters.
119 A level of 250 is considered bad for e-coli bacteria; the average in the two lakes over the last six readings
120 is 167 and 67. Monitoring will begin in two additional locations: where water enters Myrtle Lake, and
121 enters Elizabeth Lake to determine whether there is upstream pollution. Dr. Libes said genetic marker
122 testing will soon be available in her lab at a much lower cost to identify animals that are spreading e-coli.
123 Mr. Harth said water testing will continue for the next three months. She will be contacted, if a problem is
124 identified. Dr. Libes said e-coli bacteria would settle into sediment and survive to be reactivated when the
125 sediment is disturbed.
126

127 L. 2012-203 Stormwater Committee Budget Recommendations. Mr. Adair said budget
128 preparations are underway. The current fiscal year budget is \$420,000 from which between 10- and 20-
129 percent will not be spent. The budget for next year will be \$429,000 that is all funded through the
130 stormwater millage. There are no expected capital equipment expenditures. He anticipates over
131 \$300,000 to be spent on draining improvements. Engineering is almost completed on the Magnolia and
132 Myrtle Basins. Most of the problems in those areas can be corrected using infiltration. The soils in the
133 two basins are "fantastic" for infiltrating water. Low Impact Development (LID), which is creating deeper
134 catch basins and installing perforated pipe are preferable to installing pipes that push more, faster water
135 to the ocean. The materials are more expensive, but pay off in the long run by keeping stormwater out of
136 the lakes and ocean.
137

138 Mr. Harbin asked if the committee should make a recommendation to modify the town's 50/50
139 program to offer infiltration field instead of hard pipe. Mr. Adair said that was already being done as an
140 administrative decision for the benefit of the town. Currently nine 50/50 projects were requested for this
141 winter; applicants will be advised that perforated pipes and perk infiltration system will be installed; there
142 is no option.
143

144 Mr. Mabry said several years ago a decision was made to use perforated pipes as much as
145 possible, and also to use swales. Open ditches allow more water penetration than forcing it into the
146 lakes. He asked Mr. Adair what percentage of the water was being treated. Mr. Adair said the system
147 should be designed to handle a 95-year event, a 2-inch event, without discharging anything. Open
148 ditches are preferable, but not always practical, particularly closer to the ocean. It is better to have more
149 open ditches upstream according to engineers and educators. Mr. Mabry said check-dams restrict water
150 flow allowing sediments to settle at the bottom. Mr. Adair said Poplar Park has a check-dam.
151

152 Mr. Adair said no recommendation was needed from the committee; he was advising the
153 members of the town's stormwater budgeting plan. Mr. Harth asked if the engineer would make a formal
154 presentation to the committee. Mr. Adair said Mr. Sanford from DDC Engineers would make a
155 presentation, probably at the next meeting.
156

157 Mr. Harbin understood that about 10-percent of the total millage collected might be surplus. Mr.
158 Adair said that was correct; the entire budget was not allocated and the approximate balance at the
159 beginning of the new year will be about \$200,000. About \$250,000 a year is collected. Mr. Harbin said
160 the town's budget retreat will occur prior to the next committee meeting. If the committee wishes to ask
161 council to consider possibly increasing the number of testing sites, this is the appropriate time to make
162 that recommendation. Another topic is the compromised swash at Floral Condominiums (Floral Lake.)
163 He asked whether the committee wished to make a recommendation for rerouting Myrtle Lake to the
164 ocean via 4th Avenue. Mr. Adair believed allocating stormwater revenue towards water quality would be
165 prudent, if council approves. A federal grant is being sought to repair the Floral Lake swash. Grants of
166 this type are offered about once a year, the amount is \$1 million. Mr. Harbin suggested recommending to
167 town council that it authorize a yearly reserve for major drainage problems or specifically to redirect the
168 swash in the event grant funding is not awarded. In his opinion, the swash is a major problem and he
169 believes the seawall will not last two more years. Mr. Sine agreed with Mr. Harbin and said there is still

170 some question as to who is financially liable. He would like to see the swash repaired, but questioned
171 whether it was solely the town's responsibility. Mr. Adair compared the swash at 11th Avenue North that
172 has sloped sides to the swash at Floral Villa that has straight, vertical walls that narrowed the channel,
173 but maximized Floral Villa's land space. The town does not own any of the property. Mr. Mabry said the
174 consequences were pointed out to the property owners when they built the swash 30-years ago.
175

176 Mr. Kohlmann said the Planning & Zoning Commission minutes stated that the property lines run
177 to the middle of the drainage, therefore, it appears the owners are responsible. Mr. Adair said it has been
178 the town's position that bulkheads constructed to the edge of the property lines are the responsibility of
179 the owner. The town hopes to find federal funds to reroute the swash. Mr. Harbin was not suggesting
180 that the town is solely responsible, and said it should be a cooperative project. The current owners are
181 not necessarily the ones that originally built the swash. Mr. Harbin said his intention was to continue
182 investigating the project and to consider every option available for federal funding to get the water
183 rerouted as he believed everyone knows that is the best solution. He suggested that a proposal be
184 submitted to all the owners boarding the swash requesting some type contribution. Mr. Sine asked how
185 the fair share would be determined; it front-foot was used the single-family homeowners would have
186 larger shares, possibly more than their property is worth. Mr. Harth summarized that the suggested
187 recommendation was that town council begin planning so the town is not faced with a problem for which
188 there is no funding. In the past a suggestion was made that the swash property be taken over by the
189 town to create an amusement area or some other use that would enhance the town. Mr. Mabry said the
190 town has taken over responsibility for Ocean Boulevard from the State, which included the culverts. Mr.
191 Harbin moved to recommend to town council that a funding mechanism be created in addition to or in lieu
192 of if federal funding is not granted, to establish some contribution from stormwater funds towards a
193 reserve to fund relocating the 5th Avenue Swash to 4th Avenue. **MOTION FAILED for lack of a second.**
194

195 Mr. Sine asked if the town had applied for the grant annually. Mr. Adair said federal grants are
196 regularly monitored; last year it was too late to apply without hiring a person to apply and administer the
197 grant. Mr. Sine said the homeowners could also seek grant funds on their own.
198

199 Mr. Harbin moved to recommend to town council that one additional testing site be approved for
200 FY12-13. Mr. Sine seconded. After a discussion about a testing site, Mr. Harbin moved to amend the
201 motion to include the location of upstream Elizabeth Lake. Mr. Sine seconded. All voted in favor of the
202 amendment. **MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED.** Mr. Kohlmann asked why only one location was being
203 requested. Mr. Adair said each test site costs about \$7,000. Chairman Harth called for a vote on the
204 motion as amended. All voted in favor. **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED.**
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206 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

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208 Mr. Everett Cobb, Millwood Drive, thanked Chairman Harth for the positive comments about the
209 dog park. He personally takes his dog to the park three or four times a week. He and other park users
210 try to make sure the park is kept clean. He also thanked the town for developing the dog park for their
211 dogs to have a place to play.
212

213 Mr. Ralph J. Magliette introduced himself and his wife, Patty. They recently moved into Harbor
214 Lights. He has 35-years experience as an analytical-environmental chemistry and environmental
215 engineer, and offered his services as a volunteer to the town. The Harbor Lights developer is telling
216 purchasers that swimming pools can be built along the lake. He believed someone should notify the
217 developer this is not necessarily correct to avoid misrepresenting what is allowed.
218

219 Ms. Mary Beth Mabry, 15th Avenue North, believed the town's stormwater millage would soon
220 expire. The committee might need to consider a recommendation to renew the millage either at the same
221 or a lower rate, or funding for stormwater will need to be allocated in the general fund.
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6. COMMITTEE COMMENTS.

Mr. Harbin said that a recommendation was made during the past few years to continue the stormwater millage. Mr. Sine asked if anyone knew when it expired. Mrs. Mabry spoke from the audience (**). Mr. Harbin said the recommendation was for the stormwater millage to continue for at least five years. Mr. Sine said the money is needed.

Ms. Wood reminded everyone of the Grand Strand Stormwater Pond Management Conference mentioned earlier by Dr. Libes. She reiterated that attendance for committee members is free and she encouraged them to attend. She had prepared maps showing a 15-foot setback if members were interested in seeing them.

Dr. Libes spoke from the audience (**). Harbor Lights water quality testing was ongoing and suggested that Ms. Wood or someone from the Clemson University Extension be asked to coordinate that effort for everyone. Chairman Harbin said he or Mr. Harth would speak to them about scheduling and hosting a public education meeting. Dr. Libes said there is a \$2,000 State grant available for beautification and litter reduction or for removal equipment, if the town was interested in applying the funds might be used to purchase plants to put waterside.

Mr. Kohlmann asked if the members could be reminded of meeting dates and training session dates via email. Chairman Harth apologized and said that reminders would be sent in the future.

7. ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Harth declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved: April 17, 2012

Ken Harth, Chairman

Ken Harbin

Harry Kohlmann

Melodye Lane-Laveglia

P. L. Mabry

Carolyn Ross

Dan Sine, Vice Chairman