



STORMWATER COMMITTEE MEETING
November 13, 2017 ♦ 1:00 o'clock p.m.
Surfside Beach Town Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Elliott called the meeting to order at 1:00 o'clock p.m.

Members present: Chairman Elliott, Vice-Chairman Mull, and members Beck, and Mabry. One seat is vacant. A quorum was present. Others present: Town Clerk Herrmann; Public Works Director Adair; Dr. Libes, Coastal Carolina University Director of the Waccamaw Watershed Academy, and CWSEC Coordinator Swanger.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Chairman Elliott led the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge, Chairman Elliott announced that Mr. Crouch resigned his position, and she extended apologies to Dr. Libes for the unfortunate series of email messages. She said the committee and the town have the utmost respect for Dr. Libes and the guidance she provides.

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

4. MINUTES APPROVAL April 18, 2017 Regular Meeting; July 18, 2017 Workshop, and September 19, 2017 Workshop. Mr. Beck moved to approve all three sets of minutes as presented. Mr. Mabry second. All voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

6. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

A. CWSEC Coordinator Lisa Swanger. Ms. Swanger shared the flyer for the upcoming 3rd Annual Grand Strand's Canines for Clean Water Spokes Dog Contest for 2018 is being held December 2nd at the Myrtle Beach State Park. It begins at 1:00 p.m. The Biannual Stormwater Consortium meeting will be on December 13th. More information will follow. This is when we do activity planning. Please save the date of February 10th for the Waccamaw Conference, a free public educational conference for individuals and families, at the Horry County Museum from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be vendors and exhibitors set up throughout the museum, and a student poster contest.

B. Dr. Susan Libes, Coastal Carolina University. Dr. Libes presented the quarterly reports from the water monitors, and distributed copies to the members. The good news is the most recent readings from 2016 and 2017 are looking really good. The beach had a really good year to the point where DHEC (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) has signaled that more site will be removed from the list of impaired water bodies. There were only four times the water quality did not meet DHEC's ocean water criteria during this past summer, despite the fact there was a lot of rainfall preceding many of the sampling dates. In the current quarter, which has two samplings left, Lake Dogwood has had two reports back to back that exceeded the DHEC water quality criteria, both of which experienced significant rain just prior to the samplings. The same observation was made at Myrtle Lake. However, complete data is yet to be determined. The last sampling taken on October 31 showed that levels had fallen below the water quality criteria, which supports the theory that these high readings were a rain-driven phenomenon that has gone away. Water monitors have been watching the turbidity in Lake Dogwood with concern of sediment flowing from west of Highway 17 into Lake Elizabeth and Dogwood Lake. Elevated turbidity was observed during days with a lot of rain. The October 10 event measured turbidity around 22, which is the third highest report in this record of 170 samples. The most recent sample is much lower at about 6; normal turbidity is around 5. So we're on the right trend. The amount of fresh water entering Lake Dogwood due to these rain events was so significant that the dissolved solids, conductivity, also dropped. This record shows the impact of hurricanes on Lake Dogwood, which is subject to saltwater over washing into the fresh water. Hurricane Irma caused record high conductivity readings in September. Conductivity is "not a water quality problem." It is simply the impact to the natural history of the lake. It may affect plants or animals. Dissolved oxygen levels have been measured since July 2010. Fountains are in Lake Elizabeth and some others places in an effort to keep oxygen levels up to the healthy standard for fish and other animals. It appears that we are seeing fewer readings of low

59 numbers. During the past two summers, we've seen hardly any violations of the oxygen recommended
60 levels or the water quality criteria. Neither of the sampling sites went down into the stressful low territory
61 this past summer. That's good news; the continuing trend of improving dissolved oxygen has been
62 sustained. Mr. Adair said there were some low oxygen levels in Palmetto Lake, which is very shallow,
63 during the summers of 2015 and 2016. This past fall we installed three subsurface aeration that bubbles
64 up from the bottom of Palmetto Lake in effort to combat the high heat and hopefully avoid any more fish
65 kills like we had in 2015. The aerators were operating 24/7, but neighbors were unhappy about the
66 humming noise. Mr. Harth took samplings based on the 24/7 operation. Then the aerators were only
67 operated during the day, beginning around 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There was negligible difference in the
68 readings, so the system is running 12 hours a day. We haven't experienced any other fish or oxygen
69 problems this summer with high temperatures. Palmetto is the only lake where there has been an issue,
70 and we're on a steady course now. Visit www.coastal.edu/www/vm/surfside for more information.

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72 **7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**, Public Works Director Adair. Mr. Adair said public works is doing its
73 offseason ditch and catch basin cleaning, which improves water quality, to a certain extent, throughout
74 town at the outfalls and our near ocean waters. This week the bid will be let for the Myrtle Swash culvert
75 bridge reconstruction project. A grant in the amount of \$500,000 was received from the Rural
76 Infrastructure Authority for construction. The project was designated as a top tier to protect the town's
77 infrastructure. Construction will take place over the winter, which will require a detour off Ocean
78 Boulevard not to exceed 90 days. The old wooden bridge will be replaced by a concrete box culvert on a
79 concrete pile foundation driven deep to a point of refusal. It will last for many, many years. The design will
80 handle the proper volume of water. Many people don't understand when we have a hurricane and water
81 is standing on Dogwood Drive or other roads it isn't that the drainage system isn't working. Low
82 elevations cannot handle a four or five foot storm surge. The bathymetric survey to map the topography of
83 our lake bottoms and to calculate water volume will be done this week. The study will help determined
84 when the lakes should be dredged. Once the survey is complete, there will be good baseline information
85 to work with. Mr. Adair noted that Oceanside Village is complaining about the town's stormwater travelling
86 through its property. He wanted the committee to be aware that controversy may arise from this. In the
87 early 2000s the town worked with Horry County to upgrade the Melody Basis, the plan included that about
88 20 acres of runoff from town actually travels through Oceanside Village and out to the inlet. He would
89 keep the members advised. Mr. Beck said a few years ago, there was discussion about diverting that
90 water through town, and asked if that would eliminate the concern to Oceanside Village. Mr. Adair said
91 that would take care of that issue, but there are no plans to do that now. He expects this will soon hit the
92 media.

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94 **8. Business.**

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96 **A. Inside Surfside Article.** Chairman Elliott asked if the public should be notified about the
97 bridge project in the newsletter. Mr. Adair said the information would be in his monthly report. You may
98 want to include it in the newsletter article. The article proposed by Mr. Mask was discussed, and the
99 committee concurred to add information about the bridge reconstruction and the bathymetric study.

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101 **B. Debrief.**

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103 **i. October 7, 2017 Family Festival.** Chairman Elliott said the booth at the Family Festival was a
104 success. Mr. Adair agreed, and said there was a good turnout, and the weather was good.

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106 **ii. October 20, 2017 Education Seminar.** Mr. Adair thought the education seminar held near
107 Halloween was... Chairman Elliott said disappointing. Mr. Adair continued saying we need to reconsider
108 the schedule for the seminars; perhaps a weeknight so people can stop by on their way home from daily
109 activities. Everyone put a lot of effort into the event. Ms. Mull asked what went wrong. Mr. Beck said only
110 one person attended other than the presenters. An excellent program was set up and Mayor Childs was
111 here. Chairman Elliott said 400 flyers were distributed during the festival and delivered to local
112 businesses. Ms. Swanger said Friday evenings are out for public education seminars. I agree that either
113 right after the work day would be good. Once people get home, they won't come back out. I agree that the
114 presentations were great, and there were nice activities. I think it would be appropriate to present the

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115 program at another time. Chairman Elliott said definitely. The BBQ Festival is March 10th, then the end of
116 the month is Holy Week. Ms. Swanger suggested sometime in April. Dr. Libes suggested a reward for a
117 photograph of the strangest litter found on the beach, which might engage students. Also an activity that
118 parents and children could do together. After further discussion, the committee **CONCURRED to**
119 **tentatively set the spring education seminar on Monday, March 12th, Wednesday, March 14th or**
120 **April 9th at 6:00 p.m.** (Note: After the meeting, April 9th was confirmed as the spring education seminar
121 date.)
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123 **9. DISCUSSION.** Any items of Interest or Concern to Committee Members.
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125 Chairman Elliott asked if Mr. Adair would be able to make the aquarium to show how an aerator
126 affects water. Mr. Adair said yes, he would work on that this winter.
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128 Ms. Herrmann said the next regular meeting is January 16th at 12 noon. She asked if the
129 committee would be willing to meet at 1:00 p.m., because there is an Election Commission meeting at
130 10:00 a.m. that morning to certify candidates, after which there are required tasks to be completed.
131 Several members agreed and some members said they preferred 1:00 p.m. The committee
132 **CONCURRED** to hold regular meetings at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Beck said maybe people did not come to the
133 meetings, because they were happy. When they are upset is when they attend meetings. If our meetings
134 were schedule close to another meeting, the public might stay. Chairman Elliott said that's true; very good
135 [observation]. Mr. Mabry agreed and added that unless television crews were in the yards filming a flood,
136 people generally would not show up for a meeting. They don't show up because staff and the committee
137 are doing a good job. Mr. Adair does an excellent job making sure our drainage is operational. We expect
138 the public to attend, but there is no reason for them to attend. A lengthy discussion was held regarding
139 involving church groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other in a rock painting program that would be used
140 a tool to encourage people to attend the stormwater education seminar. Mr. Beck did not believe it was a
141 very good idea; no decision was made.
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143 **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS.** There were no public comments.
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145 **11. COMMITTEE COMMENTS.** There were no committee comments.
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147 **12. ADJOURNMENT.** Ms. Mull moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:21 p.m. Mr. Lauer second. All
148 voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
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150 Respectfully submitted,
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153 Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk
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155 Approved: January 16, 2018
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158 Sandra Elliott, Chairman
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161 Tabitha Mull, Vice Chairman
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161 Alan Beck, Committee Member
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164 Vacant
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164 P. L. Mabry, Committee Member
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166 *Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and not intended to be a complete*
167 *transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you*
168 *provided you bring new, unopened flash drive. In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda*
169 *were distributed to local media and interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry*

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door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at www.surfsidebeach.org and the marquee.

Approved