



SURFSIDE BEACH STORMWATER COMMITTEE MEETING

July 20, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING via GoToMtg - <https://youtu.be/a3IW8fLkKdk>

ATTENDANCE.

Members present:

✓Chairman Ronald Mask

✓Member Yvette Hellyer

✓Member Carol Lucas

✓Member ✓Hoke Petree

Team included:

✓Director John Adair, SB Public Works

✓Dr. Susan Libes, CCU Waccamaw
Watershed Academy (WWA) Director

Monica Gray, CCU Coastal Waccamaw
Stormwater Educational Consortium
(CWSEC) Program Coordinator

✓Victoria Green, CCU WWA Volunteer WQ
Monitoring Coordinator

✓Ahmed Bakr, CCU CWSEC Program
Coordinator

2. CALL TO ORDER. Chmn. Mask called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm. This meeting is being recorded via GoToMtg.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL. Chmn. Mask. MOTION CARRIED.

4. SWC MINUTES APPROVAL. Committee member Hellyer presented the Minutes for the April 20, 2021 meeting. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (5-minute limit per speaker). There were no public comments.

6. COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION.

A. Surfside Beach Volunteer Water Monitoring (VWM) (Dr. Libes and Ms. Green). 4:29/2:23:59 DHEC Beach Report. DHEC has reported for the beach season sampling. The report highlights where the long-term advisories occur. These locations can change based on the past years results. Currently, there are three sites in SB; all impacted by stormwater runoff through swashes on the small tidal creeks. Good news – of all the samples collected since the beginning of the beach season in May, only one has exceeded the water quality standard for swimming safety and that’s at WAC-34 (8th Ave. South), which is surprising since there’s not a swash. A follow-up sampling by DHEC the next day came back clean. The usual interpretation of transitory exceedance like that could be speculated that perhaps there were birds that left behind fecal matter that had the bacteria, Enterococcus, that DHEC tested for. Regardless of what rain fell, including when the samplings occurred after quite a few rain events, the results indicated overall that the water quality is in very good shape for SB. The two sites with volunteer monitoring conducted are upstream of the long-term advisories; WAC-31 (11th

53 Ave. North at Lake Dogwood) and WAC-31A (upstream of Myrtle Lake). Careful
54 monitoring at these sites ensure that the upstream lakes are not sources of bacterial
55 contamination downstream in the surf zone. It looks that way from testing done this
56 year.

57 A look at the E. coli bacteria graphs provided in the report from the volunteer
58 water monitoring sites show elevated bacteria trends that will be closely monitored into
59 the next quarter, especially for Myrtle Lake. In the winter/colder months these levels
60 tend to decrease. There will be more advanced analysis conducted such as seasonal
61 trends. Dogwood Lake results have been better especially with having had several
62 strong rain events and would have expected dilution of the geese wastes but that was
63 not the results. Perhaps it was too much rain. This has been a quiet quarter despite all
64 the construction activities occurring. There will turbidity and DO data collected in the
65 coming quarter.

66
67 The sample indicates a known problem with Myrtle Lake and it's probable that it's
68 related to geese. Additional upstream source tracking by Ken Harth found there might
69 some sources, perhaps dog wastes that be located near the Town Hall area. Testing
70 results tend to be higher in the summer months because the source is more active,
71 whether its dogs or geese. It's not certain that there's been more bacteria growing in
72 these areas. For Lake Dogwood, the results are usually low which reflex pond's natural
73 function have in settling particles and purifying the water. There's less occurring in
74 Myrtle Lake because the sources are more dominate. It is a smaller waterbody and
75 there is a pretty large resident goose population. That's why these two ponds look so
76 differently.

77
78 Question from Chairman Mask: Looking at quarterly data, are there any
79 indications of major excursions if you look at individual points? There are some red
80 numbers in the results that represent high levels. With quarterly data, there's only about
81 5 – 6 data points per quarter. Do you get a feel for whether there's anything you'd get a
82 feel for by seeing individual dates?

83
84 Dr. Libes: When a very high number is encountered, such as the numbers
85 represented in red, we look very carefully at what the volunteers reported at the site and
86 at what all the other measurements are pointing to, to figure out if there was something
87 singular happening to account for that very high number. We are using the median
88 values in part to smooth out the impact of just a single high number here or there. This
89 might be like the Enterococcus at the beach that we just looked at. A one-time high
90 value isn't anything that from a management perspective you could anything about. You
91 really need to understand your sustained trends over time so that you can make a
92 measured management decision about what to do. Computing a median value does
93 that smoothing effect. We have the uncombined results at the graph online at the public
94 website, so that is certainly available to look at. The point of the provisional reports is
95 also if we encounter a very high value to get everybody's attention asap in the event
96 that some kind of follow-up is needed. So, we are considering the data after every
97 single sampling event, and not just in these quarterly medians.

98
99 Ms. Green comment: In a recent conversation with Brian Rabon/DHEC, he spoke
100 of the need for completing the development of an instantaneous measurement for
101 bacteria. It will be so much easier to talk about bacteria in communicating with the
102 public. This has been a good overview and trend over time is more of what CCU is
103 interested in. There will be more sophisticated analysis coming up.

104
105 Mr. Adair comment: We should all understand the value that DHEC tests sites
106 that are not swash-related because this illustrates the point that all bacterial are not

107 necessarily terrestrial-based, just coming off the land, but it might just be floating on by
108 or it might be an occasional event on the beach. we have some historically 'bad'
109 locations, but it's important to understand from a management perspective there's often
110 times very little we can do about what comes into our near-shore waters.

111
112 Ms. Hellyer comment: Congratulations to CCU/WWA for the recently approved
113 QUAP. Having a final, official document for the sampling methodology legitimizes all
114 CCU's efforts with the VWM program. I do know something about QUAPs that they do
115 take a lot of hard work.

116
117 Ms. Green: We are really very proud of the QUAP. It represents years of hard
118 work from Dr. Libes and our water quality lab. We want to thank the volunteers for
119 continually giving us feedback on what works or doesn't work, helping to improve the
120 methodologies. We also keep looking for ways to ensure DHEC uses the data and to
121 acknowledge the great citizen scientists. The final document is the website available to
122 the public. In addition to completing the QUAP, we have developed our VWM
123 Handbook. Some of the photos include the SB members.

124
125
126 **B. CCU Waccamaw Watershed Academy (Ms. Green) 18:49 / 2:23:59**
127 Upcoming Volunteer Water Monitoring training events will be held in August. There will
128 be four training opportunities available for the volunteers to select from (Huntington
129 Beach, Hobcaw, Myrtle Beach State Beach and CCU campus). The training will include
130 the new handbook and cover testing procedures, techniques, equipment care and best
131 practices. Registration is required. Only required to attend one of the trainings. Food will
132 be provided. You are welcome to bring friend.

133
134 Besides the VWM program, another citizen science (volunteer) program is the
135 CoCoRaHS¹ rain gauge readers. There's flexibility available for when to read daily rain
136 results and reporting. Convince your neighbors to join! Also, WWA is partnering the
137 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) phytoplankton monitoring
138 network. NOAA is interested in harmful algal blooms, such as red tide in Florida, and
139 perhaps fish kills more locally. There will be a saltwater program concentrating on
140 marine species (like the red tide example) and a freshwater program that applies to the
141 river and stormwater ponds for several types of harmful blooms species. Samples are
142 collected and volunteers analyze the samples from examination under a microscope.
143 WWA is hoping to create more widespread resources for collection and analysis.
144 Warnings about possible harm to pets and humans can be communicated. More
145 information will be forthcoming.

146
147 Chairman Mask asks if the NOAA program needs volunteers to find the algae
148 problems? Ms. Green stated both. First, you need a freshwater sample to look at that's
149 been collected from the site. Then a brief 3-minute plankton tow is done with a plankton
150 net. Small drops of water are taken from the samples, placed on a slide and examined
151 under microscope. There microscopes are portable and the examinations can be done
152 on site or other space (like a garage). No other special equipment is needed.

153
154 Ms. Hellyer asks if there are set sites to collect the samples like there is for the VWM
155 program or is it where ever algae is found or considered to be a problem? Ms. Green
156 says that within the program, we would identify a site, working with local officials and the

¹ CoCoRaHS (pronounced ko-ko-rozz) stands for Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network. It is a grassroots volunteer network of backyard weather observers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow) in their local communities.

157 neighborhood or others to determine if this is a site to monitor, do we have volunteers to
158 take care of the site and whether we think there is an issue. We don't want volunteers
159 having to look into an empty slide. WWA will work with the NOAA to come up with those
160 sites and use their program and essential to supplement the VWM program results.
161 Occasionally on the river we've seen some unusual results so having more information,
162 especially when the data suggests an algal bloom. We try to identify the species.
163

164 Mr. Petree asks how long a period of time would the sample be viable? Ms. Green says
165 it's about eight hours from when it's collected that it should be looked at, otherwise it
166 needs to be preserved with an iodine solution.
167

168 Mr. Petree says that if you have teams, one person with a microscope with others doing
169 the sampling at the same place. According to Ms. Green, CCU will be doing some
170 testing with groups to work out the process, see how that works, and hopefully offer it to
171 whoever is interested. It will take time to elevate the skill of algae review. There's no to
172 many harmful ones that you have to know about. This program is comfortable in
173 identifying the various species.
174

175 Mr. Adair adds that Public Works does treat our lakes for vegetation problems and
176 algae when it appears. I'm not sure that Surfside Beach is going to be having that big of
177 an outbreak and noticeable before it gets treated. This may occur more often in a river
178 situation or places that don't get the attention our lakes get. Chairman Mask asks if we
179 have spots and some edges, it doesn't seem like it will be a major undertaking. In
180 response, Ms. Green says it's very complicated, so you can not always tell what type of
181 algal bloom is happening just by looking at it. If it's surface algae, it's more a nuisance,
182 not aesthetically pleasing. Other signs to look for is high turbidity, green color to the
183 water, fish kills, pet deaths, etc., can alert you to a problem. With good pond
184 management, you are less likely to see them. Ms. Hellyer stated that there were several
185 times warnings from Garden City were issued about not letting pets swim in some of the
186 drainage ditch areas. There were reports of pets becoming ill.
187

188 In closing: Contact Ms. Green and Dr. Libes for questions on the water quality data
189 reports and visit the website anytime. Viewers can make their graphs as well. There are
190 training flyers available to spread the word. The Grand Strand Health Pond series will
191 be having a session on the algal blooms that will be announced.
192

193 **C. CCU CWSEC Programs and Events** (Mr. Bakr) **28:53 / 2:23:59** (See *handout*
194 *CWSEC Program & Events provided.*) Mr. Bakr did a recap of the successful events
195 over the year. These include the Grand Strand Healthy Ponds series, the Waccamaw
196 Conference 2021, and the Plantersville Summer Program for a five-week program, a
197 stem program for students from K-12. It's opportunity to learn more about engineering
198 and environmental careers and challenges. Upcoming events will include July 29-
199 Plantersville Summer Program, July 14-Flooding 411 webinar series begin, Grand
200 Strand Healthy Pond series (to be announced), the next 2022 Grand Strand Stormwater
201 Pond Conference, and the volunteer water quality monitoring trainings (also to be
202 announced).
203

204 **7. Surfside Beach Public Works** (John Adair, Director) **37:27 / 2:23:59**
205 **SW Programs & Updates.** The Public Works Department is in summer maintenance
206 mode. There was a recent incident of dead fish carcasses dumped in Dogwood Lake.
207 Several small sharks, trigger fish and other species. They were caught in the ocean,
208 cleaned and dumped in the lake. There were complaints and Public Works did a clean-
209 up. Ms. Hellyer mentioned that it could be possibility folks who come from another
210 location, like Alaska, where you must clean fish at the water site/docks and not take

211 them home to dress. Perhaps because they caught ocean fish, they could dump them in
212 any water. Dir. Adair thought about that. It's not known who dumped the fish.
213

214 Dir. Adair's latest stormwater management plan and soon to be completed 2020 annual
215 report to DHEC, Dir. Adair wants to focus more on IDD inspections, which is the ILLICIT
216 DISCHARGE DETECTION, we've done some upstream tracking for bacteria. One of
217 discussions with DHEC covered is to do more documenting of inspections. If have
218 outpours and channels that could be visited to observe any illicit discharges such as oil,
219 discoloration, or something that should be, Dir. Adair can use non-town employees
220 complete an inspection form and have them returned to Dir. Adair. **Would the SWC be
221 interested every couple of months looking at any segment of our stormwater system
222 that may vulnerable, where there might be of concern?** You'd be looking for dry weather
223 flows that should be there, or discoloration, for example. These would be visual
224 inspections, no testing required. The form is easy to complete, mostly checkmarks and
225 observational remarks. Any questions about the site can be followed up. DHEC wants to
226 review the documentation taken at inspections. With our MS4 permits, there's a lot more
227 documentation required more than was done in the past. Dir. Adair would like to have
228 about 4-5 hotspots that can be visited monthly/quarterly and tracked. He will be
229 developing the form, email it to the members and provide a listing. Ms. Hellyer stated
230 that the Horry County Stormwater Advisory Board has a link to report problems. I like
231 this approach because we are only a 2-mile town, it's more personable, you can talk to
232 people and talk to them about stormwater. **Ms. Green also see this as an opportunity to
233 involve some of the engineering students. The committee members can be the team
234 leads, and send the undergrads to the sites. Dir. Adair, yes such as going upstream to
235 look for outpour sources. The students can also go back when there's a "red flag" form
236 to track the outsources.** Last year, the hottest leg coming into Myrtle Lake was not
237 where you would might otherwise think it would be, from the dog park side or the lake
238 connection. It was from the area around the Myrtle basin near town hall, the fire
239 department and Surfside Drive. Where was the illicit source of bacteria coming from?
240 Chairman Mask commented that when it comes to it, everyone wants to rundown the
241 illicit sources, that's the fun part. Dir. Adair stated it's difficult to do. He recently
242 conducted a training session with staff using the training video for IDDE thanks to Mr.
243 Bakr for the video loan. He tells the story that sometimes there are illicit connections
244 that people are not aware or some of them are intention. Several years ago, during a
245 cleaning of cache basin, employees found steam being emitted. It was determined that
246 the local hotel nearby had an illegal connection from their laundry room that discharged
247 into the storm drain that was in the parking lot, which was connected to the town's storm
248 drains into the street, which sent the runoff into the ocean. Through letters and meetings
249 with the hotel, they learned where it was coming from and capped the illicit source and
250 moved the discharge to their sanitary system. It was an intention incident that may have
251 been occurring for 25 years before discovery and stopped. Another incident from a
252 couple of years ago that was unintentional was a cross connection behind Crabby
253 Mike's restaurant where their sewer lines from behind their building was crossing
254 through a stormwater cache basin box. All the brine water coming from the fish rotted
255 away the pipes and raw sewage was getting into the stormwater system making its way
256 down to Lakes Elizabeth and Dogwood. It was reported by a citizen living in the
257 apartments near the restaurant that there was a sewage smell. Public Works tracked
258 the possible sources until it was found where and what it was and the line was replaced.
259 These illicit connections are out there. Chairman Mask commented that there are
260 patterns and he experienced similar incidents where he worked with solvents. They
261 found that dry cleaning solvents found throughout the country were a result of store
262 owners distilling solvents Saturday nights because they were only closed on Sundays
263 and they would take the gunk at the bottom of containers and dump it where it was
264 convenient. Some of the little towns ended up with contaminated water systems, some

265 of which started 60-80 years earlier. Small operations running habitually
266 contamination/pollution practices are the hardest to find. Whenever the water quality
267 data is viewed with huge spikes, it raises the question of what's happening.
268

269 Dir. Adair is not certain if water monitoring for bacteria is relative, but he's aware there
270 was a large fuel leak that occurred in the general vicinity of the town hall complex in the
271 1990's at a gasoline station. There's been active monitoring wells installed all around
272 this area; from 3rd Avenue South and all along Poplar Avenue that DHEC still monitors
273 to this day. Since this leg is the hottest leg going down to Myrtle Lake, is there any
274 relationship at all between the fuel and bacteria? These two things are existing in the
275 same place. Ms. Green thinks this would be a good issue to look into. Chairman Mask
276 recommended asking the CCU engineering students to address it. Dir. Adair stated that
277 if you go into the Fire Department's parking lot on a rainy day, a fuel smell can be
278 detected up from the grate. If this same area of town is generating the bacteria, is there
279 any relationship between the two? Chairman Mask added that the fuel smell is not
280 demonstratively on a regular basis, but it does occur periodically. Dir. Adair asks what
281 does it depend on, or is somebody in one of these big systems have an illicit connection
282 that they can turn on/close. Dr. Libes says there is no connection between fuel and
283 bacteria. I can't see how a fuel oil source that was a leak from a tank relates to the
284 bacteria. The bacteria are coming from something else, like the birds roosting on the
285 park lots or dog wastes or a broken sewer line and now the bacteria have migrated into
286 the groundwater and is now being carried along on the same pathway as the fuel oil but
287 it does present an interesting opportunity to get a sample to check for bacteria. The only
288 complication I can see is that there is still a batch of fuel oil left in the groundwater, it
289 may be toxic to the bacteria so the water effectively is sterilized. The other thing is that
290 the presence of the oil may interfere with the detection of the bacteria in the lab test that
291 is required. It certainly would be interesting because it would seem easy enough if
292 DHEC's got the wells to draw some samples and tests them for bacteria. Or if they
293 aren't willing to do it, ask them to give the water to you and you can do the test with the
294 supplies Ms. Green has given Surfside to do the source tracking. Perhaps Mr. Ken
295 Harth could give it a shot. If you smell fuel oil in the water sample, I wouldn't touch the
296 samples because you may have a hazardous waste situation and you don't want to
297 expose anybody. So, all these years later they are still detecting in high levels? Dir.
298 Adair responds yes as of about four or five years ago when I last spoke to the DHEC
299 person in Columbia who's in charge. It is still an active case and they are still pulling
300 pretty much straight fuel out of the ground. Dr. Libes asks if DHEC has any more
301 aggressive plans to clean this up? Dir. Adair responds no. Chairman Mask asked if
302 DHEC has a continuous cycle of clean-up and putting it back in. Dir. Adair responded
303 that he does not know if that is the case. It's been a few years since speaking with
304 DHEC but he will check the status and report back to the committee. Ms. Hellyer asked
305 if perhaps they can come talk to us about it. Dir. Adair will send the SWC members the
306 IDD inspection forms and a list of the best spots to check. The spots will be put on a
307 rotation. Lastly, the Carolina Clear Factsheet has a write-up for the IDD program that
308 available on the stormwater web page. (Handout provided.)
309

310 **SW Utility Fee & Capital Project Priorities.** The current stormwater
311 maintenance projects continue, most notably, the Dogwood swash project. The
312 contractors met with the engineers. The test piles did not work, so they have had to
313 source the proper pieces of equipment, the auger drill and bit, to be able to drill into
314 mall-stone layer underneath the swash. Significant delays occurred from having to get
315 the equipment manufactured in Virginia for this project, and in conjunction with Grand
316 Strand Water and Sewer having to replace the water mains that run through there. This
317 project was initially planned for completion at the end of May. It be done by the end of

318 September and of course, nobody is happy about that. Efforts have been made to not
319 block residents' driveways.

320
321 Chairman Mask asks when is the commitment date to finish and is it likely to slip further
322 ahead? Dir. Adair stated that everyone was hoping to get it done sooner, and we've
323 asked the contractor to accelerate the project as much as possible. Once the old
324 asbestos pipe is removed from the site by DHEC, which has to be done under a
325 licensed engineer for abatement, which is expected to be by Friday, the contractor will
326 be able to conduct the drilling into the two test piles. Once the test piles pass the pile
327 data analysis test from the geotechnical firm, the contractor order the production piles.
328 Delivery will take a couple of weeks, and then the project should move along quickly.
329 The box culvert is ready. Getting the piles done is the larger hurdle.

330
331 Chairman Mask asks if the contractor, Consensus Construction, have these delays
332 because they have a number of projects in town, based on the scuttlebutt in town? Do
333 they have too much on their plate and they aren't to get them done. Dir. Adair doesn't
334 know if that's true. The pier project is being done in partnership with Coastal Marine, a
335 large bridge building company known along the coast of the US. They are doing most of
336 the work now. They are putting the podium piles in, preparing to build a trestle over the
337 ocean, and Consensus is essentially doing the project management. When it becomes
338 time, Consensus will build the buildings. It hasn't gotten to that point yet. As far as the
339 swash goes, I think they might have had this equipment on hand when they started, the
340 proper drill and so on, because the last job at the Myrtle swash was done expeditiously.

341
342 Ms. Lucas asked if town changed contractors from Myrtle swash? Dir. Adair stated the
343 bid by Consensus was significantly lower than the next bidder. If someone is licensed to
344 do the work there no major reason to not award it to them. When you award
345 government work, if the responsive bidder is licensed to do the work, you have to spend
346 the public's money accordingly. We can skip the bid if we have a good reason not to
347 select the lowest bid. Most of the time it works out, but there are hiccups. The particular
348 equipment they needed to have needed to be ordered. It's good that we're only closing
349 a small part of the road.

350
351 Ms. Hellyer asks, if it's another company that is remediating the asbestos pipe since it
352 was not a known fact before Consensus began the work? That wasn't anticipated. Dir.
353 Adair stated yes. The work to remove the pipe is through the geotechnical engineering
354 company that has an ME and is an abatement contractor. Surfside Beach will need to
355 pay for the abatement. The engineer from the Thomas Hutton company came to the
356 recent town council meeting to provide an update on removal.

357
358 Chairman Mask asks if there was an asbestos pipe that nobody knew about? Dir. Adair
359 stated that the location of the utility pipes in that area need to be located and Grand
360 Strand didn't know where it was exactly under the swash or if it was in the footprint of
361 what we planned to do. Once the excavation started, it became obvious where it was
362 and what it was made of. We asked Grand Strand Water & Sewer to evaluate how to
363 move forward. The old AC lines are very brittle, and through certain vibration they can
364 break pretty easily. The sensible conclusion was to replace it while the area was
365 opened up. While Consensus waits for the piles to be delivery, the material from the old
366 pipe should be safely replaced and removed. People close by were out of water for 6-7
367 hours. In the meantime, the pumps are not being run 24-day to accommodate noise at
368 night for residences. Once the entire project is done, we expect to replace the sod and
369 redo the landscaping.

370

371 Chairman Mask stated the swash repair is the number one topic talked about in town.
372 We get such good information about what is happening at this meeting. How do we get
373 this information out to the town so that folks can know what is happening? It may help
374 squelch negativity, bring people together instead. Dir. Adair thinks it can be done by
375 continuing to bring the updates to the public at the council meetings with the contractors
376 making their presentations. That's the best to way to communicate it.

377
378 Chairman Mask stated that if you look at the population of the town and who attends the
379 town meetings, there's a huge disparity, and I don't think, we're getting the message out
380 or we wouldn't be hearing the buzz and negative commotion. There must be another
381 way to get informed other than having to go to the town council meetings. Do we have
382 any thoughts on how to go about doing that? Is there a better way of communication to
383 all of the residents somehow about public works/stormwater somehow and some way?
384 Dir. Adair says Sheri (town clerk) sends blasts out from time to time. There's updates
385 put on the public works webpage. Ms. Hellyer describes from Administrator Shanahan's
386 workshops came the idea to hire a public information officer. I think what the Chairman
387 is saying is relevant. We've got avenues of information going out. If you come to the
388 public meetings, you may hear firsthand. If you read postings on Facebook, it depends
389 on who is speaking and whether it's a reliable source. I think the question is if we can
390 have a reputable source to go to, then the readers have a better level of confidence and
391 there isn't all the sniping. Maybe it a matter of having all the information feed into a
392 public information officer whose job it is to become that reliable source. Dir. Adair, I
393 think that is the intention of the town is to hire and maintain that position in the future is
394 having a PIO or a part-time person with the duty to get the message(s) out. Even so, the
395 way people like to receive information is different. You can talk to five people on the
396 same block and they will tell five different ways as to how they like to receive
397 information; newsletters in the mail, email blasts, Facebook, attending the meetings,
398 others still prefer to call by telephone to ask personally. Having a professional PIO could
399 find those popular five channels of communication to effectively cover the town. You
400 many not make everyone happy, but at least you cover everything. Chairman Mask
401 commented that he's tired of hearing who's to blame every time, and would rather get
402 facts out. Dir. Adair stated in the case of Dogwood swash, the contractor bears some of
403 the blame, Grand Strand Water & Sewer bears some of the blame, the current supply
404 chain with the covid pandemic delays bear some of the blame, there's plenty to go
405 around. Ms. Lucas stated that perhaps residents that are not as active as they use to be
406 and want to know more. Dir. Adair responded that yes, the public may be hungrier for
407 information than they normally would be. At the end of the day, this project is going to
408 cost the town a lot less than it would have with the next bidder. Three-quarters of it will
409 be paid for by the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant, up to \$500,000, although
410 the job will probably not cost this much. The balance of about \$100,000-150,000 will
411 come from the stormwater utility fund. Ms. Lucas commented how good it is when we
412 can use grants that are a good fit.

413
414 Ms. Lucas commented about the amount of conversation that occurred about those
415 entities that either didn't know or didn't want to pay the stormwater fees when the first
416 year's notices were sent. Dir. Adair spoke about this occurring with some of the non-
417 profit organizations that didn't realize the fee applied to them as well. Most who got late
418 notices with failure to pay penalties paid the second notice. One in particular didn't
419 wanted to pay, which was why it was a topic at the council meeting. Council did not
420 excuse them from paying.

421
422 Ms. Lucas asked if Dir. Adair if he still gets a lot of questions about the stormwater utility
423 fee? Dir. Adair responded not many, it's pretty well known. This year the town has
424 added the new gas station and the new Plantation Resort property renovated in 2020.

425 Public Works has calculated their stormwater fees. Chairman Mask commented that
426 several other jurisdictions have already raised their stormwater fees, and expects that
427 Surfside Beach may need to in a year to two. Dir. Adair believes that the \$82/year rate
428 should stay steady longer. Ms. Hellyer attended the Horry County Stormwater Advisory
429 Board and listened to the discussion covering the stormwater fee. Horry County has a
430 large staff of people in the stormwater management office. There were many projects
431 listed for the coming year. They have a proposal to increase their fees after this year
432 estimating that the projects to date are covered but will not be done next year unless the
433 fee is raised. How does Horry County's plans for stormwater fee increases impact
434 Surfside Beach because the Yaupon Drive pipeline project and for the listing for District
435 5 showed possible projects? Dir. Adair is not familiar. Ms. Hellyer will provide Dir. Adair
436 with the handout provided at the Horry County Stormwater manager. Dr. Adair will email
437 the committee to ask about it. The next meeting is September 22nd.
438

439 **8. BUSINESS 1:25:45 / 2:23:59**

440 **Tree Ordinance, 2017 revision.** Ms. Hellyer updated the SWC with recent
441 discussions of the Planning Commission meetings regarding revisions to the new
442 proposed landscaping and tree ordinance in Chapter 17- Zoning. The relevant part of
443 the ordinance that would directly apply to stormwater is under Division 2 – Tree
444 Protection. At a recent council meeting, councilmember Cindy Keating requested that
445 the SWC review and provide comments to the ordinance. Initially, SWC members
446 agreed to write a support statement about tree to be sent to the Planning Commission.
447 Ms. Hellyer found that the Commission has stated they are clearly in favor of supporting
448 trees protection.
449

450 Ms. Lucas was a participant in the 2016 discussions for the draft tree ordinance. The
451 2017 ordinance has not been very good. It's changing the look of our community and it's
452 not good for the town. The building lots next door are now empty and devoid of
453 hardwoods. New trees replacing the hardwoods are palm trees. We aren't the tree city.
454 She is worried about Surfside's image and the wildlife. Dir. Adair stated he will work with
455 SWC to make recommendations or provide a letter of support if asked, but under the
456 law, Chapter 17 is under the responsibility of the Planning Commission to make
457 recommendations/revisions to council.
458

459 Dir. Adair shared a link to the Certified Urban Forest Advocate Training Program's
460 Urban and Forestry Tools for Board/Commission Member (2021). There are a lot of
461 resources available to help quantify issues of concerns. This will be a useful tool to
462 have. Ms. Green added that Clemson Extension has resources that we can tap into as
463 well. Chairman Mask stated that if SWC could give the Planning Commission data
464 about the density of trees, the types of trees and the benefits and we can quantify it in a
465 way that isn't political or extremist, and get it distributed. Ms. Green stated that CCU
466 may be able to help as well. Mr. Petree was impressed with one of the presentations in
467 the materials from Dir. Adair that illustrated the benefits of an oak tree. It would be a
468 great outreach material.
469

470 Ms. Hellyer was also impressed with materials provided by Dir. Adair. There's
471 information about the type of species to plant, how much water it drinks and how any
472 inches per hour it takes, conductivity with the water level is the best location to plant.
473 Maybe having help from Clemson or other similar group to provide a review of the draft
474 ordinance. Some residents are very upset about the clear-cutting, does that need to
475 happen? Others are upset about the confusion of whether to have five trees or a total of
476 60-inches in the total tree diameter, and what does that mean. It may make a difference
477 with whether you live in zone 1, 2, of 3, whether you have pine trees or hardwoods, and
478 then there's certain hardwoods that could be encourage for planting, like the river birch

479 tree. If we could get expertise to review the document for criticism and possible
480 resolutions, then this would create more clarity especially with our focus to stormwater.
481 There's also the potential for other "green" options in the event the lot isn't big enough
482 for a tree(s). it could be a rain garden or intentionally divert stormwater with pervious
483 materials or build up a buffer zone, bunker, bulkhead, or swash. Chairman Mask says
484 its better to have a point-system to rate trees we want to encourage people plant. Ms.
485 Hellyer stated that in the ordinance, there is wiggle-room and this was discussed by the
486 Planning Commission, when a lot doesn't accommodate planting trees, there is the
487 potential to negotiate credit for water absorption that would help with the stormwater
488 aspect of managing the runoff. Dir. Adair stated the ordinance's tree mitigation section
489 is intended to create a high cost so that the owner/contractor find it cheaper to plant
490 trees than earn points to buy their way out.

491
492 Chairman Mask stated just to be clear, that we as a committee want to prepare a
493 statement regarding the tree ordinance, we can do so. The next step is to determine
494 what's the expectation for the SWC. Ms. Hellyer concludes that by the next meeting, we
495 should know better what direction what relationship fits in with the ordinance. Chairman
496 Mask will contact Carol Coleman.

497
498
499 **Surfside Beach Family Festival**, Chairman asked Dir. Adair that the booth have a
500 chart with all the projects that are planned and tentatively / vague dates of when they
501 will be done based on funding, costs, and opportunity to put in front of people when they
502 walk past our booth when people have questions. We can also use this information as
503 an article in the newspaper if we felt like we want to put it out that much in the public
504 and I'm just curious if we can do that now? We've had so many questions about what
505 are the costs and when the projects can be done. Can we lay out a list of the next three-
506 years' worth of stormwater projects? Dir. Adair says we can but it will be a small list.
507 The budget for the coming fall-winter is the Northside Drainage project's which will have
508 two phases. However, we need to be cautious because we submit the bidding request
509 because we could bid-out for four streets individually, and depending on the funding
510 that's available, we may only do three of them. There's late dredging on the horizon.
511 There may be grant monies available to add to the stormwater funding.

512
513 Chairman Mask recommends listing what are the priorities for stormwater projects that
514 will be up for bid. Ms. Hellyer displayed the PowerPoint handout developed by Dir. Adair
515 that was used in a prior meeting that included a listing and cost estimate for each
516 project. This information could be put into a poster format or made into a handout.
517 Chairman Mask recommends the projects be listed by priority with their tentative dates
518 or funding cycle. There is a need to communicate. The stormwater fees have gotten a
519 lot of attention and people are still asking questions about it. It's agreed that we should
520 not overpromise projects. Ms. Lucas suggests on the listing of projects, that it be al
521 long as it needs to be to show projects in all areas of Surfside. For example, residents
522 living on Melody won't feel all the stormwater work is on 12th Avenue North. It might be
523 as long as a five-year plan. This can avoid people getting petty. Dir. Adair states the
524 beauty of the fee is that everybody benefits from everything that is done. Chairman
525 Mask agrees and recommends the listing include future projects yet to be scheduled.
526 Dir. Adair stated that the list for stormwater projects is an unlimited list because once
527 the large projects are done, there will be a lot of other projects Dir. Adair will want to
528 address that had never had funding for before. Such as ditch piping and bulkhead
529 replacements on the beach. These would all be stormwater projects. Dir. Adair has also
530 asked for Horry County to provide some cost-sharing with the Dogwood Swash project.
531 The County is claiming the effort is a street project, and not a stormwater project.
532

533 Other booth items will include “giveaways,” handouts from CCU. It’s unclear if CCU will
534 be able to participate due to COVID. Chairman Mask says the SWC may also backoff if
535 the delta variant of the COVID is present. Ms. Lucas likes using the catch basin/rain
536 barrel. Rain garden is another good idea, but we don’t have models. Ms. Hellyer asks if
537 the “don’t feed the geese” sign set next to the booth. Members and team, send ideas to
538 Chairman Mask.
539

540 **Workshop for Committees with Mr. Bill Shanahan, Town Administrator.** Chairman
541 Mask, Ms. Hellyer and John Adair on behalf of SWC attended a workshop with
542 Administrator Shanahan for committee members. Administrator Shanahan conducted a
543 PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the Surfside Beach government. He asked
544 each of the committees to get involve into the town’s visioning. The town’s council has
545 come up with a vision that should be as Surfside Beach be known as the number one
546 vacation destination in South Carolina. Administrator Shanahan is asking all of the
547 committees to think about getting involved to some degree if then can with what is it
548 that’s in your goal, what’s your objectives and what are you doing that help contribute to
549 that? Chairman Mask doesn’t think SWC has what attracts visitors for vacations in
550 stormwater generally other than doing it right. That’s what we could say if we want to be
551 the best in the area or attractive from a stormwater point of view. One of the reasons
552 they are looking at it is that they will fund committees that have ideas that will promote
553 that and our funds are mostly for projects and I don’t see that anything other than
554 communicating that our water is clean is anything that we can ask for funds for. Ms.
555 Hellyer’s immediate response from listening to the meeting, and I followed up with Dir.
556 Adair, was that committee were being asked to look at their mission statement to tweak
557 it or revise it or if they even needed to be a committee any more. In follow-up with
558 everyone, we pretty much have a very good mission statement that does not need
559 tweaking. Our mission statement will not add language about striving to be the number
560 one vacation destination of South Carolina. My idea since then was perhaps have a
561 brochure done features our stormwater items like the beautiful ponds, with the beautiful
562 swans, mentioning we do water quality monitoring, we ensure the beauty and aesthetic
563 when you have ponds and trees. The lovely trees for stormwater drainage. That is how
564 we can promote the town as being the number one destination. Often when friends
565 come to visit, the first thing they say is “Wow your town is nothing like Myrtle Beach” or
566 further down (Garden City and Murrell’s Inlet) because we have such beautiful willow
567 trees that still being preserved and protected. We have more trees, unless you go
568 further inward to the Carolina Forest area. The Carolina Forest area do a lot of clear
569 cutting to create their aesthetically looking pathways and trees. We have a totally
570 different mindset and look. We do not look like Market Commons with beautifully like
571 sidewalks and bridges We’ve got a nature look and it’s an aesthetically beautiful
572 appearance. This is an everyday, all-American, small town. **Perhaps one idea is here a
573 brochure that emphasizes that. There are people and groups that want to vacation with
574 the focus towards conservation, wildlife and nature clubs that want to go visit places that
575 have the nature aspects of visiting a beach town than they do going to Myrtle Beach’s
576 commercial developments or bar-hopping. That may be the appeal in the brochure in
577 reaching out to this target group.** Chairman Mask stated that the idea of being a
578 number one destination and some growing entity gives the idea that we’re better than
579 everybody else as the place to go. Stormwater doesn’t necessarily create more parks,
580 doesn’t do all these things. We have to think we have a role in that that we can brag
581 about and I’m very scared to brag about that we’re better at stormwater than anybody
582 else. That would be hard to defend. Ms. Hellyer stated that the language within the
583 brochure would not be about stormwater instead it’s about the beauty of the town.
584 Because Surfside is being taken care of, protecting its trees, ensuring its water quality
585 by monitoring bacteria, ensuring flooding is under control, and maintaining and
586 management stormwater, that what creates the loveliness of the town. Chairman Mask

587 asked Dir. Adair if we can claim we do a better job with stormwater management? Dir.
588 Adair responded that he doesn't know that we can claim that per se. there are over a
589 hundred MS4s in SC. Chairman Mask asked if we get in trouble by saying we do a good
590 job? Dir. Adair responded that we could brag with the landscape. One of the reasons we
591 have such a beautiful town is because of our efforts. The blue signs in front of the lakes
592 that shows it's not only a beautiful lake, but it's a stormwater pond necessary to filter out
593 pollutants from stormwater runoff and please don't feed the wildlife. It would mean
594 incorporating the aesthetics into the conversation. Part of why you can enjoy Surfside
595 Beach is the fact that we pay attention to things like that.
596

597 Dir. Adair stated that he believes the message from the administrator was geared more
598 towards the committees that deal with public messaging, such as with the beautification
599 or business committees. Ms. Lucas commented that so many people who don't live
600 here drive into or come to Surfside Beach during holidays with and without children to
601 watch the parades, go to the beach or walk around the ponds, you don't have to worry
602 about pollution here, the streets are clean and safe, no runoff problems, because it's a
603 safe place to be and they feel safe. Chairman Mask reiterates excellent stormwater
604 management keeps out town clean, safe and beautiful. Dir. Adair encourages SWC if
605 we design a brochure or a card, we should proceed getting it printed. This should be
606 aligned with the overall pitch as our contribution to something that's really much more
607 other things, such as its the beautiful beach if we have. Dir. Adair stated that if SWC
608 wants to design a card, or two-sided brochure, something that can be put at the front
609 desk for anyone to pick up, and we all agree it sends the right message, then the Public
610 Works Department can pay for it. This is what happens with the beautification
611 committee because it dovetails into what is done with public works. Ms. Lucas stated
612 that this coincides with the water testing we do in town too. Mr. Petree stated that its
613 amazing how many people often stop the VWM team at a sampling site to ask what is
614 being done. To Dir. Adair, the public's interaction is the biggest part of what we do even
615 though our neighbors do more testing than Surfside Beach, but they have more
616 problems to be sure. No certain we can make a claim that we do an extraordinary
617 amount of testing. Chairman Mask agrees the message is that we keep our town
618 beautiful with the amount of stormwater work we do. The stormwater efforts undertaken
619 by the town is one thing in a long list of things that are done in terms of public outreach
620 and education. Ms. Green adds that if there's any aspect of the volunteer monitoring
621 program needing help with this effort, we can count on CCU. Don't sell yourselves short
622 on the volunteers for the VWM program. You have a great team effort. Ms. Green
623 speaks about the citizen science work done in Surfside in particular when she attends
624 and speaks at water quality conference. The relationship with the volunteers, town, and
625 Dir. Adair/public works in testing is something CCU is very proud of. Ms. Hellyer spoke
626 of looking for possible examples and working with CCU for tailoring it for Surfside. Ms.
627 Green says that there may be materials from the past that can be updated and tailored
628 for Surfside. Chairman Mask commented that he really liked this town, because other
629 than the town council and the citizens always fighting with each other, we try to do
630 everything excellently. It's the word that should be used when we promote this town.
631 And we have no problems at claiming we do excellent stormwater management. If we
632 can convey to Administrator Shanahan that we feel this way, and we think others may
633 want to line up behind the excellence "thing" – excellent beaches, excellent
634 accommodations, excellent entertainment and food areas that we all want to promote
635 might be the way we want to go. I suggest we send Administrator Shanahan a note so
636 he shows at least somebody listened because I think he was looking for help as to
637 which way to go and what people were thinking, and I know that the Keep Surfside
638 Beach Beautiful with all those will be flowing with ideas and things to do but if you give
639 him a thought of what you think we do and how others might mix with that or how we
640 might mix with a similar different wording as something they want to do as a central core

641 with the same thought of how we do things well to make it safe, clean and beautiful. Ms.
642 Lucas agrees that's a much better way of talking and saying positive things about
643 ourselves instead of "we're the best" is just sort of arrogant. Chairman Mask also agrees
644 rather than making it sound like a competition. He will send Administrator Shanahan a
645 note.

646
647 **Post-Covid SWC Educational and Outreach Events-Chairman Mask.** Out of the six
648 principles we have, number one is outreach to the citizens and visitors to do the right
649 things around stormwater and I feel SWC do the best with festivals unlike anything else
650 that's been tried. Dir. Adair commented that unless there is a flood occurring, people are
651 generally not that concerned about stormwater, thankfully. It's a blessing in disguise that
652 people come to our meetings after a hurricane incident. Mr. Petree commented that if
653 we do our job properly, nobody ever really knows.

654
655 Our 4th of July event at Martin's Baseball Field may be a good location to consider other
656 town events to include SWC events. Dir. Adair thinks that might be an idea to set up a
657 sampling demonstration area for future events.

658
659 Ms. Green asked if SWC has ever partnered with the beautification committee to have
660 one of their 'yard of the month' be one that is the most like "rain garden"/" water
661 conservation"? There's an opportunity there where they are not only promoting
662 beautification, but also helping stormwater. Ms. Lucas agrees and we could do the
663 nominations. Ms. Hellyer agrees that KSBB would concentrate on a theme that had
664 rainwater – stormwater management pavers, etc., if we can help them, I'm sure they
665 would be glad to do that. KSBB has thought about taking photographs of houses along
666 the lakes and from across the streets of lakes when Ms. Hellyer spoke to them about
667 the importance of stormwater ponds' benefit to houses along the lakes but also across
668 the streets when considering issues like pet wastes. KSBB was interested in the idea.
669 Chairman Mask suggests talking with KSBB and perhaps having a demonstration of all
670 the thing you can do in a yard as another event for people to get together, as well as
671 recognition for those yards that have all that's available to make a yard be stormwater-
672 friendly. Dir. Adair also suggested SWC can create a placard for presentation because
673 KSBB's criteria may be strictly aesthetic and SWC's criteria would be a stormwater
674 focus. A Stormwater Yard of the Month Chairman Mask recommends compiling a list of
675 what features are stormwater friendly. Mr. Petree suggested spot awards for features
676 like pavers on driveways instead of concrete, etc.

677
678 **9. DISCUSSION – Comments or Items of Interest to Committee Members**

679 Ms. Lucas asks if SWC's schedule can be changed so that our meetings are held
680 before the spring and fall festivals, instead of afterwards? That would mean we would
681 meet in February and September. Otherwise, the chairman is carrying the full load of
682 organizing the festival events. Chairman Mask agrees that the SWC can change the
683 timing of meetings. For the festivals, we done them enough that we have the
684 organization set year after year. This group has been very good about participating in
685 the festivals consistently which is key thing to do in getting out in front of the public. It's
686 been better meeting with the public when we go to where they are. We may want to
687 consider attending more events. Ms. Lucas is concerned that Chairman Mask is
688 overburden, but Chairman Mask feels any member of SWC can do the organizing.

689
690 Chairman Mask asked Mr. Bakr and Ms. Green about 'helpers' in CCU's to participate in
691 the festival booth? Has that been restricted by COVID procedures? Ms. Green
692 mentioned how students were available in the past to help with the volunteer monitoring
693 and EQL's so they are able to get students to help if needed.

694

695 SWC's next meeting will be October 19, 2021

696

697

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS (5-minute limit per speaker). No public comments.

698

699

11. ADJOURNMENT. Chmn. Mask moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:33 pm.

700

(2:23:59) All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

701

702

12. Attachments:

703

SWC FINAL Agenda 7-20-2021

704

SWC Presentation 7-20-21_CWSEC

705

Surfside Stormwater Committee VM Report July 2021 Final

706

707

Stormwater Committee Meeting
July 20, 2021

708 Notes: