

**TOWN OF BLUFFTON MAY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**  
Orlando Conference Room, Town Hall  
Thursday, June 22, 2023

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Present: Al Stokes, Interim Chair; Carmen Manning; Jessie White; Chris Shoemaker;  
Emmett McCracken, Emeritus

Absent: Stan Rogers, Chair; Larry Toomer, Vice-Chair; Amber Kuehen

Staff: Beth Lewis, Bill Baugher, Christina Hurd, Nicole Wright

Guest: None

Media: None

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

1. The committee recognized that both the Chair and Vice-Chair were absent. Ms. Manning made a motion to make Al Stokes Interim Chair for the June 22, 2023 meeting. Ms. White seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.
2. Mr. Stokes, Interim Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:02PM.

**II. NOTICE REGARDING POSTING OF MEETING PER SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOIA) REQUIREMENTS**

**III. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

1. Members introduced themselves.

**IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

1. Ms. White moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. Mr. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Adoption of May 25, 2023 Minutes

Ms. Manning moved to adopt the April 27, 2023 Minutes. Mr. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. None

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

1. **WAPAC Strategic Plan Priority Three (3) -Evaluate the regulatory framework to codify that each development permit does not surpass the 10% impervious surface "rule" in the Unified Development Ordinance stormwater regulations - Beth Lewis, Water Quality Program Administrator**

Following the May 25, 2023 WAPAC meeting, Ms. Manning drafted and provided the committee with a memorandum detailing the committee's recommendation to establish a Town of Bluffton policy/ordinance that reduces and minimizes the extent of impervious area.

Ms. Lewis introduced the draft memorandum to the committee. Ms. Lewis stated staff had not altered, only updated the Shellfish Harvesting exhibit for better resolution. Staff also updated the template to align with the Town's standard Memorandum formatting.

The memorandum was discussed by those members present, and edits were made throughout the document. Staff captured the edits in red text (Attachment 1).

Ms. Manning moved that Town Council consider the memorandum titled "WAPAC Recommendation to Establish a Town of Bluffton Policy/Ordinance that Reduces and Minimizes the Extent of Impervious Area". Ms. White seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes

**2. Year in Review - Status of WAPAC FY23-24 Strategic Plan Priorities –Beth Lewis, Water Quality Program Administrator**

Ms. Lewis stated that Ms. Manning had provided the committee with a Year-in-Review for the 2023 and 2024 calendar year in January of 2023 (Attachment 2). Ms. Lewis stated that Chairman Rogers felt full discussion on this topic should occur at the end of Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), or the June WAPAC meeting.

Ms. Lewis then updated the committee with the status of the committee's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 (FY23-24) Strategic Plan Priorities (Attachment 3).

The consensus amongst the committee was to discuss the Committee Purview (Strategic Plan Priority 1) at the July 27, 2023 WAPAC Workshop-Style meeting.

**3. Evaluation of the New 3:00pm Meeting Time - Beth Lewis, Water Quality Program Administrator**

Ms. Lewis turned the evaluation of the new 3:00pm meeting time over to the committee for discussion. Recognizing several committee members were absent, the committee stated they would like to revisit the discussion on the 3:00pm meeting time at the next meeting to hopefully obtain more committee feedback.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. No New Business**

**IX. DISCUSSION**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

1. Unanimous decision to adjourn at 5:29 P.M. Next meeting: July 27, 2023 @ 3:00 PM in the Town of Bluffton Council Chambers and Executive Council Meeting Room.

**Attachments:**

1. WAPAC Reduction of Impervious Area Recommendation Memo
2. C Avon Manning Email – January 23, 2023 – Year in Review and 2023/24 Calendar
3. Year in Review - Status of WAPAC FY23-24 Strategic Plan Priorities Presentation



## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Town Council

FROM: Stan Rogers, Chair, May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee

CC: Stephen Steese, Town Manager  
Heather Colin, Assistant Town Manager  
Kim Washok-Jones, Director of Projects & Watershed Resiliency  
Bill Baugher, Watershed Management Division Manager

SUBJECT: WAPAC Recommendation to Establish a Town of Bluffton Policy/Ordinance that Reduces and Minimizes the Extent of Impervious Area.

DATE: June 22, 2023

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Please see recommendations provided on page 7 and 8.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

WAPAC Strategic Plan Priority 3 is to evaluate the regulatory framework to codify additional requirements to restrict **and/or moderate** expansion of impervious cover. The purpose of this document is to present information on the status of what has been accomplished and why and what additional measures are needed.

### **BACKGROUND/CHRONOLOGY:**

The Town of Bluffton has grown through annexation from approximately 1 square mile in the 1980s to approximately 54 square miles today. Similarly, the population has grown from under 5,000 in 2004 to approaching 30,000 by 2021.<sup>1</sup> Without controls, uncontrolled growth and development time and again yields unintended consequences. Fortunately, the Town took responsible steps to plan development and conduct a baseline environmental assessment of the May River in 2004.<sup>2</sup> The assessment of water and sediment quality and biotic conditions concluded that

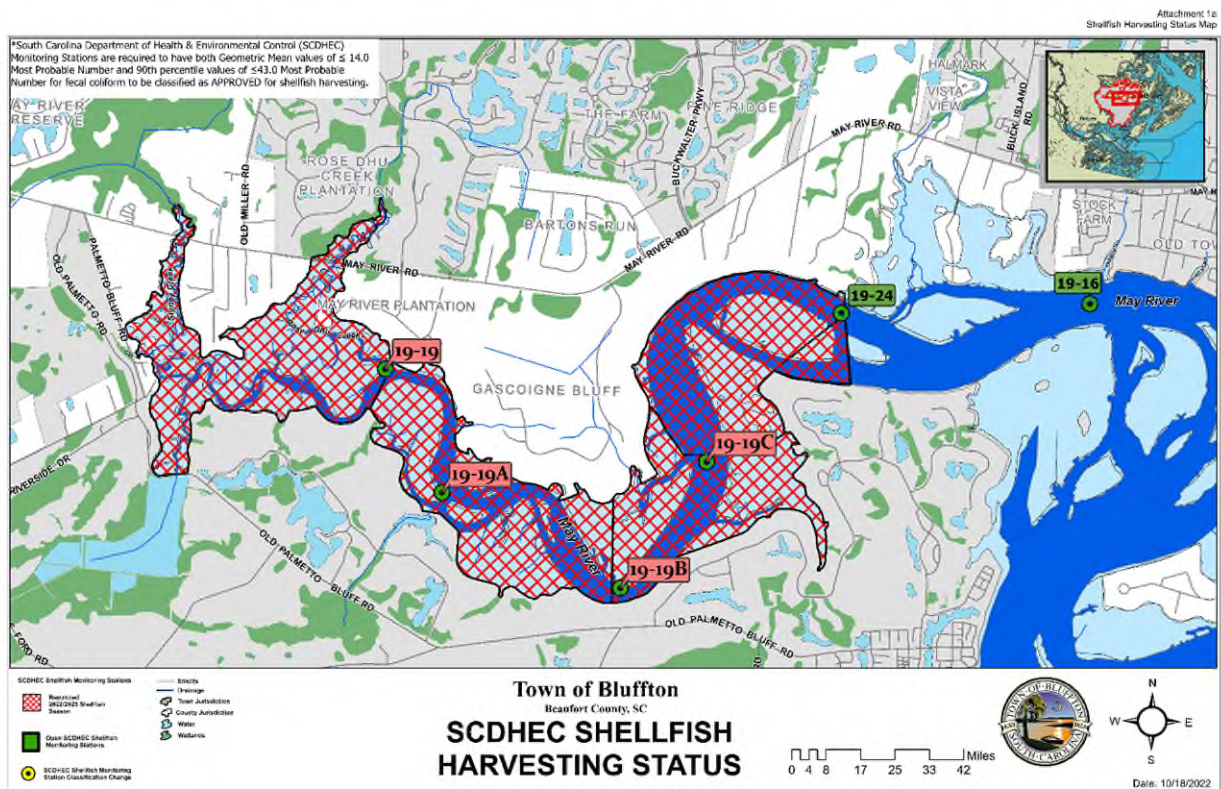
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<sup>1</sup> MKSK, Kimley Horn, Sottile & Sottile, Thomas & Hutton. *Comprehensive Plan Blueprint Bluffton*. November 2022.

<sup>2</sup> SCDNR, NOAA, USGS. *A Baseline Assessment of Environmental and Biological Conditions in the May River, Beaufort County South Carolina*. 2004.

generally conditions were good, but conditions in the tidal headwater creeks (Stoney Creek, Rose Dhu, and Palmetto Bluff) were stressed and coliform bacteria was identified as a pollutant of concern.

DHEC South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC) is responsible for monitoring shellfish including oysters, clams, and mussels and the harvest areas to assure federal and state health and environmental standards are met. In 2009, some locations within the headwaters of the May River were closed for oyster harvesting because of exceedances to coliform bacteria standards. Shellfish monitoring locations 19-19, 19-19A, and 19-19B remain closed, and 19-19C is intermittently closed/open but currently is closed.



As a result of the closure, the May River Watershed Action Plan (Action Plan) was prepared in 2011 to develop a strategy for assessing issues and implementing solutions to prevent further degradation. The Action Plan provided several actions items including:

- Targeted project retrofits
- Changes to town policies/zoning standards and ordinances including adoption of the volume-based stormwater ordinance in 2010
- Additional studies to identify septic tank users, survey flow and wildlife, and prepare a water quality model
- Ongoing sampling including improved quality assurance/quality control measures

- Communication and marketing of lessons learned and distribution of information
- Identification of partners and responsible parties<sup>3</sup>

An update to the Action Plan was prepared in 2020<sup>4</sup> and included two tasks: development of water quality models and evaluation of current action plan Best Management Practices (BMPs). **Land use changes continued to occur with ongoing development and impervious surface area increased significantly in the headwaters of the May River** from 5.78% in 2002 to 15.31% in 2018. Table 1 of the report is copied below and identifies the most impacted sub watersheds based on 2018 data. Note that 2018 to 2023 development has likely driven this much higher, specifically for Stoney Creek.

Table 1: Change in Impervious Area in May River Headwaters

Subwatershed	Total Area (Acres)	2002 Impervious*		2018 Impervious*	
		Acres	%	Acres	%
Duck Pond	683.10	18.90	2.77%	18.90	2.77%
Palmetto Bluff	1,925.53	117.24	6.09%	186.24	9.67%
Rose Dhu Creek	4,168.06	342.00	8.21%	822.60	19.74%
Stoney Creek	5,480.16	229.79	4.19%	848.71	15.49%
TOTAL	12,256.85	707.93	5.78%	1,876.44	15.31%

\*calculated from Town of Bluffton GIS files and referencing historic aerial imagery

The report developed a model and recommended several retrofit projects to reduce flow from existing developments and a strategy that included the current state of knowledge regarding stormwater treatment.

“Overall, the goal will be to follow Better Site Design principles to conserve natural areas including tree canopy, **reduce impervious cover**, and manage designated stormwater reduction volumes by infiltration and/or filtration techniques as first priority, or other approved volume reduction techniques as second priority.”

To address the recommendation in both the Action Plan and Update, the Town with partners adopted the Southern Low Country Stormwater Management Ordinance (**SoLoCo**) and prepared the Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual in September 2021.<sup>5</sup> The manual establishes a permit process and essentially specifies design criteria for new development or redevelopment that involves creation of 5,000 square feet of impervious surface or land disturbance of 1 acre or more.

Since the Action Plan and Update, the Town has approved and undertaken several initiatives including:

<sup>3</sup> AMEC Center of Watershed Protection, Ward Edwards, Thomas & Hutton. May River Watershed Action Plan. November 2011.

<sup>4</sup> McCormick Taylor and Moffatt & Nichol. *May River Watershed Action Plan Update and Modeling Report*. Nov 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Add SoLoCo Reference

- Formation of the WAPAC
- Septic to sewer conversion projects **within the May River Watershed and including the most recent approval for Stoney Creek subwatershed**
- Evaluation and design of retrofit projects

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT AND ADDITIONAL INPUT**

While many actions and attempts to plan for growth have been accomplished, reaction time sometimes has lagged in response to the growth. For example, the baseline assessment was conducted in 2004 and there has been no update despite the rapid development since then. Just recently, the WAPAC recommended that Town Council approve a budget to conduct a current assessment, but even with that approval, results of the sampling will not be available until late 2024 at best.

There appears to be general reliance that Planned Unit Development (PUD) agreements approved 20 years ago are ironclad and cannot be changed yet the developers seem to have opportunities to frequently update their side of the agreement via subsequent amendments **routinely approved**.

The Action Plan and Update addressed only the May River Watershed, not the other watersheds within the Town including, the Okatie/Colleton and New River Watershed areas. WAPAC has recommended expansion of the purview to include the other watersheds and extend the focus beyond shellfish harvesting. This has been discussed for **over a more than a** year and still awaits review and acceptance of the process.

The passage of the **SoLoCo** Stormwater Ordinance addressed some issues, but those requirements came to fruition after much of the development had already occurred and the ordinance has little enforcement capability. Further, **there is misconception regarding the 10% rule in that ordinance (Section 3.8). The ordinance rule and the cited percentage pertains to the sizing of downstream conveyance structures for flood control, NOT impervious cover.** The ordinance references the Atlanta Regional Commission and the State of Georgia Stormwater Management Manual.

“The 10% rule evaluation must address existing conveyance system capacity and “pinch points” where a pipe/culvert would be overtopped and where the pipe/culvert will need to be upgraded or the peak discharge rate will need to be limited to the capacity of the downstream system.....if the drainage control drains 10 acres, the zone of influence ends at a point where the total drainage area is 100 acres or greater.” <sup>56</sup>

Moreover, the ordinance **ONLY** applies to 5,000 square feet of impervious cover **however additional requirements of and not** 5,000 square feet of **DISTURBED soil is not clearly specified. which is more in line with other states and communities.** While the bulk of the manual describes in detail best management practices, it is lacking practices during construction when significant damage occurs and maintenance and

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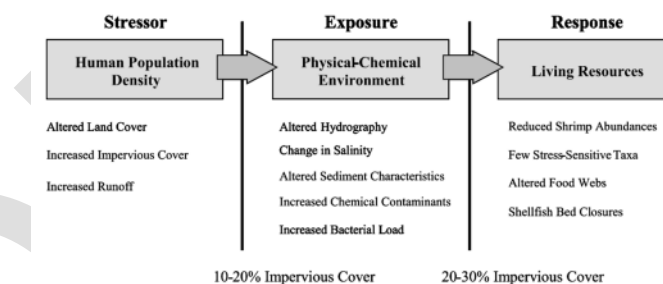
<sup>5-6</sup>Center for Watershed Protection and McCormick Taylor. Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual. September 2021.

inspection of those controls are necessary for them to be effective. Specifically, **more reference to other agencies and the Town of Bluffton's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Stormwater Management Plan is needed including there is no** discussion (figures or inspection sheets) regarding proper installation and inspection (especially before/after storm events) of silt fencing and sediment barriers, specific time requirement to stabilize exposed soil, access roadway minimum requirements, etc. Enforcement **has been improving in accordance with the Town of Bluffton's Enforcement Response Plan (ERP)**, but the language of the Stormwater Design Manual needs additional considerations and resources. **especially during construction activities has been very weak and the ordinance itself only states violations "may be subject to enforcement."**

## WHY CONTROLS FOR IMPERVIOUS COVER ARE CRITICAL

While a specific Federal or State regulatory standard for impervious cover has not been promulgated, there is ample reference both nationally and locally when impervious cover exceeds 10%, there are detrimental impacts to the receiving watershed and water quality. The diagram below is from **the baseline assessment and notes changes in salinity and increased pollutant loading are noted when the impervious cover exceeds 10-20%**. As noted from the Action Plan Update, some sub watersheds already exceeded these thresholds in 2018 and additional development has occurred.

Figure V-4. Conceptual model of the linkages between land use and headwater tidal creek environmental quality (Holland and others, 2004).



Reference <sup>67</sup>

Further, there are many lessons learned from other communities. The **United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Watershed Academy** as noted below concurs as shown below:

"Since impervious cover has such a strong influence on watershed quality, a watershed manager must critically analyze the degree and location of future development (and impervious cover) that is expected in a watershed (Figure 2). Consequently, **land use planning ranks as perhaps the single most important watershed protection tool**. Land use planning is best conducted at the sub watershed scale, where it is recognized that stream quality is related to land use and consequently impervious cover (Figure 3)..... **A sub watershed**

<sup>67</sup> SCDNR, NOAA, USGS. *A Baseline Assessment of Environmental and Biological Conditions in the May River, Beaufort County South Carolina*. 2004.

with 10 - 25% impervious cover is classified as a degraded or impacted system. Any stream's watershed having greater than 25% impervious is classified as a non-supporting stream with characteristics such as eroding banks, poor biological diversity, and high bacterial levels."

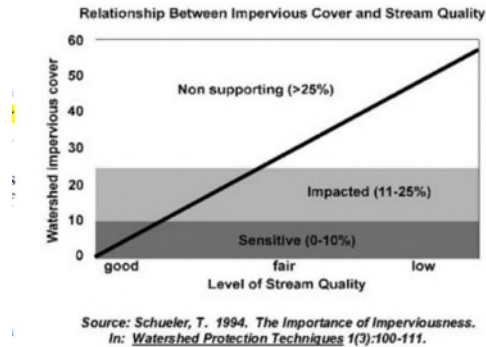


Figure 3

#### Reference <sup>78</sup>

Similarly, the State of Ohio as a result of dealing with the impacts from increased runoff from rapid development notes:

"impervious surface percentages.....fundamentally impact the stream flow regime and therefore impact both overland pollutant transport and stream integrity. Specifically, the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) has documented that adverse impacts to stream integrity can occur with as little as 10% impervious surface in a watershed. **Once 25% impervious surface occurs, full restoration of stream integrity may not be possible technically and/or economically.**" <sup>89</sup>

To estimate runoff from an area, there are sophisticated models and detailed calculations to adjust for different conditions from simple to complex. These alternative methods, some of which are included in the current **ordinate SoLoCo Stormwater Ordinance** consider not only rainfall intensity, but also variable rainfall intensities for defined critical areas, antecedent moisture conditions, connected versus unconnected impervious areas, weighted coefficients to account for different media, hydrologic soil groups, etc. In the most basic terms, the rationale equation is used to calculate runoff from an agreed minimum required storm.

~~For illustrative purposes, Mathematically it can be shown that and in the most simplistic form, the Rationale Method can be used to estimate runoff where  $Q = CiA$ .  $Q$  is defined as the peak runoff rate in  $ft^3/sec$ ;  $C$  is a runoff coefficient;  $i$  is the storm intensity in  $in/hr$ ; and  $A$  is the contributing area in acres. Keeping rainfall intensity and area constant at 1 acre and 1  $in/hr$  storm, one can calculate runoff based on the different established coefficient for surfaces. For example, the runoff~~

<sup>78</sup> H.Y. Kwon, R. Winer, and T. Schueler, Center for Watershed Protection USEPA. *Eight Tools of Watershed Protection in Developing Areas* USEPA Watershed Academy.

<sup>89</sup> Ohio Water Resource Council, Ohio EPA. Getting the Point about NonPoint, Non Point Source Pollution Management Plan 2005-2010



from a natural flat 0-5% woodland or pasture area (coefficient 0.1) is approximately 45 gallons/minute whereas, the runoff from driveways, roofs and walks is (coefficient 0.95) approximately 465 gallons/minute or 10 times as more!

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The May ~~River, Okatie, and Colleton Rivers~~ ~~are~~ is designated as Outstanding Natural Resource Water (ORW) ~~s~~, a distinction reserved for freshwaters and saltwaters which provide outstanding recreational or ecological resources. That designation must be respected to retain its status and benefits to the community.

Although the Town has taken steps to address the impacts of rapid development, the development has occurred faster than the reactions. The rapid increase in impervious ~~surfaces cover~~ above 10% was already established based on the Action Plan Update ~~data in~~ from 2018 but there is no specific policy, mandate, or ordinance to limit further increases of impervious cover in those sub watersheds or overall, for the Town.

At a minimum, WAPAC recommends the following actions:

1. Update the calculation ~~and related mapping~~ for impervious cover in the watersheds based on current conditions and anticipated future growth already approved. This may ~~require be easily done with Town Staff, but if not, it is a worthwhile effort for~~ budgeting for outside assistance.
2. Conduct an ~~evaluation review~~ of the SoLoCo Stormwater Ordinance (September 2021) ~~current ordinance (September 2021)~~ and make improvements ~~to assure they are understood, prevent repeat occurrences and violations, and to keep with the overall goal of restricting and/or moderating expansion of impervious cover. in the ordinance or adopt new resolutions/ordinances as needed.~~ For example:
  - Require a permit for 5,000 square feet of disturbed soil which is typical
  - Include specific discussion regarding controls for construction activities with details regarding placement, operation, and maintenance so that these are effectively managed
  - ~~Specify, and conduct, and Enhance~~ enforcement of rules
  - Require documented inspections made available to inspectors on site
  - Conduct ongoing education and training of ~~all~~ contractors, ~~both large and small~~
  - Revise the current ordinance to require runoff calculations for more intense storms ~~and other critical areas. (beyond the 24 hour, 25-year) for calculating runoff depending on the size of the proposed development and the extent of the current impervious cover that already exists.~~<sup>9-10</sup>

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<sup>9-10</sup>New Albany, Ohio. Code of Ordinance Title Seven – Chapter 1181 Stormwater Runoff Control Criteria.

3. The Town focus has primarily centered around shellfish harvesting and extensive monthly sampling for coliform **bacteria** because of the closures of **shellfish harvesting areas** in 2009. This attention has prevented the needed efforts protecting other water quality parameters from the impacts from extensive changes of the natural landscape in a short time. The results of the new assessment will not be available for another year, but it is a reasonable guess that conditions have not improved in the last 20-years when much of the development occurred. At a minimum, the Town's approval and oversight committees (Development Review and Planning Commission) need **some greater insight on training about** this important issue and the need to have each review address the impact on the watershed's total impervious **cover area**. If already exceeding thresholds, additional controls are warranted and should be required prior to approval.

4. The State of Maryland and Chesapeake Bay have enacted many rules to address and protect their water resources. One example is the critical land document which limits the phosphorus loadings from new development and defines critical areas. <sup>10 11</sup> Some consideration for this type of approach is needed by the Town especially for any new development.

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<sup>10 11</sup>Center for Watershed Protection. *Maryland Chesapeake and Atlantic Coast Critical Area 10% Rule Guidance*. Fall 2003.

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C Avon Manning Email – January 23, 2023 – Year in Review and 2023/24 Calendar

### Summary of WAPAC Discussion Items Oct 21 – Nov/Dec 22

October 2021	Discussion on rules for subcommittees and full committee rules apply
Nov/Dec 2021	Discussion - expand WAPAC charter was tabled to January meeting Some discussion on setting topics and priorities
Jan 2022	Cancelled
Feb 2022	Staff update on Strategic Plan Priorities for 2021-2022 and a listing of Strategic Plan Priorities 2023-2024 was presented.
Mar 2022	Presentation on Town of Bluffton annexation and development history Discussion on prioritizing the priorities tabled because one member had to leave and insufficient quorum.
Apr 2022	Cancelled
May 2022	Cancelled
Jun 2022	Listing of priorities from March meeting was discussed. Some combined and list was prioritized.
Jul 2022	Election of Officers Discussion - proposal to Town Council to expand WAPAC purview (priority no 1) Discussion on Blueprint Bluffton
Aug 2022	Presentation by Mr. Rybak on Action Plan Recommendations and Capital Improvement Plan Discussion on Blueprint Bluffton and improper use of sediment barriers
Sep 2022	Priority no 1 on expanding purview to be discussed at Town Council WORKSHOP October 18 Discussion on “workshops” and scheduling
Oct 2022	Presentation by Director Open Land Trust Discussion on Priority 4 – Green Space Policy
Nov/Dec 2022	Review of Strategic Plan Priority 4 - subsequent draft Approval of monthly meeting dates for 2023

### Dashboard – Roadmap and Timing for Key Topics

**List of Strategic Plan Priorities 2023-24** – preliminary discussion on Nov/Dec 2021, approved Feb 2022, listing then prioritized June 2022 – approximately 7 month process – check dates for Strategic Plan 2025-26 to include in the 2023 calendar as necessary

**Expand WAPAC Purview** – initial discussion Nov/Dec 21, listed as first priority Feb 2022, discussion July 2022 and noted to be on Town Council Workshop Oct 18, Staff prepared slides and subsequently was to be on January 2023 Town Council meeting. Agenda for that meeting did not include discussion on expanding the purview – ongoing and approaching more than one year

**Green Space Policy** – listed as Priority No 4 but moved up for discussion at Oct 2022 meeting – several drafts circulated, and last draft circulated for comments – ongoing and approximately 3-4 months

### **List of Strategic Plan Priorities 2023-24 – with Status**

1. Request Town Council expand the purview of the May River WAPAC to not only protect and restore shellfish harvesting in the May River, but also protect the overall environmental health of the Town’s watersheds including the ability to comment on proposed activities that may impact them. **STATUS – Last discussion it was on the Jan 2023 Town Council Meeting - but agenda did not include – update?**
2. Update assessments of current environmental health status of the Town’s watersheds compared to historical conditions to inform management opportunities, e.g. the 2004 report “A Baseline Assessment of Environmental and Biological Conditions in the May River, Beaufort County, South Carolina” completed by SC Department of Natural Resources, USGS, and NOAA to compare current environmental and biological conditions to the baseline. **STATUS – need response to CAM email on clarification of scope of work and budget approval timing**
3. Evaluate the regulatory framework to codify that each development permit does not surpass the 10% impervious surface “rule” in the Unified Development Ordinance stormwater regulations.
4. Develop a Town policy and program with clear structure, identified and formalized organizational collaborations, and goals for green space or preservation area acquisition, and/or retirement of development rights. **STATUS – final draft being circulated**
5. Establish an agreement with Beaufort County to implement the May River Watershed Action Plan (Action Plan) within the County’s jurisdiction of the watershed for both structural stormwater projects and non-structural programs such as implementing the Green Print Map with the Rural & Critical Lands program.
6. Establish an agreement with Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority to implement Action Plan bacteria source-reduction from septic systems (sewer extension & connection) and from the wastewater system, e.g. asset inventory, inspection, maintenance and prioritization for replacement plan.
7. Establish a policy to guide public-private partnerships to implement Action Plan projects/retrofits within neighborhoods, utilize stormwater ponds for irrigation, and coordinate with property management companies to capitalize on forecasted private improvement projects to incorporate stormwater retrofit opportunities.
8. Reinforce efforts to influence Department of Transportation (local, county, state) to implement additional stormwater retrofits within limits of roadway improvement or maintenance projects.
9. Establish a Climate Resiliency Plan for adaptation to coastal impacts from changing environmental conditions (“rain bombs” and sea level rise) on stormwater runoff water quality and quantity.

10. Assess the environmental resilience of stormwater ponds to changing climate conditions for retrofit opportunities, e.g. ensuring ponds have capacity to hold rain events instead of being pumped full with ground water.

11. Complete a third-party assessment in FY24 of the stormwater regulations and Design Manual in the Unified Development Ordinance, particularly the Better Site Design element, to ensure intended outcomes are being met and modify the regulations if necessary.

**2023 Schedule – Priorities one every other month?**

Jan 2023	Confirm meeting time Finalize draft request for Town Council to adopt Green Space Policy – Priority No. 4
	Questions – topics to get addressed???? Update status of Priority No 1 – Expand Purview – Town Council Meeting and depending on outcome, what is the process? Update status of Priority No 2 – Environmental Health Status Assessment
Feb 2023	Update on Action Plan Recommendation Projects
Mar 2023	Discussion on Priority No 3 – codify requirements to minimize impervious surfaces/areas
Apr 2023	
May 2023	Priority No. 5 – County agreement
Jun 2023	
Jul 2023	Priority No. 6 – BJSWA agreement
Aug 2023	
Sep 2023	Priority No. 7 – policy public/private partnerships
Oct 2023	
Nov/Dec 2023	Priority No. 8 – influence SCDOT projects
Jan 2024	
Feb 2024	Set Strategic Plan Priorities for 2024-2025 ( <b>most likely the last possible date?</b> )
Mar 2024	
Apr 2024	Priority No. 9 – Climate Resiliency Plan
May 2024	
Jun 2024	Priority No. 10 – Stormwater Ponds
Jul 2024	
Aug 2024	Priority No. 11 – Assess stormwater ordinance - > 2 1/2 years after enactment

# Year in Review – Status of WAPAC FY23-24 Strategic Plan Priorities

# WAPAC FY23-FY24 Strategic Plan Priorities

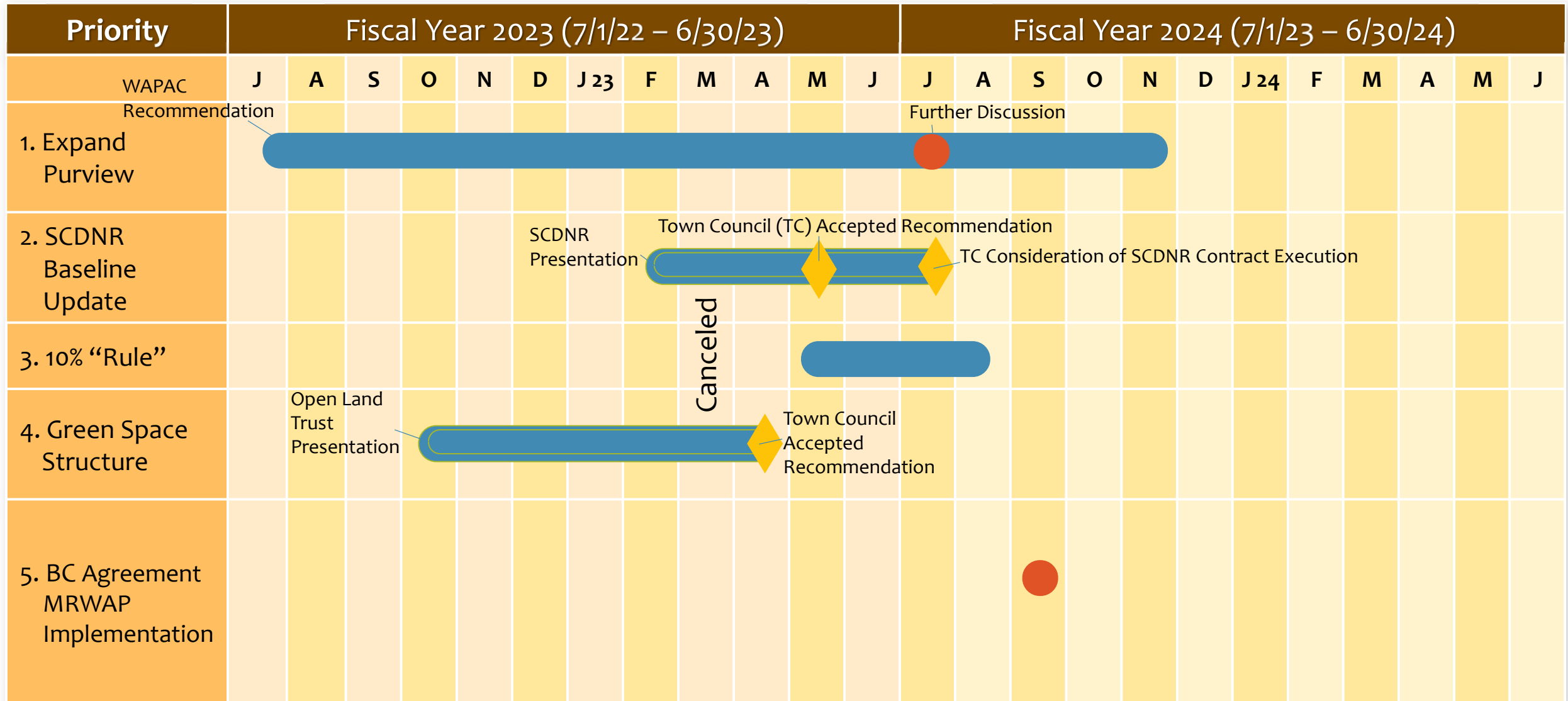
1. Request Town Council expand the purview of the May River WAPAC to not only protect and restore shellfish harvesting in the May River, but also protect the overall environmental health of the Town's watersheds including the ability to comment on proposed activities that may impact them.
2. Update assessments of current environmental health status of the Town's watersheds compared to historical conditions to inform management opportunities, e.g. the 2004 report "A Baseline Assessment of Environmental and Biological Conditions in the May River, Beaufort County, South Carolina" completed by SC Department of Natural Resources, USGS, and NOAA to compare current environmental and biological conditions to the baseline.
3. Evaluate the regulatory framework to codify that each development permit does not surpass the 10% impervious surface "rule" in the Unified Development Ordinance stormwater regulations.
4. Develop a Town policy and program with clear structure, identified and formalized organizational collaborations, and goals for green space or preservation area acquisition, and/or retirement of development rights.
5. Establish an agreement with Beaufort County to implement the May River Watershed Action Plan (Action Plan) within the County's jurisdiction of the watershed for both structural stormwater projects and non-structural programs such as implementing the Green Print Map with the Rural & Critical Lands program.

# WAPAC FY23-FY24 Strategic Plan Priorities

6. Establish a policy to guide public-private partnerships to implement Action Plan projects/retrofits within neighborhoods, utilize stormwater ponds for irrigation, and coordinate with property management companies to capitalize on forecasted private improvement projects to incorporate stormwater retrofit opportunities.
7. Establish a Climate Resiliency Plan for adaptation to coastal impacts from changing environmental conditions (“rain bombs” and sea level rise) on stormwater runoff water quality and quantity. Assess the environmental resilience of stormwater ponds to changing climate conditions for retrofit opportunities, e.g. ensuring ponds have capacity to hold rain events instead of being pumped full with ground water.
6. Reinforce efforts to influence Department of Transportation (local, county, state) to implement additional stormwater retrofits within limits of roadway improvement or maintenance projects.
7. Establish an agreement with Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority to implement Action Plan bacteria source-reduction from septic systems (sewer extension & connection) and from the wastewater system, e.g. Asset inventory, inspection, maintenance and prioritization for replacement plan.
8. Complete a third-party assessment in FY24 of the stormwater regulations and Design Manual in the Unified Development Ordinance, particularly the Better Site Design element, to ensure intended outcomes are being met and modify the regulations if necessary.



# WAPAC Year in Review



 Town Council
  Potential Schedule to Begin Discussion

WAPAC Recommendation

Further Discussion

SCDNR Presentation

Town Council (TC) Accepted Recommendation

TC Consideration of SCDNR Contract Execution

Canceled

Open Land Trust Presentation

Town Council Accepted Recommendation

# WAPAC Year in Review

Priority	Fiscal Year 2023 (7/1/22 – 6/30/23)												Fiscal Year 2024 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24)											
	J	A	S	O	N	D	J23	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J24	F	M	A	M	J
6. Policy Public-Private Partnerships																	●							
7. Climate Resiliency Plan & Assessment of Ponds																			●					
8. Influence SCDOT Stormwater									Canceled													●		
9. BJWSA Agreement Source Reduction																								●
10. 3rd-Party Review SoLoCo																								●

● Potential Schedule to Begin Discussion