



# May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, Henry "Emmett" McCracken Jr. Council Chambers,  
20 Bridge Street, Bluffton, SC

## AGENDA

### I. CALL TO ORDER

### II. ROLL CALL

### III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the March 28, 2024, Agenda

### IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- [1.](#) Adoption of the February 22, 2024, Minutes

### V. PRESENTATIONS, CELEBRATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS

### VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

### VII. OLD BUSINESS

- [1.](#) Development of the Strategic Plan Priority Five (5) to Establish an Agreement with Beaufort County to Implement the May River Watershed 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 within the Rural & Critical Lands Program - Beth Lewis, Water Quality Program Manager

### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### IX. DISCUSSION

### X. ADJOURNMENT

**NEXT MEETING DATE: April 25th, 2024**

*“FOIA Compliance – Public notification of this meeting has been published and posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Bluffton policies.”*

*In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Town of Bluffton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities. The Town of Bluffton Council Chambers are ADA compatible. Auditory accommodations are available. Any person requiring further accommodation should contact the Town of Bluffton ADA Coordinator at 843.706.4500 or [adacoordinator@townofbluffton.com](mailto:adacoordinator@townofbluffton.com) as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.*

*Executive Session – The public body may vote to go into executive session for any item identified for action on the agenda.*

*\*Please note that each member of the public may speak at one public comment session and a form must be filled out and given to the Town Clerk. To submit a public comment online, please click here:*

*<https://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/FormCenter/Town-15/Public-Comment-60>*

*Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker.*

# May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, Henry “Emmett” McCracken Jr. Council Chambers, 20  
Bridge Street, Bluffton, SC

February 22, 2024

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Stokes called the meeting to order at 3:03pm.

## II. ROLL CALL

### PRESENT

Amber Kuehn

Vice-Chair, Al Stokes

Jessie White

Chris Kehrer

Council Liaison Larry Toomer

### ABSENT

Chris Shoemaker

Chair, Stan Rogers

## III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Council Liaison Toomer, Seconded by White.

Voting Yea: Kuehn, Vice Chair Stokes, White, Kehrer, Council Liaison Toomer

Unanimous ayes.

## IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Adoption of January 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Kuehn, Seconded by White.

Voting Yea: Kuehn, Vice Chair Stokes, White, Kehrer, Council Liaison Toomer

Unanimous ayes.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Welcome New WAPAC Member

New member Chris Kehrer was introduced to the committee.

## VII. DISCUSSION

1. Development of the Strategic Plan Priority Five (5) to Establish an Agreement with Beaufort County to Implement the May River Watershed 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 within the Rural & Critical Lands Program - Beth Lewis, Water Quality Program Manager

The committee discussed the current agreements the Town of Bluffton has with Beaufort County. The committee then began listing ideas for different programs the Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County can partner on creating together, including septic/sewer conversions, wetland protections, disposing of abandoned boats, capital improvement projects, tree protections, regulating trash haulers/litter, and incentives for pond regulation. They then decided to continue working on their recommendations for regional programs and discuss further at the next meeting.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved to Adjourn at 4:25pm.

Motion made by Council Liaison Toomer.  
Seconded by White.

Voting Yea: Vice-Chair Stokes, White, Kehrer, Council Liaison Toomer

**NEXT MEETING DATE: March 28, 2024**



## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Town Council

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

RE: WAPAC Recommendation to Establish an Agreement with Beaufort County to Implement the May River Watershed Action Plan

DATE: MARCH 28, 2024

CC: Stephen Steese, Town Manager  
Heather Colin, Assistant Town Manager  
Kim Washok-Jones, Director of Projects & Watershed Resilience  
Bill Baugher, Watershed Management Division Manager  
Beth Lewis, Water Quality Program Manager

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As voted on during the March 28, 2024, meeting, WAPAC recommends that the Town of Bluffton pursue a new agreement with Beaufort County Government to implement the May River Watershed Action Plan Model Report within the County's jurisdiction of the May River Watershed.

This agreement should provide the framework for cooperation between the Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County to implement structural and non-structural programs to protect and restore shellfish harvesting and water quality in the May River.

This agreement should build upon previous agreements and partnership efforts. It should:

- **Acknowledge** the importance of the May River to both jurisdictions' social and economic well-being, the close connection between the quality of the May River and the environment and human health, and the need to address water quality impairments regionally.
- **Reaffirm** the Town of Bluffton's and Beaufort County's determination to protect, restore, and enhance water quality in the May River.
- **Emphasize** the need to strengthen efforts to address new and continuing threats to the quality of the May River, including but not limited to nutrients, climate change impacts, and loss of habitats and species.

- **Recognize** that the May River must be restored and protected because of its commerce and recreation benefits to the community.
- **Conclude** that the best way to preserve and improve water quality in the May River is to adopt common objectives, develop and implement cooperative programs, and take other compatible measures.

Within this agreement, the WAPAC believes that the Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County should explore activities, programs, or strategies to address the following areas:

1. Septic to sewer/sewer projects
2. Wetland protections
3. Abandoned boats
4. County infrastructure projects - look at opportunities like Bridge Street water quality BMP
5. Tree protections
6. Trash haulers/litter
7. Stormwater credit for upgrading buffers around ponds

WAPAC believes that a new agreement with Beaufort County, if implemented, will help achieve the May River Watershed Action Plan objectives and protect shellfish harvesting in the May River.