



May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 24, 2025 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 MINUTES

- [1.](#) Adoption of April 24th, 2025 Minutes

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Town Wetland Ordinance - Beth Lewis, Water Quality Program Manager
- [2.](#) May River Watershed Action Plan Project Implementation Status Report - Dan Rybak, Project Manager

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- [1.](#) Recommendation for the Public Arts Committee to Consider a Storm Drain Marking Program - Andrea Moreno, MS4 Program Manager
- [2.](#) Election of Officers - Beth Lewis, Water Quality Program Manager
- [3.](#) Development of WAPAC Strategic Plan Priorities for FY27-28 - Beth Lewis, Water Quality Program Manager

VII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 23, 2025

“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 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

April 24, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Stokes called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chris Shoemaker
Amber Kuehn
Vice Chair Al Stokes
Jessie White
Chris Kehrer
Larry Toomer

ABSENT

Chair Stan Rogers

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Adoption of January 23rd, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion to adopt January 23rd, 2025, meeting minutes made by Shoemaker, Seconded by Kuehn.

Voting Yea: Shoemaker, Kuehn, Vice Chair Stokes, White, Kehrer, Toomer

IV. PRESENTATIONS, CELEBRATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS

1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources May River Watershed Baseline Assessment Update Presentation - Dr. Andrew Tweel, Associate Marine Scientist, SC Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Andrew Tweel presented the findings of the May River Watershed Baseline Assessment Update. Afterwards, the committee had time to ask questions which were over the source of bacteria found in the river and SCDNR’s recommendation regarding the frequency the Town should consider for the next baseline assessment.

2. South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium and College of Charleston Resiliency Analysis Presentation - Dr. Levine, Professor | Director, Santee Cooper GIS Laboratory and Lowcountry Hazards Center, and Landon Knapp, Coastal Resilience Program Manager

Dr. Levine, Landon Knapp, and Sophia Truempi presented the results of the resiliency analysis conducted for the Town of Bluffton. The committee was then given time to ask about the study.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Lawton - 52 Oyster Street - Mr. Lawton congratulated the Town on passing a Wetland Ordinance at the March Town Council meeting and expressed support for it to pass second reading at the May Town Council meeting. He also spoke about a wetland in Beaufort County that he would like to continue to see being protected.

Paul Manning - 111 Quarter Casting Circle - Mr. Manning spoke about his concerns with stormwater runoff and decreasing water quality in the May River.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn at 4:58pm by Toomer, Seconded by Kehrer.

Voting Yea: Shoemaker, Kuehn, Vice Chair Stokes, White, Kehrer, Toomer

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 24, 2025

May River Action Plan Implementation Project Implementation Status Report

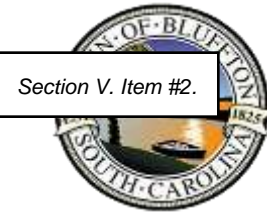
**Presentation to May River Watershed Action Plan Committee
(WAPAC)**

July 24, 2025

Department of Projects & Watershed Resilience

Dan Rybak, Project Manager

Septic to Sewer Projects



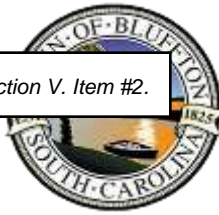
- **Stoney Creek/Palmetto Bluff Sewer Partnership:**
 - BJWSA's 2022 updated cost-estimate for the project from BJWSA increased to \$7.2 million + contingencies.
 - BJWSA is the Project Manager as the awardee of the Rural Infrastructure Authority - South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (RIA-SCIIP) grant.
- **Next Steps**
 - BJWSA continues with community outreach and design of the system. BJWSA updates can be found at: <https://bjwsa.org/251/Go2Sewer-for-a-Cleaner-Stoney-Creek>

Impervious Restoration Program Projects

Background:

Within the 2020 May River Watershed Action Plan Update & Modeling Report (MRWAP), eleven (11) project sites (incorporating various individual BMPs) were selected in consultation with the Town (prioritizing subcatchments with fecal coliform (FC) bacteria hotspot and/or large impervious areas). These sites were evaluated in terms of the potential benefits gained by retrofitting to meet the 95th percentile storm retention, to the maximum extent possible, under the proposed Impervious Area Restoration/Stormwater Retrofit Program.

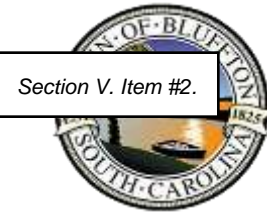
Impervious Restoration Program Projects



Task 1 : MRWAP Update 11 Site Locations

- Eleven (11) proposed project sites Rose Dhu Creek (6 projects) and Stoney Creek (5 projects)
 - All geotechnical work, evaluations, site assessments, planning, engineering, and preliminary designs for the 8 original sites is **complete**.
- Next Steps:
 - Final Draft of the IRP Policy Document has been submitted and under review for final edits and comments.
 - Upon completion and approval of the IRP Policy Document, staff will collaborate with the Town's Director of Procurement for an agreement with BCSD and other property owners to construct proposed impervious restoration projects.

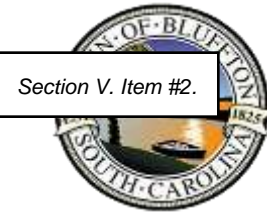
Impervious Restoration Program Projects



Task 2 : Identify 15 new project sites for Town of Bluffton Impervious Restoration/BMP Retrofit Projects.

- **Background:**
 - The Town wishes to identify an additional 15 project sites located within the municipal limits of Bluffton for the Impervious Restoration/BMP Retrofit Program. However, the criteria for site selection will be considered to be more “low hanging fruit” based on the following:
 - Within Town of Bluffton Municipal limits.
 - Soils – sandy soils with high infiltration rates offer the biggest bang for the buck for water quality treatment/improvement. Utilizing soil survey and other information target sites where infiltration can be maximized on-site.
 - Public or governmental agency land/property owner (not SCDOT RoW).
- Concept design development for the 15 the sites that did not decline to participate is ongoing.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Finalize Concept designs and proposed SWrv/Water quality benefit.

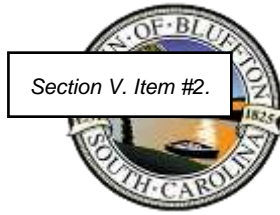
Impervious Restoration Program Projects



- **Task 3 : Policy Document Formulation**

- **TOB Fee-in-Lieu Program Policy Document** –Adopted into the FY26 Master Fee Schedule at the July 2025 Town Council Meeting.
- **As adopted:**
 - When a development project cannot accommodate the required SWRv due to on-site constraints identified in the approved MEP analysis, the developer could opt to pay a Fee-In-Lieu (FIL) to the Town of Bluffton for the shortfall according to the FIL fee schedule to be adopted as part of the FY26 budget Master Fee Schedule. Funds collected through FIL payments would then be used by the Town to fund other qualified uses that protect water quality within the same watershed as the original project including:
 - The construction and maintenance of impervious restoration program water quality BMPs;
 - Purchase of land for increased conservation areas, application of Better Site Design to the approved Master Plan, buffers, undisturbed open space, and natural resource of significance areas, and
 - Purchase of development rights.

Impervious Restoration Program Projects



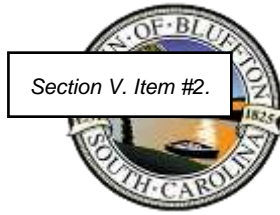
- **Task 3 : Policy Document Formulation (Cont.)**

- FIL payment would be based and equal to a unit of SWRv in cubic feet or designating a conservation area/easement area that protects a qualified natural resource that would otherwise require the same SWRv treatment if developed. The monetary value for a unit of SWRv would be based on the current and typical costs for land as well as associated costs for design, construction, construction management, Town program management, post-construction inspection, and ongoing maintenance of water quality BMPs. The SWRv FIL rate would be found as part of the Town’s Master Fee Schedule, under Section VII “Stormwater Management Fees,” allowing for annual review and updates as needed based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or based on updated information regarding the cost of water quality BMP construction and maintenance, changes in the construction industry, availability of supplies, etc. If the developer and/or private property owner take responsibility for maintaining the BMP or provide land, then the associated cost for a unit of SWRv could be lessened accordingly.

Item/Description	Fee
Fee-In-Lieu (FIL)	
For projects with an approved Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) submittal, the FIL amount is calculated based on an applicant’s shortfall, in cubic feet (CF), of the required Stormwater Retention Volume (SWRv).	\$151.92/CF of SWRv

- Other Policy Document Development Status:
 - ToB CIP Project Impervious Restoration Program & Incentives – **Draft document in process.**
 - ToB SWrv Credit Trading Program - **(under evaluation)**

Impervious Restoration Program Projects

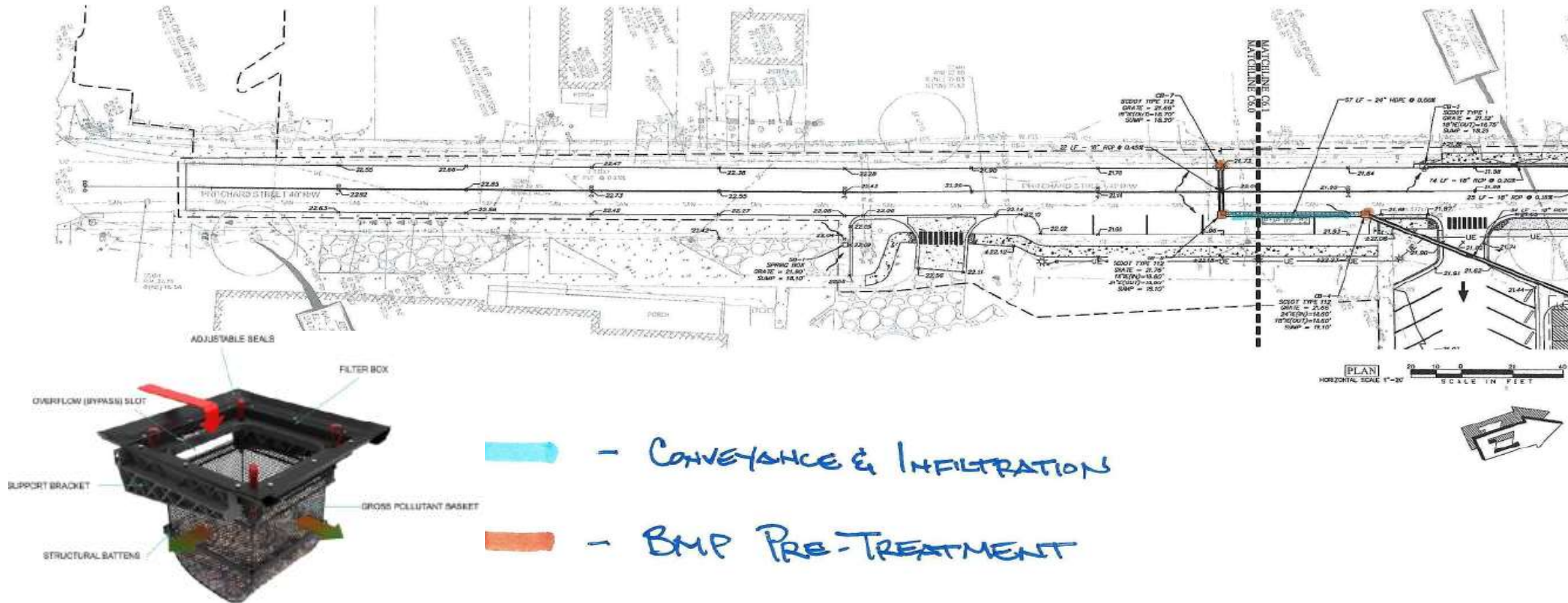
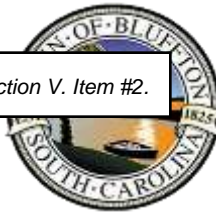


- **Other, Related MRWAP Update Recommendations**

- Town is in progress of incorporating volume reduction BMPs within existing and future CIP projects to the MEP. Specific projects currently in progress include:
 - **Bridge Street Streetscape Project**
 - Water quality monitoring has been completed.
 - **Pritchard Street Streetscape and Drainage Improvement Project**
 - Incorporated Infiltration BMPs within the project to capture and treat 1.95" of rainfall over impervious surfaces within the project area, prior to discharge into Heyward Cove.
 - Submitted Section 319 Grant proposal to DHEC to cost-share cost of construction of proposed BMPs. Pre-proposal was accepted, and Full Proposal was requested by DHEC. Under Review.
 - Coordinated approval for proposed improvements with Beaufort County School District and Beaufort County on pool operation impacts. Updated Bid Ready submittal from consultant 7/9/25 pending.
 - Easement acquisition documents have been finalized, and easement acquisitions have been initiated.
 - Follow-up/complete permitting submissions.
 - Project anticipated to be advertised for construction in July 2025.

Pritchard Street Streetscape and Drainage Improvement Project

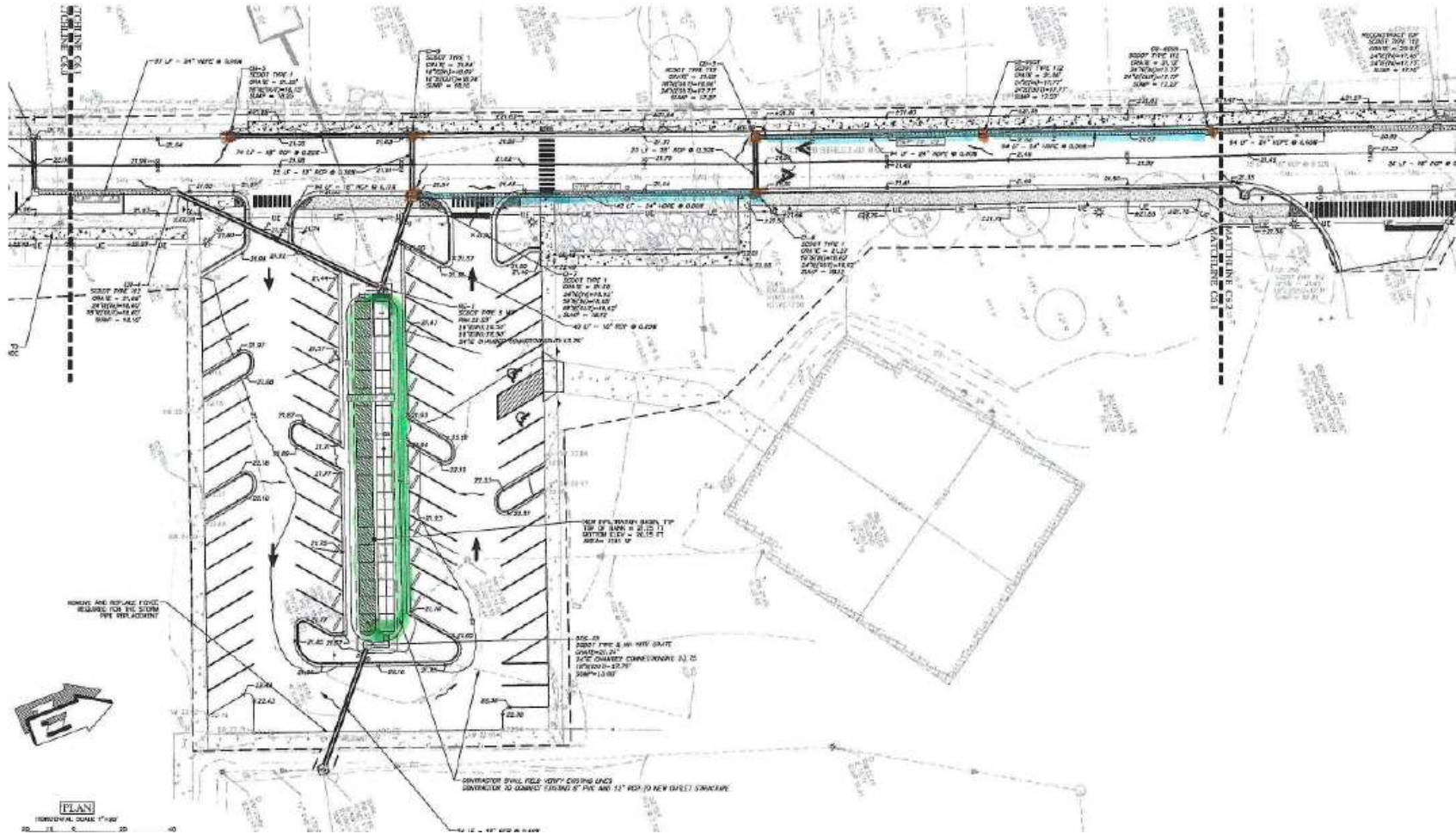
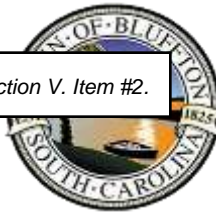
Section V. Item #2.



- CONVEYANCE & INFILTRATION
- BMP PRE-TREATMENT
- HYBRID UNDERGROUND DETENTION WITH INFILTRATION & BIORETENTION

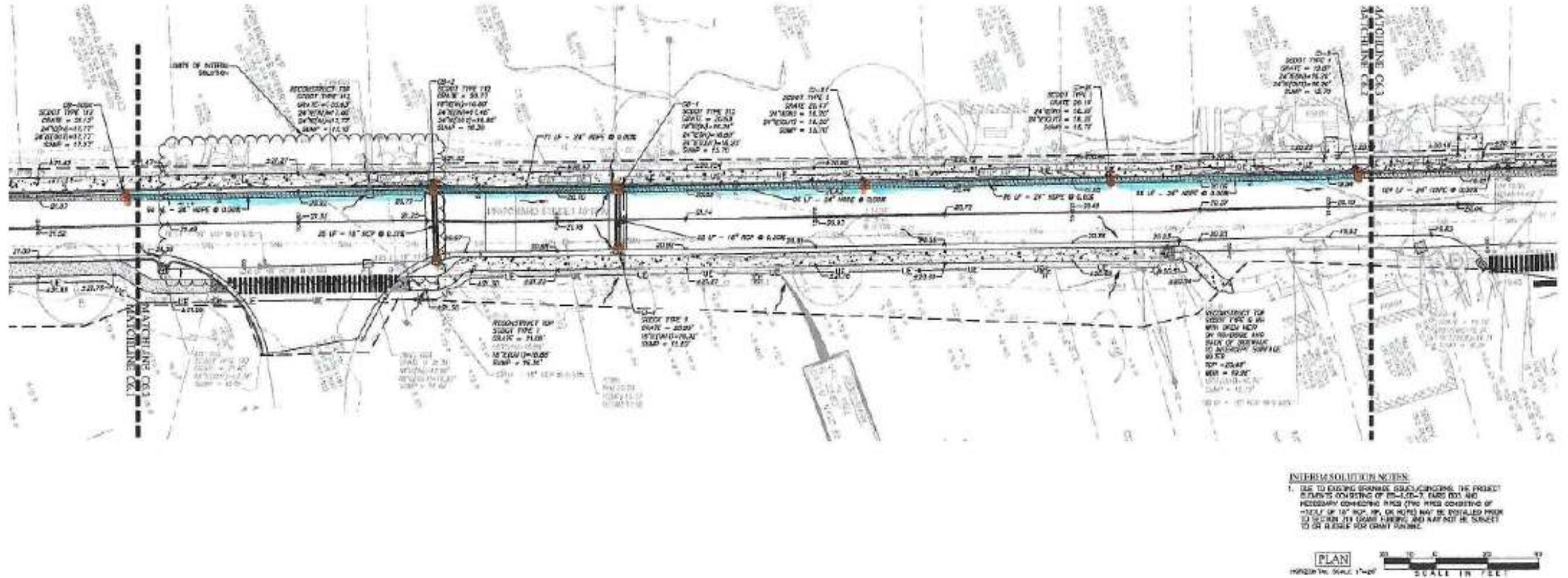
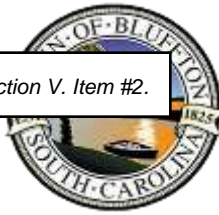
Pritchard Street Streetscape and Drainage Improvement Project

Section V. Item #2.



Pritchard Street Streetscape and Drainage Improvement Project

Section V. Item #2.

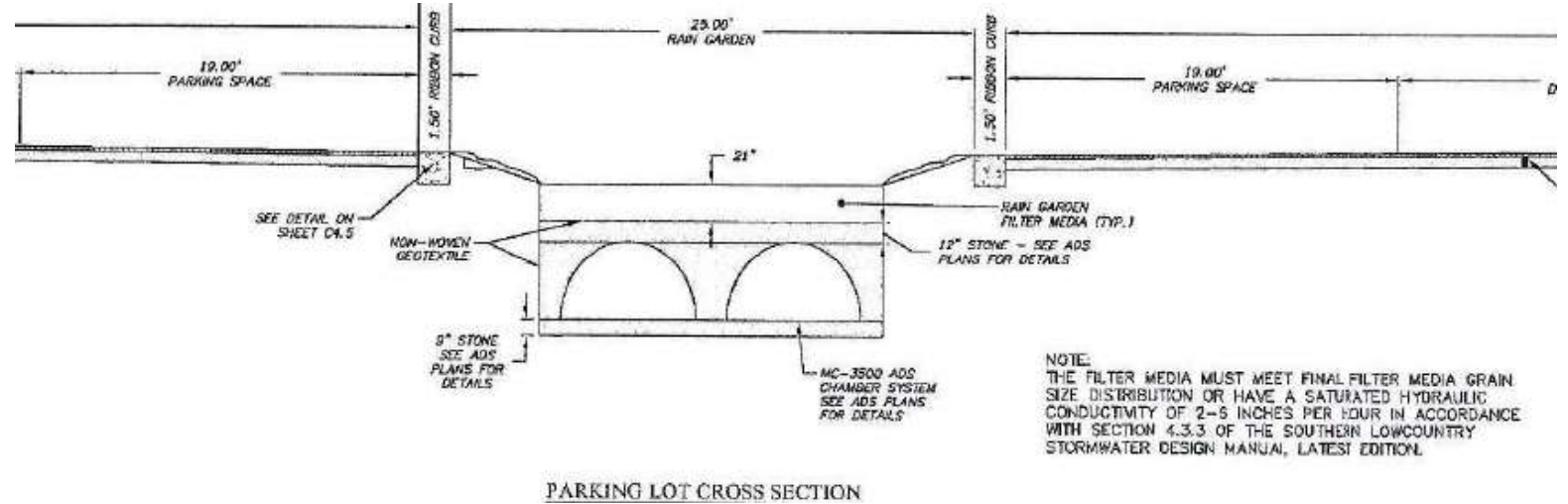
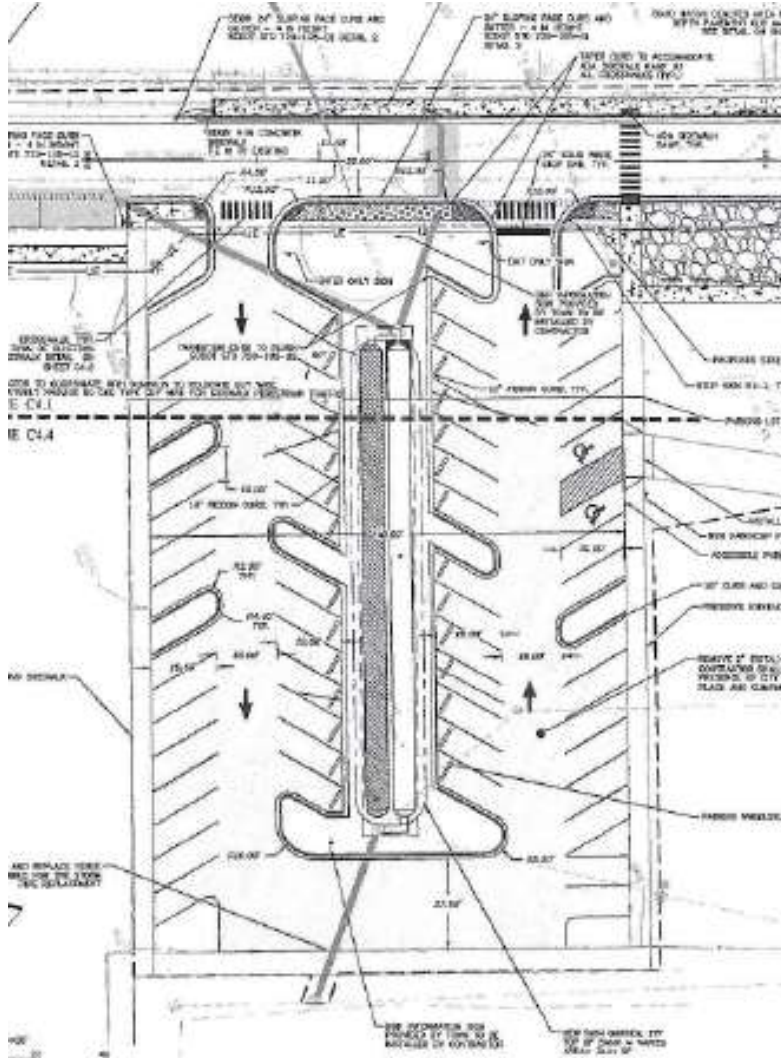
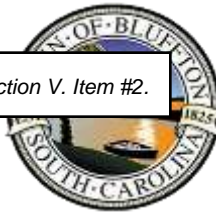


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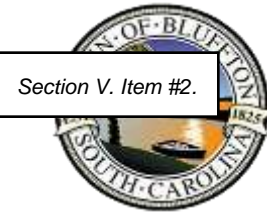


Pritchard Street Streetscape and Drainage Improvement Project

Section V. Item #2.



May River Action Plan Update & Modeling Report



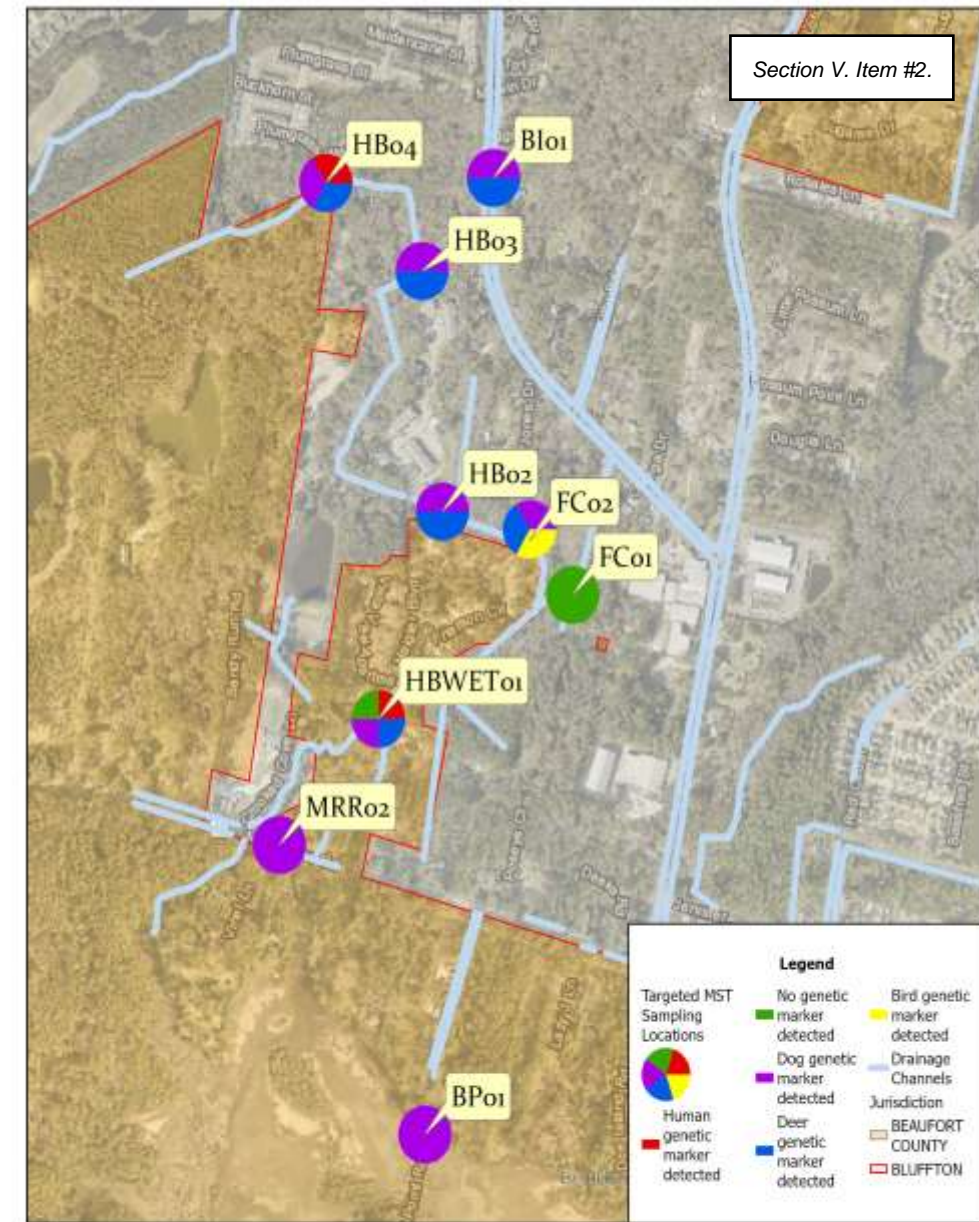
5.0 Recommendations

• 5.1.1. In-House Microbial Source Tracking

- Staff have collaborated with Dr. Tye Pettay and the USCB Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Laboratory to develop new markers for tracking fecal contamination in the May River Watershed. The primary goal is to identify the sources of bacteria and establish effective mitigation plans. The human genetic marker remains the main focus of the Town's MST sampling program, as it poses the greatest risk to human health.
- With the introduction of the new MST markers, Town staff have initiated a targeted MST sampling program, starting with the Crooked Cove subwatershed. This area was chosen due to its proximity to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) Shellfish Harvesting Station 19-24, which has experienced increasing levels of fecal coliform concentrations. The Town has since expanded this program to include the Heyward, Huger, and Verdier Cove subwatersheds. The MST Program examines various potential sources of contamination, including human, dog, deer, horse, and bird waste. Staff are collecting samples during five wet weather events and five dry weather events to characterize each subwatershed.
- Based on the results of this MST sampling, staff have begun targeted education efforts in these sub-basins focused on dog bacteria.

Targeted MST Sampling

- Crooked Cove Targeted MST Sampling Results:
 - Staff have completed five dry and two wet (<0.5 inches of rain in 24 hours) sampling events for this sub-basin
 - 53 samples taken, 21 of them had the dog genetic marker
 - The dog genetic marker was found at eight of the nine sites



Cumulative Crooked Cove
Targeted MST Sampling Results

Targeted MST Education

- Dog Genetic Marker Education:
 - Staff designed a door hanger to specifically target dog waste bacteria.
 - These door hangers were distributed to residences in the Crooked, Huger, and Heyward Cove sub-basins near where the dog genetic marker was found.
 - Staff are developing a new Pet Waste Station Program that will be rolled out later this fiscal year (FY26).

Recent water quality testing conducted by the Town of Bluffton found **dog waste bacteria** in a waterbody near you. This bacteria has the potential to reach the May River and cause illness in people who come into contact with it. This waste also contains nutrients that can cause harmful algal blooms and decrease water quality.

To prevent the spread of this dog waste bacteria and to protect the May River please:

- 🐾 Clean up after your dog every single time, on walks and in the yard.
- 🐾 Dispose of dog waste properly in the trash.
- 🐾 Tell friends and neighbors about the harmful effects of dog waste on the environment and encourage them to clean up after their pets as well.

For more information: Visit the Clemson Clear Pet Waste Webpage: <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/carolinaclear/what-you-can-do/pet-owners.html>



En análisis recientes de calidad del agua realizados por el municipio de Bluffton, se detectaron **bacterias de excrementos de perro** en un cuerpo de agua cercano a tu domicilio. Estas bacterias podrían llegar al río May y enfermar a aquellos que entren en contacto con ellas. Estos desechos también contienen nutrientes que pueden causar la proliferación de algas nocivas y disminuir la calidad del agua.

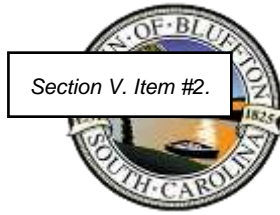
Para evitar la propagación de esta bacteria de los excrementos de perro y proteger al río May:

- 🐾 Recoge siempre las heces de tu perro, tanto al salir a pasear como en el patio.
- 🐾 Deposita los excrementos de tu perro correctamente en la basura.
- 🐾 Informa a tus amigos y vecinos sobre los efectos nocivos de las heces de perro en el medio ambiente y animales a que también recojan los excrementos de sus mascotas.

Para más detalles, visita la página web de Clemson Clear Pet Waste: <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/carolinaclear/what-you-can-do/pet-owners.html>



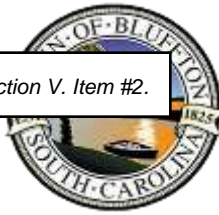
May River Action Plan Update & Modeling Report



5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1.2. Future (new) Bacteria Monitoring Locations &
- 5.1.3. Future (new) Water Flow Monitoring Locations
 - Town staff have finalized all bacteria and flow monitoring data collection efforts recommended in sections 5.1.2 and 5.13 of the May River Watershed Action Plan Model Report. These efforts aim to improve/calibrate the Town's stormwater model with a comprehensive dataset.
 - Town staff are working with the Director of Compliance and Contracts.
 - Staff distributed a Request for Qualifications (RFQu)
 - Staff have reviewed RFQu proposals
 - Staff have requested FY25 funds for this project be rolled over to FY26 as part of the budget amendment process that Town Council will consider in the fall.
 - Work is expected to begin in FY26.

Supporting Documents

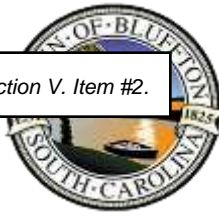


Attachment 1. MRWAP Implementation Summary

- Summary document outlining updates to the May River Watershed Action Plan Project Implementation

Attachment 2. Pritchard Street Streetscape Design and SoLoCo Compliance Narrative

- Summary document of the Pritchard Street Streetscape Project



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

May River Watershed Action Plan Update & Modeling Report (MRWAP)

Implementation Summary

1. MRWAP Background

- *May River Watershed Action Plan Update & Modeling Report (MRWAP)* was completed November 2020.
- Town Council adopted the MRWAP as a supporting document to the Comprehensive Plan in February 2021.
- The Action Plan Update & Modeling Report included the development of watershed-water quality models (WQ Model) for the four (4) May River Headwaters subwatersheds (Stoney Creek, Rose Dhu Creek, Duck Pond, and Palmetto Bluff) where the shellfish impairments are located.
- The purpose of the modeling effort was to better understand fecal coliform (FC) fate and transport in the Headwaters subwatersheds to develop strategies ultimately intended to open all shellfish stations to harvesting. To capture the variety of storm events and environmental conditions, the Project Team developed a continuous simulation of both water quantity and quality.
- The MRWAP included new water quality improvement projects resulting from the WQ Model. Additionally, the potential fecal bacteria reduction benefits of septic to sewer conversion in the four (4) Headwaters subwatersheds were modeled.

2. Septic to Sewer Project Recommendations/Evaluations

Background:

- The MRWAP evaluated four (4) septic to sewer conversion projects in the Rose Dhu Creek and Stoney Creek subwatersheds:
 - Cahill
 - Gascoigne
 - Stoney Creek
 - Pritchardville
- These projects overlap with 42 subcatchments in the Stoney Creek watershed and 11 in Rose Dhu Creek. Based on WQ Model outputs, these projects alone may potentially reduce FC loading by 3.46x10¹³ FC per year.
- The estimated septic to sewer conversion costs of these projects is \$5.5 million.

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Update: Stoney Creek/Palmetto Bluff Sewer Partnership

- BJWSA's 2022 updated cost-estimate for the project from BJWSA increased to \$7.2 million + contingencies.
- BJWSA is the Project Manager as the awardee of the RIA-SCIIP grant.
- Next Steps:
 - BJWSA continues with community outreach and design of the system. BJWSA updates can be found at: <https://bjwsa.org/251/Go2Sewer-for-a-Cleaner-Stoney-Creek>

3. MRWAP Impervious Restoration Water Quality Projects

Task 1: MRWAP Eleven (11) Proposed Projects Background

- Eleven (11) project sites (incorporating various individual BMPs) were selected in consultation with the Town (prioritizing subcatchments with FC bacteria hotspot and/or large impervious areas). These sites were evaluated in terms of the potential benefits gained by retrofitting to meet the 95th percentile storm retention, to the maximum extent possible, under the proposed Impervious Area Restoration/Stormwater Retrofit Program.
- Based on WQ Model outputs, these projects alone may potentially reduce FC loading by
 - 2.99×10^{14} FC reduction for the Full SWRv (entire sub-basin drainage area catchment).
 - 2.53×10^{14} FC reduction for the Reduced SWRv projects (impervious area drainage area of sub-basin catchment).
- The estimated Full SWRv projects costs is \$32.7 million and the estimated cost of Reduced SWRv projects is \$22.6 million.
- Currently the Towns' Impervious Restoration Program is targeting Reduced SWRv for future projects.

Task 1: MRWAP Eleven (11) Proposed Projects Update

- Eleven (11) proposed project sites Rose Dhu Creek (6 projects) and Stoney Creek (5 projects):
 - All geotechnical work, evaluations, site assessments, planning, engineering, and preliminary designs for the 8 original sites is **complete**.
 - Bluffton Early Learning Center (BELC).
 - Boys and Girls Club of Bluffton (BGC).
 - Benton House (BH).
 - Bluffton High School (BHS).
 - Buckwalter Recreation Center (BRC).
 - ~~Lowcountry Community Church (LCC).~~ **Declined to Participate.**
 - McCracken Middle School/Bluffton Elementary School (MMSBES).

- May River High School.
- ~~One Hampton Lake Apartments (OHLA).~~ **Declined to Participate.**
- Pritchardville Elementary School (PES).
- ~~Palmetto Pointe Townes (PPT).~~ **Declined to Participate.**
- Next Steps:
 - Final Draft of the IRP Policy Document has been submitted and under review for final edits and comments.
 - Upon completion and approval of the IRP Policy Document, staff will collaborate with the Town's Director of Procurement for an agreement with BCSD to construct impervious restoration projects at school sites.

Task 2: Identify Fifteen (15) New Project Sites Background

- Identify 15 new project sites for Town of Bluffton Impervious Restoration/BMP Retrofit Projects.
- The Town wishes to identify an additional 15 project sites located within the municipal limits of Bluffton for the Impervious Restoration/BMP Retrofit Program. However, the criteria for site selection will be considered to be more "low hanging fruit" based on the following:
 - Within Town of Bluffton Municipal limits.
 - Soils – sandy soils with high infiltration rates offer the biggest bang for the buck for water quality treatment/improvement. Utilizing soil survey and other information target sites where infiltration can be maximized on-site.
 - Public or governmental agency land/property owner (not SCDOT RoW).

Task 2: Identify Fifteen (15) New Project Sites Update

- Site evaluations at the 15 sites have been completed.
- Concept design development for the sites identified below ongoing:
 - Dominion Energy Engineering Office
 - Rose Dhu Equestrian Center
 - St. Gregory Catholic Church/School
 - River Ridge Academy
 - MC Riley Early Childhood Center
 - MC Riley Elementary School
 - MC Riley Sports Complex
 - Bluffton Middle School
 - Red Cedar Elementary School
 - Seagrass Station Road Site determined to be not feasible, low cost/benefit.
 - Bluffton Pkwy West (170 to Buckwalter)
 - Buckwalter Pkwy (Hampton Hall to May River Road)
 - Persimmon St/Sheridan Park Cir/Pennington Dr

- Vaden Nissan Hilton Head
- ~~NHC Healthcare/Bluffton (Healthcare, Rehab, Assisted Living)~~ **Declined to Participate**
- Next Steps:
 - Finalize Concept designs and proposed SWrv/Water quality benefit.

Task 3: MRWAP Impervious Restoration Policy Documents Background

- MRWAP Section 5.4.4. Stormwater BMP Retrofit Projects of the May River Watershed Action Plan Update and Model Report identifies potential Impervious Restoration/BMP Retrofit projects located on Public and Private Land. As mentioned earlier, one of the primary site selection criteria, at time of report development, was to identify sites with large impervious areas so that pollutant load reductions could be estimated and the benefits of such projects on stormwater quality quantified/estimated, if implemented into construction. Generally, Public Funds are not expended to improve private property nor is Town of Bluffton funding generally expended on Public Land owned by another government entity. In order for such projects identified in Section 5.4.4. to move forward in the interest of improved water quality and for the overall benefit and welfare of the constituents of the Town of Bluffton, Policy Documents need to be formulated that establishes the parameters of such a Program to be initiated and implemented.

Task 3: MRWAP Impervious Restoration Policy Documents Update

- Impervious Restoration Program Policy Document Draft submitted and under review. Fee-in-Lieu Program Policy Document - Adopted into the FY26 Master Fee Schedule at the July 2025 Town Council Meeting.
- As Adopted:
 - As part of the SoLoCo Stormwater Design Manual, developers may submit for MEP when the proposed development site has constraints or limitations to which prevent SoLoCo Stormwater Design Manual requirements from being met, specifically stormwater retention volume (SWRv) requirements. SWRv is the volume of stormwater runoff that a stormwater management system can store and treat to improve water quality. The MEP submittal must provide documentable evidence of the process the applicant has performed that demonstrates the restrictions to the use and implementation of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet the SWRv requirements.
 - When a development project cannot accommodate the required SWRv due to on-site constraints identified in the approved MEP analysis, the developer could opt to pay a Fee-In-Lieu (FIL) to the Town of Bluffton for the shortfall according to the FIL fee schedule to be adopted as part of the FY26 budget Master Fee Schedule. Funds collected through FIL payments would then be used by the Town to fund

- The construction and maintenance of impervious restoration program water quality BMPs;
- Purchase of land for increased conservation areas, application of Better Site Design to the approved Master Plan, buffers, undisturbed open space, and natural resource of significance areas, and
- Purchase of development rights.

○ FIL payment would be based and equal to a unit of SWRV in cubic feet or designating a conservation area/easement area that protects a qualified natural resource that would otherwise require the same SWRV treatment if developed. The monetary value for a unit of SWRV would be based on the current and typical costs for land as well as associated costs for design, construction, construction management, Town program management, post-construction inspection, and ongoing maintenance of water quality BMPs. The SWRV FIL rate would be found as part of the Town's Master Fee Schedule, under Section VII "Stormwater Management Fees," allowing for annual review and updates as needed based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or based on updated information regarding the cost of water quality BMP construction and maintenance, changes in the construction industry, availability of supplies, etc. If the developer and/or private property owner take responsibility for maintaining the BMP or provide land, then the associated cost for a unit of SWRV could be lessened accordingly.

Item/Description	Fee
<p>Fee-In-Lieu (FIL)</p> <p>For projects with an approved Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) submittal, the FIL amount is calculated based on an applicant's shortfall, in cubic feet (CF), of the required Stormwater Retention Volume (SWRv).</p>	\$151.92/CF of SWRv

- ToB CIP Project Impervious Restoration Program & incentives – Draft document in process.
- ToB SWrv Credit Trading Program - (under evaluation)

4. Other, Related MRWAP Recommendations

Background:

- The Town should incorporate volume reduction BMPs (those that encourage infiltration) within existing and future CIP projects to the maximum extent practical (MEP), especially for project locations with well-drained soils (HSG A or B).

- Town is in progress of incorporating volume reduction BMPs within existing and future CIP projects to the MEP. Specific projects currently in progress include:
 - Bridge Street Streetscape Project
 - Water quality monitoring has been completed
 - Pritchard Street Drainage Improvement Project
 - Incorporated Infiltration BMPs within the project to capture and treat 1.95" of rainfall over impervious surfaces within the project area, prior to discharge into Heyward Cove.
 - Submitted Section 319 Grant proposal to DHEC to cost-share cost of construction of proposed BMPs. Pre-proposal was accepted, and Full Proposal was requested by DHEC. Under Review.
 - Coordinated approval for proposed improvements with Beaufort County School District and Beaufort County on pool operation impacts. Updated Bid Ready submittal from consultant 7/9/25 pending.
 - Easement acquisition documents have been finalized, and easement acquisitions have been initiated.
 - Follow-up/complete permitting submissions.
 - Project anticipated to be advertised for construction in July 2025.

Background:

- Section 5.0 of the MRWAP included recommendations for the Town of Bluffton to improve upon their existing monitoring program (concentration and source typing) and flow.

MRWAP Water Quality Program Recommendations Update:

- 5.1.1 In-House Microbial Source Tracking:
 - Staff have collaborated with Dr. Tye Pettay and the USCB Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Laboratory to develop new markers for tracking fecal contamination in the May River Watershed. The primary goal is to identify the sources of bacteria and establish effective mitigation plans. The human genetic marker remains the main focus of the Town's MST sampling program, as it poses the greatest risk to human health.
 - With the introduction of the new MST markers, Town staff have initiated a targeted MST sampling program, starting with the Crooked Cove subwatershed. This area was chosen because of its proximity to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) Shellfish Harvesting Station 19-24, which has experienced rising levels of fecal coliform concentrations. The Town has now expanded this program into the Heyward, Huger, and Verdier Cove subwatersheds. The MST Program examines multiple potential sources of contamination, including human, dog, deer, horse, and bird waste.

Staff are collecting samples during five (5) wet weather events and five (5) dry weather events to characterize each subwatershed.

- Based on the results of this MST sampling, staff has begun targeted education efforts in the Crooked Cove subbasin for dog bacteria and will continue in the other areas of study.
- 5.1.2 Future (New) Bacteria Monitoring Locations & 5.1.3 Future (New) Water Flow Monitoring Locations
 - Water Environmental Consultants (WEC) removed the water elevation meter from the Duck Pond subwatershed (it was located on the Palmetto Bluff overpass). This monitor was installed to provide 6 months of water elevation data for stormwater model calibration, as there is no channelized flow into the Duck Pond.
 - A final report from WEC for this work has been submitted and reviewed.
 - Town staff have finalized all bacteria and flow monitoring data collection efforts recommended in sections 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 of the May River Watershed Action Plan Model Report. These efforts aim to improve/calibrate the Town's stormwater model with a comprehensive dataset.
 - Town staff are working with the original Project Team that developed the Town's May River headwaters stormwater model in 2020.
 - The scope of work to update/calibrate the Town's May River headwaters stormwater model is currently in progress.
 - The Town has Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) funding for this work.

**Pritchard Street Streetscape
SoLoCo Plan Compliance
Design Compliance/MEP Narrative**

The Stormwater objectives for Pritchard Street Streetscape project is provided. The project has incorporated SoLoCo Stormwater Design Manual and Ordinance (adopted by The Town of Bluffton on September 14,2021) plan presentation requirements to serve as a model for future Development plan applications required to meet the newly adopted Stormwater requirements.

Pritchard Street Streetscape Stormwater Design Objectives

The project was obligated to meet the requirements of the new SoLoCo Stormwater Design Manual and Ordinance. Most of the work being performed within the project’s limits of disturbance includes road surface milling and repaving operations as well as road/impervious surface removal. Pavement milling down to the rock subbase is considered maintenance and runoff reduction is not required for the maintenance portion of projects. The impervious area within the limits of disturbance is reduced by approximately 10,579 square feet (0.24 acres). This equates to an overall impervious area reduction of 10% for the contributing drainage area to the eight BMP systems discussed below.

As part of the Town’s Impervious Area Restoration Program, The Town’s design objective for the project is to capture and improve water quality of 1.95” of rainfall from the Regulated Area, or Site Drainage Area (SDA) that drains to each BMP and not the Contributing Drainage Area (CDA) to each system. The Regulated Area (SDA), which was limited to the Right-of-Ways, was used to determine the Required Stormwater Runoff Volume (SWrv). The CDA was not used for this calculation because as properties adjacent to the Right-of-Way areas get developed, they will be responsible for retaining their own SWrv. However, the CDA was used to properly size the underground detention systems as they are used for primary conveyance and will receive runoff from the entire CDA.

Eight BMP systems are proposed to treat runoff from the contributing drainage area. The BMP systems feature in-series infiltration practices which provide a treatment train, treating runoff from approximately 2.97 acres. Pervious parking areas receive runoff from the contributing areas, with excess runoff collecting in underground detention systems comprised of perforated pipe fully encompassed in a stone reservoir. As the underground detention system also serves as primary stormwater conveyance to the outfalls, weirs were strategically placed in structures to accommodate the required stormwater retention volume and allow excess flows to pass safely through the system. The eight BMPs were broken up into two versions of the SoLoCo Compliance Calculator, Version 1 includes the raingarden and BMPs 1-3, and Version 2 includes BMPs 4-8.

BMP	Target Retention Volume (cf)	Retention Volume Achieved (cf)
BMP 1	8,725	10,283
BMP 2	6,279	7,528

Geotechnical explorations were performed to confirm soil type, infiltration rate and groundwater table elevation. This testing confirmed infiltration BMPs are suitable for meeting the SWrv and water quality goals of the project.

BMP	BMP TYPE
BMP 1	Rain Garden
BMP 2	Perforated HDPE
BMP 3	Perforated HDPE
BMP 4	Perforated HDPE
BMP 5	Perforated HDPE
BMP 6	Perforated HDPE
BMP 7	Perforated HDPE
BMP 8	Perforated HDPE

Proposed Recommendation for the Public Arts Committee

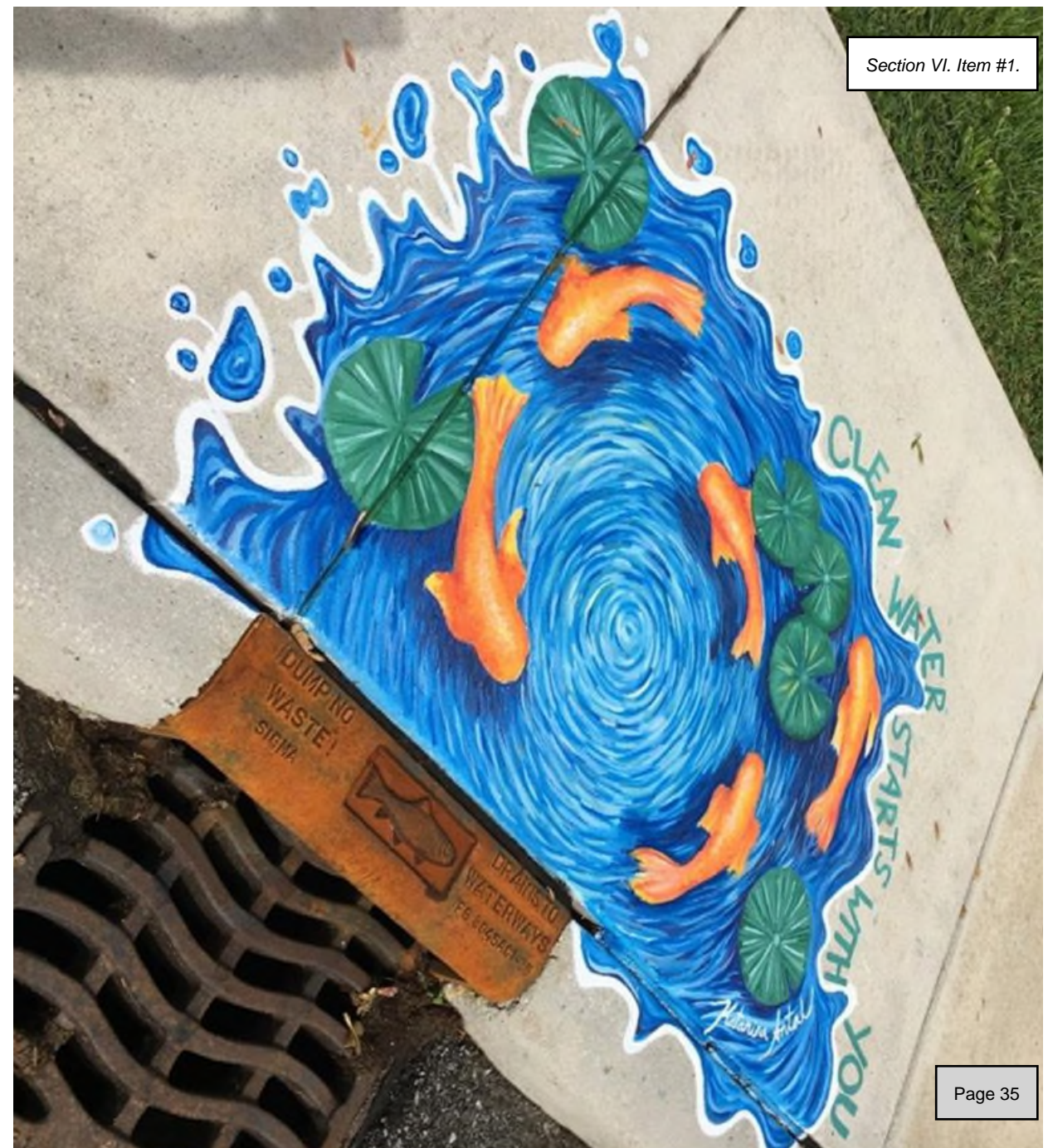
Presentation to May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee

Andrea Moreno

Department of Projects & Watershed Resilience

7/24/2025





Proposed Motion

Section VI. Item #1.

“I move to recommend the Public Arts Committee consider a Storm Drain Marking Program.”

RESOLUTION**ADOPTING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON
MAY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the Town of Bluffton May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee was established by Town Council Resolution on May 8, 2012 (Establishing Resolution), and further defined by an amended Town Council Resolution on December 12, 2017 (Amended Resolution), for the purpose of offering guidance and assistance to the Town of Bluffton Town Council on matters impacting the environmental health of the Town of Bluffton and the May River Watershed Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee shall adopt these Rules of Procedure by Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON MAY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee hereby adopts the Rules of Procedure which are attached and incorporated as "Exhibit A" hereto.

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON ADOPTION.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED AS OF THIS 22ND **DAY OF** MARCH,
2018.


Chair

ATTEST:

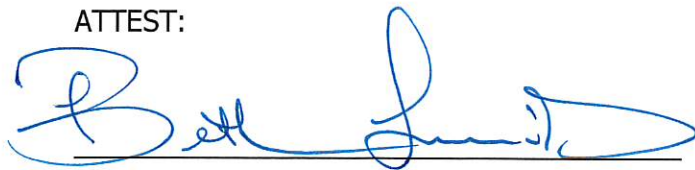

Secretary

Exhibit A

Town of Bluffton May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee

Rules of Procedure

Section 1. Establishment.

The Town of Bluffton May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee (Committee) was established by Town Council Resolution on May 8, 2012 (Establishing Resolution), as amended by Town Council Resolution on December 12, 2017 (Amended Resolution), for the purpose of offering guidance and assistance to the Town of Bluffton Town Council on matters impacting the environmental health of the Town of Bluffton and the May River Watershed Action Plan.

Section 2. Rules.

The Committee is adopting these Rules of Procedure by Resolution.

Section 3. Membership.

A. Appointment. The Committee shall consist of seven (7) voting members comprised of six (6) at-large members and one (1) Town of Bluffton Town Council Member appointed by Town Council in accordance with the Amended Resolution. A vacancy in membership must be filled for the unexpired term by Town Council appointment. Committee members shall serve without compensation. No at-large member of the Committee shall hold any other public office or elected position in the Town, other municipalities within Beaufort County, or Beaufort County.

B. Officers. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected annually in July, or as soon thereafter as possible, by a majority vote of members present and qualified to vote who shall perform the following duties:

1. The Chair shall be a voting member of the Committee and shall:

- i. Call meetings of the Committee to order;
- ii. Call Special Meetings of the Committee;
- iii. Preside at meetings and hearings;
- iv. Sign documents for the Committee;
- v. Have decisions of the Committee delivered to parties; and
- vi. Perform other duties approved by the Committee.

2. The Vice-Chair shall preside over the meeting or hearing and perform the required duties set forth in Section 3.B.1 of these Rules of Procedure in the absence of the Chair. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, an acting Chair shall be elected by a majority vote of members present and qualified to vote.

C. Secretary. The Watershed Management Division Manager, or their designee, shall serve as Secretary and shall perform the following duties:

1. Provide notice of meetings and Public Hearings;
2. Assist the Chair and Staff in preparation of agenda and supporting material;
3. Keep minutes of meetings and hearings;
4. Maintain Committee records as public records;
5. Attend to Committee correspondence;
6. Deliver decisions of the Committee to parties; and
7. Perform other duties normally carried out by a Secretary.

- D. Removal. A member shall notify the Secretary of an absence 24 hours before the scheduled meeting. Town Council may remove any member after written notice in accordance with Code of Ordinances of the Town of Bluffton Chapter 3, Section 3.2(d).

Section 4. Education and Training.

- A. Town Manager Boards and Commissions Training. The Town Manager may develop and implement such periodic training sessions as may be reasonable and appropriate for members of Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Staff liaisons. Such training may include basic provisions of parliamentary procedure, the role of municipal government in the regulatory context, the extent of authority delegated to Boards, Commissions, and Committees by Town Ordinances, and other topics the Town Manager deems appropriate. Attendance by members of Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Staff liaisons shall be mandatory. Failure to attend Town sponsored training without an excused absence for just cause may be cause for removal.
- B. Yearly Boards and Committee Updates. Not less frequently than once annually, the Town Manager may convene a meeting of all Chairs of the Boards, Commissions, and Committees for purposes of allowing the Chairs to share experiences in addressing issues of process and procedure. Not less frequently than once annually, the Engineering Director, or their designee, shall present an update to Town Council of the Committee's activities for the previous 12 months at a regularly scheduled Town Council meeting.

Section 5. Voting/Quorum.

- A. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. A quorum shall be present before any business is conducted other than rescheduling the meeting.
- B. Voting. A member must be present to vote. Each member shall vote on every question unless disqualified by law. The Committee may deliberate and make final disposition of a matter by a majority vote of members present and qualified to vote. Deliberating and voting shall be done in public.

Section 6. Ethics.

- A. Ethics Reform Act. The Committee and its members shall adhere to the *South Carolina Ethics Reform Act*, (S.C. Code of Laws, Title 8, Chapter 13).

- B. Disqualification. The question of disqualification shall be decided by the member affected, who shall announce the reason for disqualification, provide the Secretary with a completed Recusal Form, have it placed in the minutes, and refrain from deliberating or voting on the question in any way.
- C. Ex Parte Contact. Any ex parte contacts with applicants, opponents, or other parties of interest in a matter to come before the Committee shall be reported at the earliest opportunity to the Chair. It shall be considered the duty of Committee members to conduct themselves in a manner that will discourage such contact.
- D. Expressions of Bias. Committee members shall avoid all situations and circumstances that may lead to bias or prejudice in manners presented to the Committee. No Committee member shall offer expressions of individual opinion regarding any matter of consideration by the Committee prior to the meeting.

Section 7. Meetings.

- A. Robert's Rules of Order. The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the conduct of meetings except as otherwise provided by these Rules of Procedure.
- B. Meeting Schedule. The Committee shall adopt an annual meeting schedule. Each November, the Committee shall adopt, publish, and post its schedule of meetings for the next calendar year. Meetings shall be held at the Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building located at 20 Bridge Street, or a designated public building, and shall be open to the public. Meetings may be cancelled by the Director of Engineering if there is no business before the Committee.
- C. Agendas. The Secretary shall post the meeting agenda at least five (5) days prior to each regular meeting by notice delivered to the local news media, interested citizens and posting at Town Hall. Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chair or a majority of the Committee upon twenty-four (24) hours by notice delivered to the local news media, interested citizens and posting at Town Hall.
- D. Agenda Amendment. Items may only be added to the agenda at a meeting pursuant to the regulations set forth in the *South Carolina Code of Laws Title 30 Chapter 4 Freedom of Information Act*.
- E. Conduct of Meeting. In matters brought before the Committee for public meeting, the normal order to hear the agenda item, subject to modification by the Chair, shall be:
 - 1. Statement of matter to be heard;
 - 2. Presentation by Staff or Invited Speaker;
 - 3. Staff Remarks;
 - 4. Committee Comments and Questions;
 - 5. Final Staff Remarks; and
 - 6. Motion, 2nd to the motion, discussion of the motion, and vote of the Committee.
- F. Public Comment. Members of the public desiring to be heard by the Committee during the Public Comment agenda item or during a Public Hearing must provide written notice to the Secretary before the start of the meeting. Members of the

public shall be recognized by the Chair before stating their business and shall be limited to three (3) minutes. Members of the public shall avoid disrespect to the Committee, Town Staff, and other members of the meeting.

- G. Recess. A recess may be called by the Chair or by a majority vote of members present and qualified to vote. The Chair shall state the duration of the recess and time the meeting will recommence before the recess begins. The recess start and end time shall be recorded in the minutes.
- H. Executive Session. The Committee may enter Executive Session as set forth in the *South Carolina Code of Laws Title 30 Chapter 4 Freedom of Information Act*. The Committee may request the attendance of non-members as they deem appropriate. All proceedings of Executive Sessions are confidential and attendees are honor bound not to divulge the proceedings.
- I. Workshops. The Committee may periodically hold workshops to discuss issues and general policies and procedures to determine the necessity for future action. No formal action shall be taken at the workshop. Workshop sessions shall be open to the public.
- J. Stakeholder Involvement Public Meetings. The Committee may be involved in public meetings that provide opportunities for stakeholder involvement in updating the May River Watershed Action Plan.
- K. Minutes. The Secretary shall prepare minutes of each meeting showing the vote of each member upon each question, and if members are absent or failing to vote. The minutes shall also document the Committees examinations and other official actions. The minutes shall be approved by a majority vote of members present and qualified to vote at the next regular meeting. Minutes shall be maintained as public records in the Department of Engineering.
- L. Decisions of the Committee in Writing. All final decisions of the Committee must be in writing which may include recommendations forwarded to Town Council, letter, or other documents issued by the Engineering Director. Decisions shall be permanently filed in the Department of Engineering as a public record.

Section 8. Amendment and Adoption.

These Rules may be amended at any regular meeting of the Committee by a majority vote of members present and qualified to vote at least seven (7) days after the written amendment is delivered to the members.

These rules were adopted by a majority vote of members present and qualified to vote at a regular public meeting on March 22, 2018.


Chair

ATTEST: 
Secretary

CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON

Chapter 3. Boards, Committees and Commissions Terms, Appointments and Qualifications

Section. 3.1. Definitions.

Board: A body established by the Town of Bluffton or laws of the state of South Carolina to advise council and its staff in appropriate matters as set forth by its charter, and/or perform such other functions granted to the group by the enabling statute or ordinance and any other amendments thereto.

Committee: An ad hoc group established to advise Council in matters for which the group is organized.

Commission: An organization with authorities, limitations and responsibilities as specified by the laws of the South Carolina.

Section. 3.2. Membership.

(a) Number of members

- 1) The Board, Committee or Commission shall have odd number of voting members of no less than three, nor more than nine unless modified by individual charter. The Board, Committee or Commission may also include one nonvoting member serving ex-officio as designated by the Town Manager or Town Council.

(b) Term

- 1) Terms shall apply to those Boards, Committees or Commissions for which Town Council has established terms lengths.
- 2) Board, Committee or Commission members shall serve at the pleasure of Town Council for a whole-year term of 3 years.
- 3) Any partial term in excess of one-half plus one day of a full term shall not be considered as a full term.
- 4) Any partial term less than half the full term shall be considered a full term.
- 5) Members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified.

Chapter 3. Boards, Committees And Commissions Terms, Appointments and Qualifications

- 6) No reappointment can be considered less than 30 days prior to the expiration of a particular term.
 - 7) Board, Committee or Commission terms as established by Town Council begin July 1 and end June 30.
 - 8) Establishment of a new Board, Committee or Commission will start with staggered terms of one year, two years and three years divided evenly as possible between the new members starting July 1 and ending June 30 for each term.
- (c) Selection criteria.
- 1) Town Council shall appoint Board, Committee or Commission members with consideration for demographic representation and the following:
 - 2) Knowledge and experience relevant to the needs of the particular Board, Committee or Commission;
 - 3) Diverse representation of backgrounds, professions and viewpoints;
 - 4) Diverse geographic representation of the Town; and
 - 5) Potential dual membership on more than one Board, Committee or Commission.
- (d) Removal from Board/Committee/Commission.
- 1) The Town Council has the absolute authority to remove a member, with or without cause, upon a majority vote of Town Council
 - 2) A member shall be removed automatically for:
 - i. Absence from more than 1/3 of the Board, Committee or Commission meetings per annum whether excused or unexcused;
 - ii. Failure to attend any three consecutive regular meetings;
 - iii. Violation of subsection (e) below.
- (e) Conflict of interest.
- 1) Conflicts of interest and disqualifying economic interests shall, in the first instance, be governed by the South Carolina

Chapter 3. Boards, Committees And Commissions Terms, Appointments and Qualifications

Ethics Reform Act of 1991, as amended. Conflict of interest shall be handled in the following way.

- 2) Upon making application for membership on a Board, Committee or Commission, all members shall certify they do not have a conflict of interest.
 - 3) Upon appointment, members shall disqualify themselves from voting or otherwise participating in any particular issue, which may arise, in which they have a conflict of interest or disqualifying economic interest, as required by S.C. Code Section 8-13-700(B).
 - 4) A member, who has an actual or known potential conflict of interest, shall take such action as is required by the South Carolina Ethics Reform Act of 1991, as amended and abstain from voting and discussing the issue, which is the subject of a conflict.
- (f) Registered voter.
- 1) Board, Committee or Commission members shall hold a valid voter registration card in Beaufort County.
- (g) Quorum.
- 1) Quorum means a simple majority of the members serving.

Section. 3.3. Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The Board, Committee or Commission shall elect a chairman and a vice chairman, by simple majority of the voting members during their first meeting in July. The chairman and the vice chairman shall serve for one year and shall be eligible for re-election to serve in that post for as long as that individual remains a member of that Board, Committee or Commission.

Section. 3.4. Compensation.

Members of Boards, Committees or Commission shall serve without pay. However, they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties, with prior approval of the Town Manager, subject to the provisions of their respective charter.

Section. 3.5. Support.

Town staff and resources shall be provided to any Board, Committee or Commission on an ongoing basis, or on a case-by-case basis, at the sole discretion of the Town Manager.

Section. 3.6. Compliance.

Boards, Committee or Commission covered by the Municipal Code of the Town of Bluffton or laws of the state of South Carolina must follow the Town of Bluffton policies that may be implemented or adopted from time to time.

Section. 3.7. Minutes.

The Chairman of each Board, Committee or Commission shall keep or cause to be kept activities of each body, including minutes of all meetings.

(Ord. No. 2012-01, 2-20-2012; Ord. No. 2012-08, 11-13-2012)

Development of WAPAC Strategic Planning Recommendations for Fiscal Years 2027-2028

Section VI. Item #3.



- The Town's Comprehensive Plan, known as Blueprint Bluffton, is intended to guide decision making for the next ten (10) years. It serves as the vision for the Town of Bluffton.
- In 2022, the South Carolina Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act (S.C. Code Section 6-29-510) required local governments to add a resilience element to comprehensive plans.
- Blueprint Bluffton was adopted in November 2022.
- For the first time, it included a Resilience Chapter to meet this requirement and prepare the Town for a more resilient future.

- The Town of Bluffton uses strategic planning to implement the Town's Comprehensive Plan.
- Town Council, the Town Manager, and Town staff develop the Town's Strategic Plan every two (2) years, with annual reviews.
- The Strategic Plan uses Strategic Focus Areas and Strategies to:
 - Develop the operating budget.
 - Consider revisions to capital improvement projects.
 - Develop new projects and assign them to Staff for execution.
 - Implement projects and initiatives already approved in existing town plans.
 - Determine an agreed upon process and schedule to prioritize projects and revise priorities as necessary.

Strategic Focus Areas

Section VI. Item #3.



Affordable and/or Workforce Housing



Community Quality of Life



Economic Development



Fiscal Sustainability



Infrastructure



May River and Surrounding Rivers and Watersheds



Town Organization

Guiding Principals

1. Support initiatives, such as the May River Watershed Action Plan, to improve water quality of the May, Okatie/Colleton, and New Rivers and their watersheds.
2. Seek collaboration and partnerships that protect, improve the May, Okatie/Colleton and New Rivers and their watersheds.
3. Celebrate the May River, its heritage and importance to the community.
4. Support active planning and management for resilience of natural resources and our response to weather events, future disasters and changing environmental conditions.

- The WAPAC has been a part of this process by providing recommendations on May River Watershed Action Plan initiatives to be included as Strategic Plan recommended priorities for Town Council's consideration.
- To provide context for WAPAC's discussion on the priority recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2027-2028 (FY27-FY28) Strategic Plan, staff have compiled a list of suggested priorities for consideration that will be reviewed today.
- This list includes initiatives from the Town's May River Watershed Action Plan Model Report, targeted Water Quality Program results, and outcomes related to the Town's Comprehensive Drainage Studies, May River Watershed Baseline Assessment Update, and Resilience Analysis.

- 07/24/25 WAPAC Meeting (Today):
 - Review proposed list of WAPAC FY27-FY28 Strategic Plan Priorities,
 - Agree upon WAPAC FY27-FY28 Strategic Plan Priorities,
 - And begin prioritizing WAPAC FY27-FY28 Strategic Plan Priorities.
- **Next Steps**
 - October 23, 2025 WAPAC Meeting: Discussion and vote on Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-2028 WAPAC Strategic Plan recommended priorities for Town Council's consideration
 - November 6, 2025 Town Council Strategic Planning Meeting: Town Council discussion.
 - Budgeting and prioritization of work plans for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-2028.

1. Evaluate the recommendations and projects that arise from the Town's stormwater model XPSWMM to PCSWMM conversion. This will include examining the 2021 May River Watershed Action Plan Model Report Impervious Surface Restoration Water Quality projects and locations to help demonstrate their effectiveness for both water quality and water quantity. (May River Watershed Action Plan Model Report)
2. Advance the development of targeted best management plans, both structural and non-structural, tailored to the needs of each sub-basin within the May River Watershed. These plans should utilize insights from the May River Baseline Assessment Update, Resilience Analysis, Comprehensive Drainage Studies, Town Water Quality Program data, and other relevant sources. The objective is to develop specific solutions for each sub-basin that include but are not limited to seeking public-private partnerships, exploring education and outreach solutions, and strengthening ongoing collaborations with local governments and universities aimed at improving water quality and reducing flooding. (May River Baseline Assessment Update, Resilience Analysis, Comprehensive Drainage Studies, and Town Water Quality Program data)

3. Establish a Resilience Plan for adaptation to coastal impacts from changing environmental conditions (“rain bombs” and sea level rise) on stormwater runoff water quality and quantity. Develop strategies, policies, and ordinances aimed at increasing resilience and reducing long-term risks. Assess the environmental resilience of stormwater ponds to changing climate conditions for retrofit opportunities, e.g. ensuring ponds have capacity to hold rain events. (Town Fiscal Year 25-26 rollover)
4. Examine public-public partnership (PuPs) opportunities with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to focus on capturing stormwater runoff from bridges. Prioritize the SCDOT overpasses on Bridge Street at Heyward and Huger Coves, based on findings from the May River Baseline Assessment Update. Maintain communication with SCDOT to implement additional stormwater retrofits within the constraints of roadway improvement or maintenance projects. (May River Baseline Assessment Update and Town Fiscal Year 25-26 rollover)

5. Complete annual reviews 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 (Town Comprehensive Plan, R2.1).
6. Examine opportunities at the time of Intergovernmental Agreements involving the Town of Bluffton, the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, Beaufort County Government, and any other parties to safeguard zoning densities of the May River Community Preservation (referred to as MRCP or the CP District). The aim is to preserve the low density and rural character of the existing corridor. Also, examine opportunities at the time of each agreement for 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. (Town Comprehensive Plan, R2.2 and Town Fiscal Year 25-26 rollover)

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. (May River Watershed Action Plan and Town Fiscal Year 25-26 rollover)

Prioritization

XPSWMM Model to PCSWMM & Action Plan Project Evaluation	Targeted Best Management Plans for each sub-basin within the May River	Public-Public Partnership Opportunities with SCDOT	Annual Reviews of SoLoCo	Intergovernmental Agreement Opportunities with BJWSA & County	Public-Private Partnership to Implement May River Watershed Action Plan	Public-Private Partnerships
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Recommended Motion

Section VI. Item #3.

*"I move that WAPAC recommend the list of Fiscal Year 2027-2028
Strategic Plan priorities as discussed."*

May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee

STAFF REPORT

Projects and Watershed Resilience Department



MEETING DATE:	July 24, 2025
PROJECT:	May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee (WAPAC) Items for Consideration for Strategic Planning
PROJECT MANAGER:	Beth Lewis, Water Quality Program Manager

REQUEST: Town Staff requests the May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee (WAPAC) recommend and prioritize a list of May River Watershed Action Plan initiatives as Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-2028 Strategic Plan recommended priorities for Town Council’s consideration.

BACKGROUND: The Town of Bluffton’s Town Council updates its Strategic Plan each year in conjunction with the annual budget process. The Strategic Plan provides Town leaders, staff members, and residents with the blueprint of the Town’s work plan while providing a framework for budgetary and policy decisions. It is the guiding document used to help determine where and when to use the Town’s resources. The WAPAC has been a part of this process by providing recommendations on May River Watershed Action Plan initiatives to be included as Strategic Plan recommended priorities for Town Council’s consideration.

To provide context for WAPAC's discussion on the priority recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2027-2028 (FY27-FY28) Strategic Plan, staff have compiled a list of suggested priorities for consideration. This list includes initiatives from the Town's May River Watershed Action Plan Model Report, targeted Water Quality Program results, and outcomes related to the Town's Comprehensive Drainage Studies, May River Watershed Baseline Assessment Update, and Resilience Analysis. Once the priorities are agreed upon, the committee will prioritize them accordingly.

List of WAPAC FY27-FY28 Strategic Plan Priorities:

1. Evaluate the recommendations and projects that arise from the Town’s stormwater model XPSWMM to PCSWMM conversion. This will include examining the 2021 May River Watershed Action Plan Model Report Impervious Surface Restoration Water Quality projects and locations to help demonstrate their effectiveness for both water quality and water quantity. (May River Watershed Action Plan Model Report)
2. Advance the development of targeted best management plans, both structural and non-structural, tailored to the needs of each sub-basin within the May River Watershed.

These plans should utilize insights from the May River Baseline Assessment Update, Resilience Analysis, Comprehensive Drainage Studies, Town Water Quality Program data, and other relevant sources. The objective is to develop specific solutions for each sub-basin that include but are not limited to seeking public-private partnerships, exploring education and outreach solutions, and strengthening ongoing collaborations with local governments and universities aimed at improving water quality and reducing flooding. (May River Baseline Assessment Update, Resilience Analysis, Comprehensive Drainage Studies, and Town Water Quality Program data)

3. Establish a Resilience Plan for adaptation to coastal impacts from changing environmental conditions (“rain bombs” and sea level rise) on stormwater runoff water quality and quantity. Develop strategies, policies, and ordinances aimed at increasing resilience and reducing long-term risks. Assess the environmental resilience of stormwater ponds to changing climate conditions for retrofit opportunities, e.g. ensuring ponds have capacity to hold rain events. (Town Fiscal Year 25-26 rollover)
4. Examine public-public partnership (PuPs) opportunities with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to focus on capturing stormwater runoff from bridges. Prioritize the SCDOT overpasses on Bridge Street at Heyward and Huger Coves, based on findings from the May River Baseline Assessment Update. Maintain communication with SCDOT to implement additional stormwater retrofits within the constraints of roadway improvement or maintenance projects. (May River Baseline Assessment Update and Town Fiscal Year 25-26 rollover)
5. Complete annual reviews 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 (Town Comprehensive Plan, R2.1).
6. Examine opportunities at the time of Intergovernmental Agreements involving the Town of Bluffton, the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, Beaufort County Government, and any other parties to safeguard zoning densities of the May River Community Preservation (referred to as MRCP or the CP District). The aim is to preserve the low density and rural character of the existing corridor. Also, examine opportunities at the time of each agreement for 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. (Town Comprehensive Plan, R2.2 and Town Fiscal Year 25-26 rollover)
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. (May River Watershed Action Plan and Town Fiscal Year 25-26 rollover)

NEXT STEPS: The next steps include the following:

1. October 23, 2025 WAPAC Meeting: Discussion and vote on Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-2028 WAPAC Strategic Plan recommended priorities for Town Council's consideration
2. November 6, 2025 Town Council Strategic Planning Meeting: Town Council discussion.
3. Budgeting and prioritization of work plans for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-2028.