

Horry County Stormwater Advisory Board  
Wednesday, May 15, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m.  
Multi-Purpose Room B  
Conway, SC

**15271**

**Members Present:** Austin Graham, Dan Sennema, Brian Pugsley, Harry Parnell, Kelly Platt, Kyle Nobles and April O’Leary.

**Members Absent:** Denise Lynch

**Staff members present:** Thom Roth, Brandon Wagner, Michelle Crocker, and Chelsea Cogliano

**Others present:**

In accordance with the FOIA, a public notice of the meeting was advertised on the Government Access Channel stating the date, time and location of the meeting. Additionally, the meeting was posted on the HCG Website Calendar.

**Call to Order:** Austin Graham called the meeting to order.

Kyle Nobles led the invocation.  
Kelly Platt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Old Business**

**Discussion Items Added**

**Public Input:** NONE

**Approval of January 11, 2023 Minutes –**

Dan Sennema made a motion to approve January 11, 2023 minutes. Kyle Nobles seconded the motion, all approved.

**Discussion Items –**

**New Business**

♦ **James gave an overview of how mosquito control began which was with only two employees and three mosquito trucks. Now the mosquito control department has four full time employees plus six to eight nighttime drivers. James briefly discussed the stages of a**

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mosquito's life and the different types of mosquitos which includes sixty species of mosquitos in South Carolina. James discussed common misconceptions with mosquitos in which the majority have to do with ponds in subdivisions. The issue with mosquitos is not typically the pond but the vegetation around the pond. James then went over the MDPS permit and certain techniques they use which include: education, source reduction, biological chemical control and vegetation management. James stated that these are the most effective ways to reduce mosquitos. James discussed how they have a surveillance and waterside program for testing. He stated that the community can put in a service request, they will go inspect the area and treat the area. The spray is good for fourteen to twenty-one days before the mosquitos come back. They also treat catch basins, ditches and roadside ditches. James went over how many catch basins had been treated in past years. In 2010 they treated 2,000 catch basins and in 2020 they treated 16,908 catch basins. Last year they treated right under 20,000 catch basins. This year they treated them twice and are looking at 32,000 catch basins treated this year. If the area is treated correctly the number of mosquitos will go down. James went over the three types of traps they use which include: stink traps, scent traps and CDC light traps. They go and check the traps every morning, bring the mosquitos back to the office and send them to DHEC for testing. They have four different ways they treat the area which include: thermal fogging, UAV trucks, backpack blowers and aerial spraying. James went over some of the chemicals that are used and went on to state that if you time the treatment correctly with the right dosage you can stop the mosquitos. James went on to answer questions.

♦ Michelle gave a brief update on the stormwater refunds. Stormwater has currently refund \$1.7 million and still has \$ 382,383 outstanding that has to be refunded. The average refund is \$73.00 with the highest refund being \$13,000 and the low being \$0.17. Stormwater has currently refunded \$1.3 million. In January of 2024 the unclaimed funds will be given to the state. There are two websites available. One website is for post cards where if you received a post card you can log on, put your information in and a check will be mailed to you. Stormwater has partnered with the treasurer's office and now added a tab where community members can claim their unclaimed Stormwater refund. There are currently 353 checks on the treasurer's website. Stormwater has 1,983 checks that have been sent back to the office due to having the wrong address. The department tried multiple different databases to locate people. There is another set of checks that have not been cashed, once they get voided they will be added to the website as well. They website will remain active until January 2024. Michelle and Tom went on to answer questions about the stormwater refund as well as the Stormwater fee.

♦ Brandon gave a brief overview of grants from 2021 and 2022. RIA also announced their grant awards for the year. Stormwater received \$6.5 million in grants for improvement projects. He stated that stormwater had to match \$1.156 million which was already

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**budgeted in capital improvement funds. A few of the grants that Stormwater received from RIA for 2021 and 2022 included:**

- HWY 9- \$1.5 million and Stormwater matched \$279,000.
- 57<sup>th</sup> place culvert- \$834,000
- Kayla circle phase 1 & 2- \$1.56 to \$1.6 million
- Cimeron Plantation- \$1.6 million
- Azealia Lakes- \$800,000

**Brandon also went over the 2021 to 2023 grants which included Greer Crossing, Big Bull Landing, Socastee Creek Benching and the McCormick Relief bridge. Brandon went over what was received from RIA from 2021 and 2023 which included the Highway 9 relief culvert, Azealia Lakes Box Culverts, Cimeron Plantation, Kayla Circle and 57<sup>th</sup> place. Brandon briefly discussed the status of the grant projects.**

**Brandon went on to answer questions.**

**♦ Thom went over the numbers for service requests and how they were in correlation with the amount of rainfall. The amount of service requests was surprisingly higher this year than last year. Thom discussed how having more equipment to go along with the amount of cleaning being done meant more downtime due to equipment breaking. Stormwater is struggling to get parts in to actually fix equipment but it doesn't affect the employees when it comes to having work. Thom discussed how service requests have still been running steady whereas work orders and beaver requests are slowing down. Stormwater is getting about 25-30 service requests a month. Thom gave a brief update of the beaver bounty program which is going from \$100 to \$50 per beaver. Stormwater spent \$75,000 on the beaver bounty program. There were 755 beavers collected for the Beaver Bounty Program up until the end of April. Thom went on to answer questions.**

**End of discussion items.**

**Dan Sennema made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kyle Nobles seconded it, all members approved.**