

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

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

Members Absent:

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 –

Thom Roth stated he would like to do the election of vice chair first.
Austin Graham stated we will move up the election of vice chair to top of the list.
Austin Graham-The election of vice chair was discussed at the last meeting but tabled to this meeting. I will open discussion on vice chair.
Dan Sennema- I’d like to nominate Kyle.

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Austin Graham- We have a nomination for Kyle.

Harry Parnell- I'll second.

Austin Graham- I will now make a motion for open discussion. No one commented. All was in favor.

New Business

♦ Katharine Watts, with Clemson Extension discussed her role as a Resource Agent for Horry and Georgetown County which is to assist homeowners, HOA's and residents who are experiencing issues with stormwater ponds, aquatic weed and erosion. Katharine explained that Carolina Clear is a service of Clemson Extension and is an approach to inform communities of water quality and quantity and the effects of Stormwater while delivering the compliance of appropriate outreach for gaining Stormwater permits. Carolina Clear deals with the first two requirements for the permits which are public outreach and public participation/involvement. The main goal for public education outreach is to identify the point of concern in that region and to develop education materials or programs to target those communities. The goal is to encourage the public to participate. Carolina Clear is a statewide program, they are partnered with thirty-eight MS4's, which includes Horry/Georgetown, City of Conway, Surfside, Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Briarcliff Acres and Atlantic Beach. Local education partners include South Carolina Sea Grant, Murrells Inlet 2020, Coastal Carolina the Waccamaw Watershed Academy, Winyah Rivers, Waccamaw River Keepers and North Inlet Winyah Bay. Katharine went over upcoming events and activities for the community as well as educational opportunities. Those activities included the Carolina Yards Course with Clemson Extension, Friendly Landscaping, Post Construction Best Management Practice Inspector, in Person field Day, Erosion Prevention/Sediment Instructor and Pond Manager/ Rain gardener. This information can be found on their website. Katharine and Thom went on to answer questions about the program.

♦ Thom Roth gave an update on the current projects and new equipment that was purchased. Thom showed pictures of the new items such as slax tracks, wetland mats and mower maxes. Thom went on to discuss work completed by our field crews which included:

- 72 miles of ditch cleaning by backhoes and track hoes
- 83 miles of hand cleaning
- 219 miles cut by bush hogs/mower max

Thom noted the Stormwater Department is now able to cut the watersheds twice a year compared to once a year in the past. Thom also gave an update on current project which include:

- Simpson Creek/ Buck Creek: The study is now underway and the first community meeting is April 4th.
- McCormick Road/Socastee Creek- Socastee Creek had to have the permitting approval from the Army Corp for benching as well as approval from the Army

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Corp. for the dams in the creek. McCormick road is close to be finalized and developing plans.

Thom stated the Stormwater Department contracted with a company complete a study for Island Green, Bucksport and Deerfield drainage inventory. The intent is to provide the communities with their drainage system. Thom went on to answer questions.

♦ Brandon Wagner went over the Stormwater inspection process. Brandon mentioned that we are not out there with badges and tickets books while completing our inspections. It is an industry standard to not issue fines in the Stormwater Departments, we will issue a stop work order or hold permits. This tends to get their attention and we can use it as leverage to get the contractors to follow the rules when there are violations. Brandon outlined and went over the inspection process. The initial erosion control inspection begins when grading starts. During this inspection the stormwater inspector is insuring sediment is staying onsite. Another inspection is the open trench inspection where staff inspect all of the pipe connections. If a contractor fails to call in for the open trench inspection, they will be required to dig up the pipe so it can be inspected. Preliminary road and drainage inspections come next. The inspector will assure all pipes are installed correctly and ponds are functioning correctly. If this inspection fails, road work will be stopped until issues are corrected. Also, routine inspections will be conducted every 30 days which is required by the MS4 permit. Once the inspections are completed the contractor will call in for a final inspection. A final As-built must submitted prior the final inspection being completed. Once the final inspections and As-built are approved, the contractor can then close their permit. In order for the roads and drainage to be dedicated/ turned to the county for future maintenance, a bond must be submitted and a there is a three-year warranty period with inspections being done yearly on both the roads and drainage system. Once they past the third and final inspection the roads & drainage will go to County Council for approval. Once approved they will be added to our maintenance system. Brandon 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.