

SOUTHERN REGIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Bluffton Library Large Meeting Room

120 Palmetto Way, Bluffton, SC

(843) 255-2140

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. REVIEW OF MINUTES: APRIL 25, 2013 ([backup](#))
3. PUBLIC COMMENT on Non-Agenda Items
4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
5. UPDATE ON STONEY CREEK WETLANDS RESTORATION
6. DISCUSSION ON PEDESTRIAN BICYCLE TRAIL (MR. ANTHONY CRISCITIELLO, BEAUFORT COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR)
7. STATUS OF BEAUFORT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CODE (MR. ANTHONY CRISCITIELLO)
8. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION TOPICS
 - A. Economic Development
 - B. Future Topics for Agenda
9. OTHER BUSINESS
10. ADJOURNMENT

Southern Regional Plan Implementation Committee (SRPIC)
Bluffton Library Large Meeting Room, 120 Palmetto Way, Bluffton, SC 29910
Tuesday, April 23, 2012

Members/Staff Present: Edward Riley, Chairman SRPIC/Beaufort County (BC) Planning Commission; Lisa Sulka, Vice-Chair SRPIC/Town of Bluffton Mayor; Chris Bickley, Lowcountry Council of Governments; Barbara Clark, Jasper County Council; Bill Harkins, Town of Hilton Head Island Council; Paul Roth, Beaufort County School Board; Charles Sexton, Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA) Assistant General Manager; and Jerry Stewart, Beaufort County Councilman

Staff Present: Anthony Criscitiello, Director, Beaufort County Planning Director; Colin Kinton, Beaufort County Traffic & Transportation Engineer; Jim Minor, Beaufort County Solid Waste & Recycling Manager; Rob Merchant, Beaufort County Long-Range Planner; Barbara Childs, Beaufort County Administrative Assistant to Planning Director

Public Audience: Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League; Cynthia Bensch, Beaufort County Councilman; Joe Croley, Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce; Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council Chairman; Sean Bath & Jessica Whitehead, SeaGrant Consortium

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Riley at approximately 9:37 a.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: The October 23, 2012, and January 22, 2013, meeting minutes were reviewed. Mayor Lisa Sulka made a motion to approve both minutes as written, no second was given. Councilman Jerry Stewart asked that the minutes be taken separately since most members present were not at the October 23, 2012, meeting.

- Mayor Sulka made a motion to approve the October 23, 2012, meeting minutes as written and Mr. Charles Sexton seconded the motion. The motion to accept the October 23, 2012, meeting minutes as written was carried unanimously (FOR: Clark, Harkins, Riley, Roth, Sexton, Stewart, and Sulka).
- Mayor Sulka then made a motion to accept the January 22, 2013, meeting minutes as written and Councilman Stewart seconded the motion. The motion to accept the January 22, 2013, meeting minutes as written was carried unanimously (FOR: Clark, Harkins, Riley, Roth, Sexton, Stewart, and Sulka).

PUBLIC COMMENT on items not on the agenda: No public comments were received.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Riley noted that he would include his comments during the Other Business portion of the meeting. However, Mr. Riley did recognize two new members of the Committee: Bill Harkins from the Town of Hilton Head Island Council, and Barbara Clark of Jasper County Council. Mr. Riley stated that the Committee was really glad to have them at the meeting.

SEA GRANT ASSESSMENT OF BEAUFORT COUNTY'S RESILIENCY TO CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. JESSICA WHITEHEAD, SC SEA GRANT CONSORTIUM)

Dr. Jessica Whitehead of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium briefed the Committee. She noted that a grant was received to assist Beaufort County with climate resiliency. Beaufort County's 2010 Comprehensive Plan, recommendation 5-20, stated that the County should anticipate and plan for impacts of climate change. The grant funding is intended to meet that Comprehensive Plan goal. She will look at climate control policies along the coast, especially in the Development Code. Target completion is June 2014; the \$99,778 grant has a \$50,000 match from Beaufort County Council. Significant issues include flooding and water quality vulnerability and poor climate projection guidance. Sea level rise by 2040 is predicted to be between 2.1 to 14.1 inches. VCAPS would have local communication to determine stormwater risks involved. Sea Grant will work to build scenarios/visual modeling. She introduced Sean Bath, an intern that will be assisting her. They will gather names of those interested in being involved in this project.

Discussion included the credibility of the projected sea level rise, similar assessments for other areas such as Tybee and Sullivan Islands, the importance of community input for the assessment, consideration that Beaufort County reuses 100% of its waste water, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) climate change recent study correlation with this assessment, the Sea Grant funding possibility, encouraging manageable thresholds despite numerous studies that indicate sea level rise possibilities, and requesting the power point presentation on the county website.

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD UPDATES: Dr. Paul Roth, a County School Board member, noted that Mr. Bob Evans, the School Board chairman, was the official speaker for the Board. Dr. Roth read some of the school board policies. He noted that in the past the Board would speak as one body or not at all. Dr. Roth agreed with the idea of Board members being able to interact with the staff. He noted the following would provide a change for the District:

- The newly selected Board chairman, vice-chair and secretary;
- The School Board now will operate on the committee system, which is a key to an effective Board;
- Core curriculum teaching is to be used by the teachers; and
- The appointment of Dr. Jeffrey Moss, the newly appointed superintendent, who presented the Board with a 90-day plan of action.

Dr. Roth remarked that the increased school budget included meeting government mandates and a cost-of-living increase. Dr. Roth supports the use of technology to increase productivity, such as using closed circuit broadcasting with adult monitoring rather than hiring a large amount of science teachers.

AGENDA REVISION: Mr. Riley noted that he was exercising his chairman's authority to rearranging the order of the meeting. He moved the Beaufort County Development Code Update to hear the Stoney Creek item.

STONEY CREEK WETLANDS RESTORATION: Mr. Ron Bullman, the Town of Bluffton Division Director of Stormwater Management, noted that the Stoney Creek Wetlands Restoration was part of the water quality initiative pilot project for May River. He provided a power point presentation to the Committee. DHEC has labeled the May River as an outstanding resource water body. He noted increased development from 2000, making the Town of Bluffton the third

fastest growing municipality in South Carolina. The Town was notified by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control (DHEC) in 2007 of the increased levels of fecal coliform. The Town then implemented aggressive programs such as a construction site program, additional development regulations, and a water quality testing measurement. In 2009 DHEC restricted shellfish harvesting in a portion of May River. In 2011 the Town of Bluffton adopted the May River Watershed Action Plan that identified strategies, initiatives, and measurable goals and objectives aimed at restoring shellfish harvesting in the watershed. Stoney Creek was chosen for a \$0.5 million wetland restoration pilot project to reduce volume and pollutant levels. However, the affected property owner is not willing to participate in the project.

Discussion included the remedies regarding the reticent property owner that has stopped the project, the project being conceptual at this time, a coordinated work between Beaufort County and the Town of Bluffton staffs regarding this project, and a recommendation to forward the presentation to County Council's Natural Resources Committee for their information/action.

Motion: Mayor. Sulka made a motion, and Mr. Harkins seconded the motion, **to forward the Stoney Creek Wetlands Restoration presentation to Beaufort County Council's Natural Resources and Public Facilities Committees.** The motion was **carried unanimously** (FOR: Bickley, Clark, Harkens, Riley, Roth, Sextant, Sulka, and Stewart).

Further discussion included having other personnel talking to the property owner, applauding the successful work that will eventually attract visitors, the adversity that will need many more opportunities for discussion with the property owner, and requesting more details on the project at future presentations to the Committee.

AGENDA REVISION: Mr. Riley again exercised his chairman's authority to rearranging the order of the meeting. He delayed the Beaufort County Development Code Update to hear the land fill item.

TRASH – LANDFILL OPTIONS: Mr. Jim Minor, Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling Manager, noted that the County has an open system that the property owners and County Council seem to enjoy. The City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal contract with a private firm to pick up trash; however, yard waste is picked up by municipal workers or a private firm. The Town of Bluffton contracts with a private firm and the cost is part of Town taxes. The Town of Hilton Head Island has back door service at \$20.00 a month. Sun City contracts with a private firm on a voluntary basis per household. The unincorporated Beaufort County uses the drop off centers or individuals may contract with a private firm. Mr. Minor suggests mandating private pickup to reduce costs. The County has 11 convenience centers and are hauling waste elsewhere; including staff costs and citizen cost to transport to the convenience centers, he estimates the annual cost at \$17.6 million or \$28 per capita. The Beaufort County Solid Waste Management Plan recommends moving to curbside waste collection by a private firm. Mr. Minor noted that with the current land fill being fully filled in 8 to 12 years, future options include increasing the size of the land fill, building a transfer station to pool the waste for transport to another land fill, accepting commercial waste to receive revenue, working with Jasper County, and promoting recycling to divert waste from the landfills.

Discussion included private firms' land fill issues as opposed to the County landfill dilemma, waste management companies monopolizing waste management through transfer stations, current proposed legislation on waste management, Jasper County being desirable to work with Beaufort County regarding the Hickory Hill land fill, a request for progress at the next SRPIC meeting, the potential for a larger number of users with a reduced cost for curbside pickup, the citizens desire to use drop off centers without the realization of costs involved, a suggested educational program to inform citizens of the involved costs, a suggested strategy for the next step in this issue, and the difficulty of the unincorporated county with areas of less density where illegal dumping may occur.

Motion: Mr. Stewart made a motion, and Councilman Bill Harkens seconded the motion, **to encourage a cooperative effort between the government entities involved in the land fill issue.** The motion **was carried unanimously** (FOR: Bickley, Clark, Harkens, Riley, Roth, Sextant, Sulka, and Stewart).

Note: Mayor Sulka departed the meeting for another engagement.

STATUS OF BEAUFORT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CODE: Mr. Anthony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Planning Director, noted that the County webpage had the draft Code for public review. He noted that the Review Team consisting of four County Council members and four County Planning Commissioners. The team will meet tomorrow (Wednesday, April 24, 2013).

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS: 278 Beautification Committee: Mr. Criscitiello noted that Beaufort County Council has appointed three members to the Beautification Committee. The County is poised to go to South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) for an encroachment permit to begin the Highway 278 median landscaping in front of Tangers I and II and the Belfair subdivision. Mr. Criscitiello will empanel the Committee to review the plans before going to SCDOT for the permit. The Belfair installation and maintenance will be at the expense of the Belfair developer. Long term plans for the public realm of the major corridors in Southern Beaufort County, including Highway 278, will be reviewed by this Committee. Discussion included clarification that beautification will be on the southern Beaufort corridor, concern with issues involving irrigation and work with Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, and the rationale for the formation of this Committee (because the Corridor Review Board/CRB is intended for private property and the property involved is public property).

AGENDA REVISION: Mr. Riley noted that the Economic Development update would be moved to the next meeting. Dr. Roth noted that he would like to see an economic overview, including population and roads, of Southern Beaufort County to assist the school district in their planning efforts. Additionally, Mr. Riley noted that he received an email report from Mr. Colin Kinton, Beaufort County's Traffic and Transportation Engineer, stating that the Lowcountry Council of Government (LCOG) regional traffic model was in work and moving along.

OTHER BUSINESS: None were noted.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilman. Barbara Clark made a motion, and Dr. Roth seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously (FOR: Bickley, Clark, Harkins, Riley, Roth, Sexton, and Stewart). The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.