

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEAUFORT AND THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON REGARDING MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING (MST) SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the University of South Carolina Beaufort (hereinafter “USCB”) operates and manages laboratories dedicated to assessing the water quality of the Lowcountry; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bluffton (hereinafter “Town”), in pursuit of its mission to protect local water resources and implement water quality monitoring recommended by the May River Watershed Action Plan, the May River Watershed Action Plan Update and Modeling Report, and as required by the National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination (hereinafter “NPDES”) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (hereinafter “MS4”) Permit, recognized the inherent value in USCB’s ability to provide microbial source tracking (hereinafter “MST”) services; and

WHEREAS, through this initiative, the Town and USCB are responding to a need to protect quality of life for citizens by providing critical information about water quality; and

WHEREAS, the original agreement entered into July 9, 2021 requires updating to properly reflect changing monitoring needs by the Town and changing water quality monitoring capabilities and expenses by USCB; and

WHEREAS, the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), entered into July 9, 2021, expires on June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to execute such documents as necessary to enter into a MOU with USCB.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to enter an MOU with the University of South Carolina Beaufort in order to continue pursuing the Town’s mission to protect local water resources.

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON ADOPTION. SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED AS OF THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Larry Toomer, Mayor, Town of Bluffton, South Carolina

ATTEST:

Marcia Hunter, Town Clerk, Town of Bluffton, South Carolina