

## TOWN COUNCIL

### STAFF REPORT

#### Projects and Watershed Resilience Department



<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	November 13, 2025
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Cost-sharing Carolina Clear Stormwater Public Education Services between the Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County Stormwater Utility
<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b>	Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects & Watershed Resilience

**REQUEST:** Staff requests Town Council approve a Resolution to authorize the renewal of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Town of Bluffton and the Beaufort County Stormwater Utility to cost-share for stormwater public education by Clemson Extension's Carolina Clear (Carolina Clear) program.

**BACKGROUND:** On December 1, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES), formerly known as the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), designated Hilton Head Island, portions of southern Beaufort County, and the Town of Bluffton as part of the Hilton Head Island Urbanized Area. Following this designation, SCDES now regulates all three (3) entities' stormwater discharges to receiving waterbodies as individual, Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (SMS4) under the NPDES General Permit #SCR030000.

General Permit #SCR030000 outlines the six (6) MCMs that each regulated SMS4 must include as part of their stormwater program. The MCMs are as follows:

1. Public outreach/education,
2. Public involvement/participation,
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE),
4. Construction site stormwater runoff control,
5. Post-construction stormwater management, and
6. Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations.

Additionally, General Permit Article 4.1.4 outlines the requirement to develop adequate legal authority to implement and enforce the SMS4's stormwater management program, which can include an interagency agreement. Specifically, Article 4.1.4.2.k. Interagency Agreements states, "Control of the contribution of pollutants from one portion of the shared MS4 to another portion of the MS4 through interagency agreements or other similar agreements with other MS4 owners, wherever and whenever such agreements are effective."

Anticipating the SMS4 designation, the County and the Town included Article 7 – NPDES MS4 Phase II Permit Compliance in a “Stormwater Management and Utility Intergovernmental Agreement.” This Stormwater Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), dated July 1, 2016, defines and implements environmental initiatives related to the protection of southern Beaufort County watersheds and other outstanding natural resources. A copy of the Stormwater IGA is attached as Exhibit “A” to the MOA (**Attachment 2**).

Per the Stormwater IGA, cost-sharing on activities to meet Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) is permissible. The County and Town entered into a MOA to cost-share Carolina Clear services on November 16, 2016. Following satisfactory performance, the County approved a new contract with Carolina Clear on March 1, 2022, and on May 10, 2022, Town Council passed a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Town of Bluffton and the Beaufort County Stormwater Utility for these services. The County and Town of Bluffton entered into this new MOA on August 1, 2022 with contract services to begin in Fiscal Year 2023 and the annual cost for these services to be \$90,000. The Town’s contribution is based on the proportion of Stormwater Utility Accounts that lie within Town Limits, which equates to 12.77% or \$11,433, for FY 2026. The MOA may be renewed automatically annually for a period of up to three (3) years, with an option to renew annually for an additional two (2) years, thereby extending the possible termination date until June 30, 2027.

**NEXT STEPS:** Upon Town Council review and approval of this request, the Town Manager will renew the MOA with the Beaufort County Stormwater Utility for an additional one (1) year.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution
2. Memorandum of Agreement with Exhibit A – July 1, 2016 Intergovernmental Agreement
3. Proposed Motion