

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEAUFORT (USCB) AND THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON TO ESTABLISH AND FUND A MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING (MST) LABORATORY**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Bluffton (hereafter, "Town") has provided the University of South Carolina Beaufort (hereafter, "USCB") with quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) equipment to identify host fecal sources (e.g., human, dog, bird, ruminant, horse) and pathogens within the Lowcountry; and

**WHEREAS**, USCB has a laboratory dedicated to providing qPCR services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town, in pursuit of its mission to protect local water resources and implement water quality monitoring recommended by the May River Watershed Action Plan Update and Model Report, and required by the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, recognized the inherent value in USCB's offer to partner with the Town to provide microbial source tracking (MST) qPCR analytical services; and,

**WHEREAS**, MST techniques enable the Town to identify sources responsible for fecal contamination of water resources and to prioritize areas for management based upon identified sources; and

**WHEREAS**, USCB personnel has extensive experience with MST qPCR analytical services; are able to provide results in a timely manner for follow-up investigations, as well as aid in study designs and statistical analysis of Town project data to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented water quality practices; 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

**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 into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) and the Town of Bluffton to Establish and Fund a Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Laboratory, which is attached and incorporated as "Exhibit A" hereto.

**THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ON JULY 13, 2021.**

**SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED AS OF THIS 13TH<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2021.**

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Lisa Sulka, Mayor  
Town of Bluffton, South Carolina

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Kimberly Chapman  
Town Clerk, Town of Bluffton, South Carolina