

May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, Henry “Emmett” McCracken Jr. Council Chambers, 20
Bridge Street, Bluffton, SC

April 24, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Stokes called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chris Shoemaker
Amber Kuehn
Vice Chair Al Stokes
Jessie White
Chris Kehrer
Larry Toomer

ABSENT

Chair Stan Rogers

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Adoption of January 23rd, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion to adopt January 23rd, 2025, meeting minutes made by Shoemaker, Seconded by Kuehn.

Voting Yea: Shoemaker, Kuehn, Vice Chair Stokes, White, Kehrer, Toomer

IV. PRESENTATIONS, CELEBRATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS

1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources May River Watershed Baseline Assessment Update Presentation - Dr. Andrew Tweel, Associate Marine Scientist, SC Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Andrew Tweel presented the findings of the May River Watershed Baseline Assessment Update. Afterwards, the committee had time to ask questions which were over the source of bacteria found in the river and SCDNR’s recommendation regarding the frequency the Town should consider for the next baseline assessment.

2. South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium and College of Charleston Resiliency Analysis Presentation - Dr. Levine, Professor | Director, Santee Cooper GIS Laboratory and Lowcountry Hazards Center, and Landon Knapp, Coastal Resilience Program Manager

Dr. Levine, Landon Knapp, and Sophia Truempi presented the results of the resiliency analysis conducted for the Town of Bluffton. The committee was then given time to ask about the study.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Lawton - 52 Oyster Street - Mr. Lawton congratulated the Town on passing a Wetland Ordinance at the March Town Council meeting and expressed support for it to pass second reading at the May Town Council meeting. He also spoke about a wetland in Beaufort County that he would like to continue to see being protected.

Paul Manning - 111 Quarter Casting Circle - Mr. Manning spoke about his concerns with stormwater runoff and decreasing water quality in the May River.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn at 4:58pm by Toomer, Seconded by Kehrer.

Voting Yea: Shoemaker, Kuehn, Vice Chair Stokes, White, Kehrer, Toomer

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 24, 2025