Present: Wes Jones, chair; Larry Toomer, vice-chair; Troy Lucas; Al Stokes
Absent: None
Staff: Kim Jones; Sam Connor; Beth Lewis; Rocio Rexford
Guests: Rikki Parker, Coastal Conservation League; Allen Ward, Ward Edwards Engineering, Mike Raymond, Former Town of Bluffton Council Member
Media: None

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
   1. Members introduced themselves.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
   1. Mr. Lucas moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. Mr. Toomer seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

IV. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 01, 2016 MEETING MINUTES
   1. Mr. Lucas moved to adopt the Minutes as presented. Mr. Toomer seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT
   1. Mr. Mike Raymond of the Stock Farm Community addressed the committee. Mr. Raymond stated that from the Agenda Microbial Source Tracking (MST) was being considered or implemented by staff. Mr. Raymond stated that Rose Dhu Creek & Stoney Creek have large expanses of saltmarsh to filter nutrients and bacteria. Mr. Raymond stated he believed the sheet flow from Old Town Bluffton was contributing to the fecal coliform impairment of the May River headwaters.

Ms. Jones asked the Chairman for permission to respond to Mr. Raymond, and offered that historical sampling data did not indicate fecal concentrations similar to the results seen in the headwaters. She offered to discuss the results of prior studies with Mr. Raymond.

VI. OLD BUSINESS
   1. NO WAKE ZONE

Ms. Jones stated that she had received information from South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) with regards to the No Wake Zone Request. The Department stated they would not be making any decisions due to a proposed change of the regulation to the distance a vessel must be from a dock or structure from 50’ to 100’ under consideration by the State Legislature.
**ACTION:**

Ms. Jones stated she would send the Committee the email she had forwarded onto Senior Staff containing this information – **COMPLETED**

2. **MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING (MST) UPDATE**

Ms. Lewis stated that Town staff had conducted two rounds of Microbial Source Tracking (MST) sampling. The first sampling event took place November 21, 2016 which represented dry weather conditions directly following a King Tide and the second sampling event took place on January 3, 2017 which represented wet weather conditions.

Ms. Lewis shared the results with the Committee, which included all absent findings, except for a positive result in the water sample collected on January 3rd at Rose Dhu Creek Bridge.

Town staff informed the Committee that staff had already requested assistance from Beaufort County and BJWSA to investigate this result.

**ACTION:**

Staff will ensure inspections by BJWSA and Beaufort County – **COMPLETED**

Staff will assess budget with senior management to identify additional funding for more MST testing – **COMPLETED**

Staff will develop a plan and implement additional MST testing – **IN PROGRESS**

3. **MS4 PERMIT UPDATE**

Ms. Jones stated that Town staff had completed the Town’s first Annual Report due to the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and would be submitting it prior to the end of January.

**ACTION:**

Staff deliver Annual Report to SCDHEC - **COMPLETED**

4. **MAY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

a. **WORK PLAN UPDATE**

Ms. Jones provided the Committee with an update on Town staff’s current work plan. Ms. Jones highlighted several ongoing Capital Improvement Projects and the new regional education and outreach effort, Lowcountry Stormwater Partners.

b. **319 GRANT PHASE 2 UPDATE**

Mr. S. Connor stated that the Pine Ridge Project was currently collecting data and Town staff would have an update for the Committee at the regularly scheduled March meeting.

Mr. S. Connor stated that the Filtrexx tubes had been received and that an easement agreement would be going to Town Council in March for approval. Mr. S. Connor also stated based on Clemson Extension recommendations, Town staff would be implementing floating wetlands into the New Riverside Pond. The remaining grant funds would be utilized to purchase several floating wetlands to give to interested communities within the May River Watershed.
Mr. S. Connor stated that Town staff had met onsite with the Niver Family in January and were given permission to move forward with the preliminary design.

c. **319 GRANT PHASE 3 UPDATE**

Mr. S. Connor stated that an easement agreement would be going to Town Council in March for the May River Preserve Project. Town staff would be conducting the education and outreach component of this project with the May River Preserve Property Owners Association in March.

d. **WEEKLY SAMPLING UPDATE (STANDING ITEM)**

Ms. Lewis provided an update on the cumulative fecal coliform geomeans for the current calendar year to date. Fecal coliform “hot spots” remain consistent with data from previous calendar years. Ms. Lewis pointed out the map had been updated to include those sites associated with May River Preserve water quality project.

5. **SCDHEC SHELLFISH DATA**

SCDHEC sampling data for stations 19-19 to station 19-16 was presented. Ms. Lewis utilized FDA standards to provide the data in the 90%ile and Geometric Means. This FDA methodology mimics that used by SCDHEC thus, giving the Town a better understanding of the data/predictions.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

VIII. **DISCUSSION**

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

1. Mr. Lucas moved to adjourn. Mr. Toomer seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE – FEBRUARY 23, 2017 @ 10:00 AM**