

## **Minutes from the meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the Baldwin County Watershed Coalition**

Friday, May 1, 2009

In attendance: Commissioner David Ed Bishop, Councilwoman Cathy Barnette, Joe Bullock, Larry Chason, Donna Givens, Commissioner Skip Gruber, Bob James, Stan Mahoney, Marian MacPherson, Rep. Steve McMillan, Sen. Trip Pittman, Tom Herder, Roberta Swann

Roberta Swann began the discussion at 9:05 a.m. prior to the meeting being called to order. She noted her conversation with Commissioner Gruber about the challenge of meeting scheduling (and attendance). She noted the need to develop some alternative that would work for Committee members, especially the mayors. She suggested one strategy that might work to ensure productivity without relying on quorums at every meeting. With three meetings per quarter the first quarterly meeting might be used as a workshop to hash out details necessary for listing and addressing issues and preparation for ensuing discussions. The second quarterly meeting could be conducted via conference call or Webex, saving members the time necessary for transportation. At this meeting, issues could be discussed and consensus achieved. At the third quarterly meeting (open to interested non-Committee members) members would be expected to attend and vote on issues. She asked for ideas from Committee members.

Marion MacPherson noted that by-laws would require changing to allow such a protocol. Senator Pittman noted that “by-laws are by-laws and that mayors can send designees to meetings. He expressed the feeling that deviating from the original philosophy after two meetings is premature and that participation on the front side of deliberations would enhance buy-in at their conclusion. Stan Mahoney noted that the “core group” is getting to meetings and suggested applying pressure to get the mayors to the table.

Representative McMillan suggested Mayor John Koniar as a Committee member, since he would be able to attend all of the meetings. Ms. Swann pointed out that the Committee has not yet “filled in the blanks” set forth by the bylaws, noting that neither the East County nor Mid-County positions have been filled yet. Mayor Billy Middleton of Loxley was suggested for the Mid-County position, but Representative McMillan said that he doubted he would be able to attend meetings. Robertsdale Mayor Charles Murphy was also suggested, and since he’s a full-time Mayor and retired, he may be a good candidate. Senator Pittman agreed to contact him. Mr. Mahoney indicated that he would check with Mayor Hauser of Magnolia Springs. It was clarified that designees could attend Committee meetings, but they cannot vote.

Agenda #1. Ms. MacPherson officially called the meeting to order at 9:34 a. m.

Agenda #2. She called for review and approval of the minutes of the last meeting. Ms. Barnette made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Mr. Mahoney and unanimously approved.

Agenda #3. To Ms. Swann’s query about recruitment of an ADEM position on the Committee, Sen. Pittman reported that Mr. John Hagood, an ADEM attorney from Montgomery would be participating. Ms. Swann reported that the MBNEP would fund a Voter Baseline Survey

consistent with the voter survey conducted for Sen. Pittman's campaign. Sen. Pittman reported that this survey was conducted by Mr. Chris Brown, included only two or three questions posed to only around 300 voters. The cost of such a survey and its level of error were both relatively low.

Agenda #4. Ms. Barnette reported that she was standing by waiting electronic receipt of a rough draft of a logo produced by Education Committee members to arrive.

Agenda #5. Under new business Ms. Swann suggested that we come to some agreement on Program Components listed under New Business on the agenda, including the Mission Statement that originated with AMEC's feasibility study. After some discussion, "to support local communities in managing flooding, drainage, and water quality problems related to stormwater runoff in Baldwin County" was modified to read as follows:

**"to support local communities in managing flooding, drainage, and issues related to stormwater runoff in Baldwin County while preserving and improving water quality and the use of our water resources."** Comm. Gruber moved to approve a slightly different version of the statement, seconded by Ms. Barnette and passed with only one dissenting vote (Bob James), but the version above was passed after a motion by Sen. Pittman to amend Comm. Grubers motion with a second by Donna Givens and a single dissenting vote by Mr. James.

For short, medium, and long term objectives, Ms. Swann suggested that we attempt to list secondary objectives of the stormwater utility. Suggestions were discussed, and the list of secondary objectives was developed as follows:

- Improve community health
- Improve community safety
- Increase and enhance recreational opportunities
- Maintain property values
- Sustain our economy

A motion to approve the list of secondary objectives was made by Larry Chason, seconded by Mr. Mahoney, and unanimously approved by the Committee.

Ms. Swann pointed out that the Local Constitutional Amendment provided no authority to a Baldwin County Stormwater Utility. Committee members agreed with this statement.

Service Targets were labelled while Key Program Services were addressed, and Ms. Swann read the list of five, and noted that these bring us back to the 80/20 nature of the legislation, that requires that 80% of generated revenue be used for capital expenditures to construct storm water control projects on public lands in Baldwin County. Ms. MacPherson asked if there was a definition of "capital expenditures." Commissioner Bishop explained that they were the things above what would be expended through normal budget. Ms. Swann pointed out that among the five listed Program Services, only d. Stream system management would fall under the 80% Category of capital expenditures.

Sen. Pittman suggested changing "stream system management" to "watershed projects". Other suggested changes included changing adding "and Partnerships" to "Building Watershed Stewardship". "Supporting member municipalities/County" was changed to "Supporting

municipal/County projects.” Ms. Barnette moved to accept the changes to Key Program Services, Joe Bullock seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Mr. Chason’s question, “who’s going to manage the money?” moved the discussion to Organizational Structure. Ms. Swann distributed a copy of a spreadsheet showing existing utility structure, which showed that some utilities were public corporations and others were county subsidiaries. The legislation dictates that Baldwin County’s stormwater utility must be a public corporation. Sen. Pittman felt that volunteer opportunities in such a structure offered a good alternative to the politics of county or government management. Comm. Bishop said that the 80/20 provision of the legislation demands that organizational/management structure be kept lean. Ms. Swann suggested that at this point Committee members each perform some research. The MBNEP has allocated funds in the next fiscal year (2010, which begins October 1) for a County-wide data inventory, which Baldwin County GIS Specialist Kenny McIlwain will convert to a GIS layer. Ms. Barnette suggested that the Committee should draft a formal request to the municipalities to facilitate inventories of stormwater needs and activities.

Ms. Swann volunteered to get the Technical Committee together over the next month to develop a list what is necessary for inventory data collection. Ms. Barnette made a motion to charge the BCWC Technical Committee with developing such a list. Mr. Mahoney seconded the motion, which was approved by the Committee.

At this point in the meeting, Annex staff delivered the draft of the logo to Ms. Barnette, who shared it with the Committee. The logo was a Baldwin County map or profile enclosed within a water drop. Ms. Barnette discussed the need for uniformity surrounding BCWC activities and felt that the logo draft was a good starting point. Comm. Gruber and Sen. Pittman both felt like streams and water bodies needed to be delineated more clearly. Mr. James and Rep. McMillan both felt that the water droplet was too tear-like. Committee members agreed that the logo, by necessity, must be simple, since it will almost always be small. Ideas such as a grandfather fishing with his grandson are appealing, but space may preclude that kind of detail.

Agenda #6. Before adjournment, Mr. Mahoney described plans for a State of Wolf Bay meeting, which could be used as a launching point for the stormwater outreach effort.

Mr. James moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Bullock seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.