

TOWN COUNCIL



STAFF REPORT Department of Engineering

MEETING DATE:	March 8, 2015
PROJECT:	Consideration of a Recommendation from the May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee
PROJECT MANAGER:	Kim Jones, Division Director, Stormwater

REQUEST: The May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee (WAPAC) recommends Town Council approve and submit letters to our state legislators supporting the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (SCDHEC) request for increased funding for water quality sampling efforts throughout the state.

BACKGROUND: Town Council established the May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee (WAPAC) in 2012 to offer guidance and assistance to the Town on projects and strategies aimed at restoring shellfish harvesting in the May River. The committee assists the Town by reviewing and evaluating a number of items including:

- Policy changes
- Targeted or proposed projects
- Partnership opportunities
- Funding opportunities

The Committee makes recommendations to Town Council for consideration.

INTRODUCTION: At the January 26, 2016 meeting of the May River WAPAC, the group discussed the SCDHEC Fiscal Year 2017 request for \$945,000 to expand water quality sampling efforts across the state. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that Town Council support SCDHEC's request through a letter of support to our state legislators.

NEXT STEPS: Following Town Council approval, the attached letters will be sent to Senator Davis and Representative Herbkersman to express the Town's support of SCDHEC's funding request in Fiscal Year 2017 to expand water quality sampling efforts across the state.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter from Town Council to Senator Davis
2. Letter from Town Council to Representative Herbkersman

Lisa Sulka
Mayor

Larry Toomer
Mayor Pro Tempore

Marc Orlando
Town Manager



Council Members

Fred Hamilton

Dan Wood

Harry Lutz

Sandra Lunceford

Town Clerk

March 9, 2016

The Honorable Thomas C. Davis
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, South Carolina
29202

RE: South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Fiscal Year 2017 Request

Dear Senator Davis,

On behalf of the Town of Bluffton Town Council, I am writing to you to express our Council's support for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's [\(SCDHEC\)](#) request for \$945,000 as part of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget in order to expand water quality sampling effort across the state.

During our recent strategic planning efforts, the Town of Bluffton identified the May River and surrounding rivers and their watersheds as a focus area, and a priority for our community. Our citizens value healthy waterways and look to local and state government to protect these resources for future generations. To this end, the Town recognizes that increased sampling efforts from SCDHEC may provide us with better data upon which to base or improve our policy [and capital improvement](#) decisions.

The Town of Bluffton Town Council sincerely appreciates your efforts to improve and protect our resources for our citizens.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Sulka, Mayor

cc: Representative William G. Herbkersman
Catherine E. Heigel, Director, SCDHEC
Town of Bluffton Town Council
Marc Orlando, Town Manager
Wes Jones, Chair, May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building
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Telephone (843) 706-4500 Fax (843) 757-6720
www.townofbluffton.sc.gov

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Town Clerk

March 9, 2016

The Honorable William G. Herbkersman
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina
29211

RE: South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Fiscal Year 2017 Request

Dear Representative Herbkersman,

On behalf of the Town of Bluffton Town Council, I am writing to you to express our Council's support for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's [\(SCDHEC\)](#) request for \$945,000 as part of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget in order to expand water quality sampling effort across the state.

During our recent strategic planning efforts, the Town of Bluffton identified the May River and surrounding rivers and their watersheds as a focus area, and a priority for our community. Our citizens value healthy waterways and look to local and state government to protect these resources for future generations. To this end, the Town recognizes that increased sampling efforts from SCDHEC may provide us with better data upon which to base or improve our policy [and capital improvement](#) decisions.

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Sincerely,

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