AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 24, 2019
3:00 PM
CMCOG Conference Room

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Call to Order........................................ Shawn Epps

   Action

2. Approval of Minutes from the January 23, 2019
   EPAC Meeting (Enc. 1)........................................................................ Shawn Epps

3. Background Information on the History of Sewer
   Development in the US 378/I-20 Area (Enc.2)..................................... Gregory Sprouse

4. 208 Plan Update.................................................................................... Gregory Sprouse

5. Midlands Rivers Coalition Update....................................................... Gregory Sprouse

6. Old Business/New Business............................................................... Shawn Epps

7. Adjourn.............................................................................................. Shawn Epps

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ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes – January 23, 2019

The Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC) met on January 23, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at Central Midlands Council of Governments.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Shawn Epps, Chair
Dan Lambert, Town of Chapin (Alternate for Andy Metts),
Gwen Geidel, Citizen-at-Large
Stephen Sealy, City of Columbia
Ed Schooler, East Richland County Public Service District (Alternate for Larry Brazell)
Jay Nicholson, Joint Municipal W&S Commission
Britt Poole, Town of Lexington
Todd Cullum, Lexington County
John Carrigg, Lexington County
Tim Baker, City of Newberry
Brent Richardson, Newberry County W&S Authority
Adam Delk, Private Utility (Alternate for Bryan Stone)
Michelle Dickerson, City of West Columbia
Bill Stangler, Congaree Riverkeeper
Jason Prouse, Town of Batesburg-Leesville
Chris Clauson, Fairfield County
Mike Dawson, River Alliance

STAFF PRESENT
Ben Mauldin, Executive Director
Gregory Sprouse, Director of Research, Planning & Development
Guillermo Espinosa, Senior Planner

OTHERS ATTENDING
Doug Fabel, CMCOG Board
Andrew Zaengle, City of West Columbia
Guy Schmoltze, Joint Municipal W&S Commission
1. **Welcome, Introduction and Call to Order**

Shawn Epps, EPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 3:02 p.m. The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2. **Approval of Minutes from Last EPAC Meetings (November 28, 2018)**

Mr. Epps entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2018 EPAC Meeting.

- Gwen Geidel made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 28, 2018 EPAC meeting. John Carrigg seconded, all were in favor, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **208 Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Update**

Gregory Sprouse from CMCOG facilitated a discussion and solicited feedback on three key areas being updated and revised for the 208 Water Quality Management Plan. These areas included regional policies, the plan amendment process, and wastewater service delivery strategies. Mr. Sprouse distributed the draft regional policies and reviewed them with the committee. The Committee discussed the draft policies and provided detailed comments to include:

- Need for broad policy language about coordination with counties and COGs outside of CMCOG region so all agreements are recognized and incorporated into the 208 plan (e.g., Upper Wateree Agreement, Calhoun County – Cayce Flows). These agreements need to be reflected in the Wastewater Service Delivery Section/Survey Responses for existing conditions. Need to have policy in place on how new situations are incorporated into the plan. Where does this fit in with plan amendment requirements?
- Wasteload Allocation process needs to have some language about impairments of concern and how this process applies (e.g., UOD, DO, Nitrogen, Phosphorous);
- How does the wastewater treatment cost/rate structure fit into the 208 plan and policies? How would that impact economic competitiveness of industries moving into the region? Committee members discussed how regional Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) are still more economically efficient than smaller industrial pre-treatment systems. Mr. Sprouse clarified that this goes beyond the scope of the 208 plan, and that the plan itself does not have policies that limits competitiveness. Rather, it promotes cost-effective solutions to water quality issues in the region;
- Do any providers have a tiered rate system? Committee members discussed how concentrated effluent has a different rate structure, due to it requiring a certain level of pre-treatment before it can be processed by a regional wastewater treatment system.

Mr. Sprouse then went over the recommended revisions to the 208 Plan Amendment process and highlighted changes in the language intended to reflect the responsibilities of CMCOG as it concerns
the 208 Plan and various plan amendment issues which EPAC has encountered since the last plan update. A summary of the committee discussion included:

- Plan amendment request criteria, such as capacity upgrades, and WWTP consolidation;
- Equalization basin conversions, as it pertains to SCSDHEC regulations;
- Adding language about minor amendments being more administrative in intent, and being up to the chair as to whether or not it should go before EPAC;
- Adding language about minor amendments about not being able to submit multiple minor plan amendments in order to avoid requesting a major plan amendment for a WWTP upgrade;
- For the economic feasibility analysis under submission requirements, consider who will be required to conduct this. This information could be easy to manipulate to reflect a particular point of view. The general procedure at the moment is for EPAC and CMCOG staff members to review amendments and projects for reasonableness;
- For the plan amendment review process, where it talks about submissions to SCDHEC – add language about annual reporting requirements to SCDHEC for plan amendments.

Gregory reviewed the Sewer Service Provider Survey and asked each wastewater provider to fill it out. This information will become an important component of the 208 Plan as it will summarize existing treatment capacity, interagency service agreements, pre-treatment programs, growth and expansions plans, and future wastewater needs. The committee discussed the survey and agreed to complete it along with any edits/comments to the regional policies and plan amendment process by March 11, 2019.

4. **Old/New Business**

- The Congaree Riverkeeper provided an update on the issue of sanitary sewer overflows caused by wastewater providers cutting off sewer service without the water service from a different provider also being cut off. Stakeholders interested in this issue are seeking a legislative solution at both the state and local levels, and discussions are still ongoing.
- The April 2019 EPAC meeting was rescheduled from April 17 to April 24. The July 2019 EPAC meeting was rescheduled from July 17 to July 24.
- No other old or new business was discussed.

5. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:26 p.m.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Environmental Planning Advisory Committee
FROM: Gregory Sprouse, Director of Research, Planning, and Development
DATE: April 17, 2019
SUBJECT: Background Information on the History of Sewer Development in the US 378/I-20 Area

PURPOSE
The purpose of this memo is to provide general background information on the history of sewer development in the US 378/I-20 area.

SECTION 201/208 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

- The purpose of Sections 201 and 208 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) was to encourage and facilitate the development and implementation of area-wide wastewater management plans to address the fact that local water quality problems at the time were a result of sewer/waste treatment infrastructure not keeping pace with urban growth and development.
- Section 201 of the CWA provided grant in aid funding for the construction of regional sewer facilities at a 75% cost share. Development of a 20 year sewer facilities plan was required in order to be eligible for this federal funding.
- Section 208 of the CWA required communities to develop a regional planning and policy framework for attaining national water quality goals as set forth in the CWA, with a focus on eliminating the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters by developing regional wastewater systems and consolidating existing facilities.
- A key requirement of Section 208 was that 201 plans had to be incorporated into the regional 208 plans which designated public wastewater management agencies (DMA) responsible for implementing the 201/208 plan recommendations for their designated area. 201 grants could only be awarded to DMAs. 201 grants would only be awarded for projects reflected in the 208
plans and NPDES permits would not be issued for proposed discharges in conflict with the plan.

- The first Section 201 Plan for the region was completed in March of 1976 by CMCOG (FKA CMRPC) on behalf of and in partnership with the local governments of Richland and Lexington Counties. This plan identified priority sewer interceptor and treatment facility projects needed over a 20 year planning horizon for each major drainage basin.

- The first Section 208 Plan for the region was completed in 1978/79 by CMCOG on behalf of and in partnership with the local governments of Richland and Lexington Counties. This plan set forth the governance structure for the 201/208 program which included establishing DMAs based on existing local municipal, special purpose districts, and county wastewater providers.

201/208 HISTORY FOR THE US 378/I-20 AREA

- In 1971, prior to the passage of the CWA, CMCOG (FKA CMRPC), prepared a Water and Sewerage Plan for the Columbia area which identified future sewer service needs and delineated future sewer service areas based on existing infrastructure and service capacity. Attachment A illustrates the location of this existing infrastructure and future/planned sewer service areas. The US 378 / I-20 area is projected to be served by West Columbia while the areas around Town of Lexington are projected to be served by the Town of Lexington.

- At the time of the original 201 and 208 plans, West Columbia owned and maintained a collection system serving their entire corporate area plus outside areas. In 1975 they entered into an agreement with Columbia to provide treatment for their system.

- The Town of Lexington owned and maintained a collection system and two WWTPs discharging into Twelve Mile Creek in the vicinity of the Town’s corporate limits. The area between West Columbia and the Town of Lexington along US 378 was experiencing increased growth and development pressure.

- Numerous private WWTPs serving individual subdivisions were being built to satisfy the growth demand.

- The original 201 and 208 plans and subsequent updates called for the development of a regional sewer system in the 12 and 14 mile creek basins to consolidate these discharges and meet this growing demand for sewer service.

- The 1980 Update to the 208 Plan established local government entities as the DMAs responsible for implementing the 201/208 plan per requirements set forth in the CWA. The Town of Lexington and the City of West Columbia were both identified as DMAs and accepted these responsibilities through resolutions adopted by their respective councils.

- The 1982 Update to the Columbia 201 Sewerage Facilities outlined several alternatives for the development of a regional sewer system in the 12 and 14 mile creek basins. These alternatives consisted of developing a collection system
that followed the natural drainage of the basins with a new WWTP that would discharge into the Lower Saluda River near the confluence with 12 mile creek.

- The 1983/84 Update to the Columbia 201 Sewerage Facilities Plan was the first to delineate DMA areas and assign responsibility for plan implementation within those areas. Attachment B illustrates the DMA 12 and 14 Mile Creek basin was the City of West Columbia. As such, they assumed the responsibility for developing the sewer collection and treatment infrastructure for this area. They were to work with the City of Columbia to coordinate the construction of the Lorick Ferry WWTP would ultimately provide treatment for the 12 & 14 mile creek basins as well as the Kinley and Rawls creek basins on the north side of the Saluda River. This WWTP would discharge in the Lower Saluda River. As illustrated in Attachment B, West Columbia’s DMA responsibility spanned from the Congaree River to the Town of Lexington.

- The 1985 Update to the 208 plan adopted the recommendation that West Columbia serve as the DMA for the Lorick Ferry WWTP. The Town of Lexington would continue to own and operate its existing system until such time as those facilities could be tied into the 12 Mile Creek interceptor system. Attachment C shows the preferred alternative for the 12 and 14 Mile Creek system and designates the City of West Columbia as the DMA. The plan also called for the upgrading of the I-20 WWTP so that it could serve as a regional system providing service in unincorporated Lexington County and to the Town of Springdale. The alternative presented was for this discharge to remain in the Lower Saluda River. Subsequent alternatives called for this discharge to be consolidated into the Lorick Ferry WWTP. It should be noted that by this time, the City of West Columbia owned considerable infrastructure in the 12 and 14 mile creek basin, including the Whiteford WWTP, which it later sold to the Town of Lexington before it was tied in to the regional system.

- Over the next several years a number of issues stood in the way of developing the Lorick Ferry WWTP. In the mid-1980s the federal government scaled back investments in local sewer infrastructure putting most of the burden on local governments. At the same time, there was considerable public pressure to clean up the Lower Saluda River which was designated as a state scenic river in 1991. The public sentiment was to remove all existing discharges and to not allow any new domestic discharges.

- As growth and development pressures continued, the City of West Columbia, Lexington County, Lexington Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission, and the Town of Lexington worked to develop a new regional sewer plan for the basin.

- In 1992, after consideration of a number of alternatives, a new plan was developed. This plan called for a regional collection system and sewer interceptor line that would connect to the City of Cayce WWTP which would be expanded and upgraded to serve as a regional facility. This new plan, shown in Attachment D, was adopted as an amendment to the 208 plan. The amendment
called for the Town of Lexington to develop the infrastructure as they had available bonding capacity to finance the project. The amendment designated the Town of Lexington and West Columbia as Co-Management Agencies with joint implementation responsibilities for the 12 and 14 mile creek basins. The amendment stated that the “joint management agencies shall be responsible for coordination of the plan's implementation and for working out the agreements and other necessary arrangements to enhance and promote implementation through cooperation.”

- The Town of Lexington PER for the regional sewer system, which was approved for conformance with the 208 plan by CMCOG in September 1995, describes the DMA area as being defined by “boundaries as related to the Town of Lexington and is bound by Lake Murray to the north, the Lower Saluda River to the Northeast, I-20 to the east, Two Notch Road to the south, and Highway 204 to the west.” No map of this defined management area was contained in the PER, however, a map that meets this description was included in the 14 Mile Creek Sewer Facilities Feasibility Study completed in September of 1994 for the Town of Lexington. This map is shown in Attachment E.

- No additional documentation has been found in the CMCOG archives illustrating a demarcation of management areas between the Town of Lexington and the City of West Columbia prior to the adoption of the 1997 208 Plan in February of 1997. Based on the available information it appears that up until the adoption of the 1997 Plan, West Columbia had co-management agency responsibilities for the 12 and 14 mile creek basins as well as for the US 378/I-20 area.

- Based on the management area map shown in the 1997 plan, Attachment F, the Town of Lexington was designated as the DMA for the US 378/I-20 area. No information exists in the EPAC minutes from this time period documenting why this area was assigned to the Town of Lexington.

- Most of the existing sewer lines in the US 378/I-20 area belonging to the City of West Columbia were permitted in the early 1990s before the adoption of the 1997 208 plan and the assignment of this area to the Town of Lexington. Attachment G is an aerial photograph from 1996 illustrating the existence of the Southeastern Freight Property next to I-20 and the beginning of development for the Lott Ct Industrial Park, both of which are served by West Columbia but in the Town of Lexington 208 Management Area. The City of Columbia WWTP flow inventory confirms that sewer permits were issued for these areas prior to the adoption of the 1997 208 Plan. A copy of the sewer permit for the Southeastern Freight property is included in Attachment H.
ENCLOSURE
Attachment A: Future Sewer Systems, Water and Sewerage Plan for the Greater Columbia Area
Attachment B: Management Agency Map, Columbia Metropolitan Sewer Facilities Plan 1983/84 Update
Attachment C: 12 and 14 Mile Creek Subarea - Alternative OIA, 208 Water Quality Management Plan Update 1985
Attachment D: Allied Engineering Consultants, Inc. Pump To Cayce Sewer System, Central Midlands Regional Planning Council, Study to Evaluate Alternatives to 208/201 Plan Amendments for Lower Saluda River and Red Bank Creek
Attachment E: DMA Area for 12 and 14 Mile Creek Basins, Feasibility Study 14 Mile Creek Sewer Facilities
Attachment F: Management Area Map, 1997 208 Plan
Attachment G: 1996 Aerial Photography, Lexington County GIS
Attachment H: Southeastern Freight Construction Permit, DHEC
Attachment A: Future Sewer Systems, Water and Sewerage Plan for the Greater Columbia Area
Attachment B: Management Agency Map, Columbia Metropolitan Sewer Facilities Plan 1983/84 Update
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CENTRAL MIDLANDS DISTRICT

FINAL PERMIT TO OPERATE NO. 2545

PROJECT: Southeastern Freight Lines Sewer
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT NUMBER: 19,962-DW
COUNTY: Lexington

Based on receipt of engineer's letter of certification, letter of ownership, operation and maintenance, and as-built plans, permission is given to:

Southeastern Freight Lines, Inc.
P.O. Box 1691
Columbia, SC 29202

to place the above referenced project into operation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Installation of approximately 2,910 LF of 10" PVC gravity sewer line, 2,210 LF of 10" DIP gravity sewer line, 871 LF of 8" PVC gravity sewer line, thirty four (34) manholes, and all necessary appurtenances to serve one (1) Southeastern Freight Line, Inc., Corporate Office consisting of 400 employees.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: None.

DATE: September 25, 1995

Brent A. Richardson
Environmental Engineer Associate
Central Midlands District EQC

cc: Community Wastewater Section
Dave Thompson, Domestic Wastewater Division
Janet Turner, Lexington County Planning & Development
Lexington County Health Department
Roger Scott, Palmetto Health District
James F. Sims, P.E., Site Consultants, Inc.
John Cauthen, Utilities Coordinator, City of West Columbia

Environmental Quality Control, Central Midlands District
PO Box 156, State Park, SC 29147 (Phone 935-7015)

recycled paper
Permission is hereby granted to: Southeastern Freight Lines, Inc
P.O. Box 1691
Columbia, SC 29202

for the construction of a sanitary sewer system in accordance with the construction plans, specifications, engineering report and the Construction Permit Application signed by James F. Sims, Registered Professional Engineer, S.C. Registration Number: 2192.

Project Name: SOUTHEASTERN FREIGHT LINES SEWER

County: Lexington

Project Description: Remove and replace 1384.4 LF of 8" gravity sewer with 10" gravity sewer, install 3795.2 LF of 10" gravity sewer, 871.1 LF of 8" gravity sewer, and 31 manholes to serve Southeastern Freight Line, Inc. Corporate Office consisting of 400 employees.

The wastewater will be discharged to the COLUMBIA/METRO treatment facility at a daily rate not to exceed 10000 gallons per day.

The effluent concentrations of those constituents the wastewater treatment system is designed to remove or reduce are contained in NPDES Permit SC0020940.

Special Conditions - (See Back of Construction Permit for Continuation):

1. This permit is being issued based on the technical review being provided by the City of West Columbia under the Delegated Review Program.

Permit Number: 19,962-DW

Expiration Dates: Unless construction begins prior to March 15, 1997 and construction is completed prior to March 15, 1998 this permit will expire.

In accepting this permit, the owner agrees to the admission of properly authorized persons at all reasonable hours for the purpose of sampling and inspection.

THIS IS A PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION ONLY AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL APPROVAL, TEMPORARY OR OTHERWISE, TO PLACE THE SYSTEM IN OPERATION.

Jeffrey P. deBressonnet, P.E., Director
Domestic Wastewater Division

DRP (3/22/95)
Special Conditions for Construction Permit Number: 19,962-DW
Date of Issue: March 16, 1995

2. Sewer lines in relation to water lines must conform to "Ten State Standards", Section 38.3 - 1990 Edition, at a minimum.

3. The sewer lines between existing MH A2 and the pump station must be at least 10" in diameter.