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FYSA- Media Monitoring Report for DR 4241 SC 01/13/16

NEWS CLIPS

SOUTH CAROLINA-DR-4241

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Issues:

- None.

Summary:

- Ways and Means Chairman Brian White, R-Anderson, has already said he plans to aid S.C. farmers, whose crops were washed away during October's historic flooding.
- **FEMA** officials announced Friday that the Richland Main location will close January 13.
- There was a big push in the last legislative session which died after the Senate blocked a proposal to increase gas taxes to fix roads. Now, it's an even bigger issue this year after the October floods took a major toll on much of the state's infrastructure.
- As many as 99 homes in the Irmo-St. Andrews area could be torn down as part of a new strategy to reduce flood damage along Kinley Creek.
- Buying problematic homes makes the most sense to Yarborough, and Pointer would be fine with that, if it meant a permanent fix to a problem that continues for now.
- Tecklenburg said he will work with city council to address flooding and sea level rise as well as achieve sustainable growth in Charleston which is South Carolina's second-largest city.
People in McClellanville are dealing with some major flooding.
- One business owner says it's higher than the October floods when the Lowcountry had record breaking rainfall.
- A group of students from Duke University gave up their winter break to come to Columbia and study the effects of October's flood.
- Motorists who use Long Avenue should have two new bridges by the end of this year, but they'll experience some inconvenience before the bridges over Crabtree and Grier swamps are complete, according to Leland Colvin, acting deputy secretary for engineering with the S.C. Department of Transportation.

Analysis:

- None.

Social Listening Analysis:

- None.

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Floods

MORNING BUZZ: 2016 S.C. legislative session kicks off Tuesday (The State)

By Cassie Cope

[The State](#), January 12, 2016

COLUMBIA

Senators return to tackle roads

S.C. House budget subcommittees to hear agency requests

Gov. Haley prepares to deliver the GOP response

S.C. lawmakers return to Columbia Tuesday to tackle top issues.

In the S.C. Senate, passing a plan to repair roads will be a top priority. However, gas-tax advocates face a \$1.2 billion hurdle in additional money that lawmakers are tasked with deciding how to spend. Senators will also be mourning the loss of state Sen. Billy O'Dell, R-Abbeville, who died last week.

In the S.C. House, budget subcommittees will meet this week to hear state agencies requests for new money. Legislators in the House will write the first draft of the budget. The Ways and Means Committee expects to unveil its spending proposal the week of Feb. 15. Ways and Means Chairman Brian White, R-Anderson, has already said he plans to aid S.C. farmers, whose crops were washed away during October's historic flooding.

Meanwhile, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley will be preparing Tuesday to deliver the GOP response to President Barack Obama's last State of the Union. The address will be live streamed at www.gop.gov/SOTU.

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Infrastructure tops agenda in South Carolina legislative session (WIS)

By Caroline Patrickis

[WISTV 10](#), January 12, 2016

COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) -

South Carolina state lawmakers return to Columbia on Tuesday with a long list of issues to tackle where infrastructure will be the key issue once again.

Lawmakers will welcome a surplus of \$1.2 billion when they return to work, but at the forefront will likely be our state's crumbling roads and bridges.

The big question as they walk into the State House, does the state have enough money to pay for the road repairs without a gas tax increase?

There was a big push in the last legislative session which died after the Senate blocked a proposal to increase gas taxes to fix roads. Now, it's an even bigger issue this year after the October floods took a major toll on much of the state's infrastructure.

During last week's legislative workshop, some lawmakers are optimistic though and expect a road repair plan to pass the Senate by mid-February. Others agree it will happen but could take longer.

"I think there's going to be a lot more appetite in the Senate this year for reforms to the DOT and because of that, I think there's a very high prospect of getting a bill out relatively quickly and back over to the House," Sen. Tom Davis said.

"I'm not quite as optimistic as the senator from Beaufort, but I think we will set it up before the end of the year," Sen. Harvey Peeler said.

Still, a possible gas tax increase is likely to be at the center of debate. South Carolina drivers pay 16.75 cents in taxes per gallon, and it's been that way for nearly 30 years.

Can the House and Senate overcome differences between their proposals and will Gov. Nikki Haley sign a bill that doesn't meet the exact criteria she laid out last year?

Another big issue lawmakers will look to tackle during the session is funding education.

The South Carolina Supreme Court is holding lawmakers responsible for coming up with a plan to improve rural schools and early childhood education.

A court order remains on the table, putting pressure on lawmakers. Everyone agrees it's time to make progress.

"At what point do we stop studying problems and issues and actually do something," asked Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter. "For me, that's where I am with the Abbeville case."

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Removing homes part of plan to reduce floods on creek near Irmo (The State)

By Tim Flach

The State, January 11, 2016

Highlights

Goal is new strategy to lessen problems along Kinley Creek

Up to 99 homes could be razed

Lexington County leaders unsure how to pay for changes

Kinley Creek flows from Broad River Road south to the lower Saluda River in the Irmo-St. Andrews area.

Kinley Creek flows from Broad River Road south to the lower Saluda River in the Irmo-St. Andrews area.

LEXINGTON COUNTY, SC —

As many as 99 homes in the Irmo-St. Andrews area could be torn down as part of a new strategy to reduce flood damage along Kinley Creek.

The idea is among proposals to end a long-standing problem for neighborhoods bordering the creek, flowing from Broad River Road south to the lower Saluda River.

Overflows along the creek often erode backyards and sometimes damage homes and roads. The latest episode occurred during record rainfall Oct. 4 when about 125 homes were damaged, many in the Pine Glen neighborhood.

Three suggested solutions were recommended after a two-year study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the seven-square-mile watershed in Lexington County:

Demolition of 99 homes and moving their residents, estimated to cost \$24.8 million

Drainage improvements on 4.6 miles of the creek, estimated to cost \$18.5 million. County public works officials have suggested adding rock, concrete and vegetation to reduce torrents.

A combination of drainage upgrades and tearing down 47 homes, estimated to cost \$21.4 million.

It is up to Lexington County Council members to settle on which approach, if any, to adopt after receiving the report Tuesday.

Much of the problem stems from development that was allowed along the creek before adoption of stormwater controls to prevent building in flood-prone areas, the study said.

Putting the plan into action promises to be a challenge for a financially pinched county, struggling to add deputies, firefighters and ambulance crews to keep pace with steady growth.

Demolition of homes "ideally is the thing to do," said Councilman Phil Yarborough of Irmo. "But financial constraints are a problem."

Some council members agree a look at the recommendations is warranted.

"This is an age-old problem," incoming council chairman Todd Cullum of Cayce said of flooding along the creek. "The (October) storm put a big highlight on the problem."

Previous efforts to eliminate flooding fell apart amid squabbles over the cost and residents' objections to losing significant shares of their backyards.

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South Carolina Lawmakers Ponder Fix for Flood Damaged Roads (Claims Journal)

By SEANNA ADCOX

[Claims Journal](#), January 12, 2016

While South Carolina legislators pledge to address road funding and flood relief over the next six months, there's no consensus on what they'll do.

A \$1.3 billion windfall makes a compromise even harder. And in a year when every House and Senate seat is up for grabs, concern over attracting challengers could delay votes until after the March 30 filing deadline.

But legislators do agree there's a bright side to October's catastrophic flooding, which caused roadways – many of them already in bad shape – to crumble. At the Oct. 5 peak, more than 500 roads and bridges were closed across the

state, including a long stretch of Interstate 95 that forced a 168-mile detour.

“The flood highlights just how poor our roads and bridges are,” Sen. Greg Hembree, R-North Myrtle Beach, said at a pre-session gathering of reporters Thursday. “It brings a new sense of urgency that’s necessary.”

Fixing South Carolina’s roadways topped last year’s priority list, too.

The House passed a plan last April that would raise an additional \$400 million annually. A bill raising roughly twice that through increases in gas taxes, vehicle sales taxes and license fees reached the Senate floor. But a weekslong filibuster by Sen. Tom Davis blocked a vote.

That bill is back up for debate when the legislative session resumes Tuesday.

“The focus has been on raising the gas tax instead of the need. Once people understand the need, we’ll figure out a way to fund it,” said Rep. Kenny Bingham, R-Cayce. “The need is now obvious.”

But Davis, R-Beaufort, continues his call for reforms first. He said he believes more senators see the need to change the Department of Transportation’s governance structure. He can agree to a gas tax increase later, he said, if the money’s spent wisely and more is still needed.

The \$1.3 billion additional revenue available to spend – much of it surpluses from previous years – complicates the debate, said Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler.

Agencies’ budget requests would gobble up all of that and much more.

But that money makes it “very difficult to go back home and explain to citizens how we’re raising their taxes,” said Peeler, R-Gaffney. “It cuts both ways – people will vote against you if you vote for a gas tax and they’ll vote against you if you don’t fix their roads.”

Republican leaders say any gas tax increase will be accompanied by a tax cut elsewhere. They don’t agree on how much.

“When you raise the gas tax, you have the benefit of those using the roads paying for the roads, but we have enough money to cut taxes at the same time,” Hembree said.

But Democrats say it’s folly to deal with income taxes inside a roads bill.

Roughly \$115 million of the extra revenue will cover the state’s match for federal money spent amid the disaster.

Legislators of both parties say the state should also provide money to farmers who were devastated by flooding at harvest time. The Department of Agriculture estimates direct crop losses from the flooding at \$376 million.

“Everyone I’ve talked to is worried we may well lose many, many farmers in South Carolina if we don’t provide them with aid,” said House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville.

But the amount and how it would be distributed is unknown. Even less clear is whether legislators will help other property owners. The **Federal Emergency Management Agency** has awarded more than \$79 million for home repairs, temporary housing, and other disaster-related expenses. But that’s an average of just \$3,000 per approved household. And roughly 70 percent of the more than 83,000 people who applied for help were denied.

“If they need a roof, **FEMA** gives them enough money for a shingle,” said House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford.

He and other Democrats want the state to use surplus money to help restore homes. But no Republican at Thursday’s gathering backed the idea.

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Two FEMA disaster recovery centers closing Friday in Richland Co, another Jan 13th (WACH)

By Matthew Stevens

WACH, January 7th 2016

RICHLAND COUNTY, SC - FEMA will be closing two of its four recovery centers in Richland County at 6pm Friday.

The disaster recovery centers at Richland County Library Eastover and Temple of Faith Church in Gadsden will shut its doors Friday evening.

The centers are closing as the number of visitors at these locations have been decreasing.

The disaster centers at Richland Library Southeast on Garners Ferry Road and Richland Main Library on Assembly Street are still open in the county.

However, **FEMA** officials announced Friday that the Richland Main location will close January 13.

Residents who need assistance can also call the **FEMA** helpline at 1-800-621-**FEMA** or visit disasterassistance.gov.

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Lexington Co. unveils study of problematic, flood-prone creek (Live 5 News)

By Chad Mills

[Live 5 News](#), Jan 12, 2016

LEXINGTON COUNTY, SC (WIS) -

The historic October flood left its mark on David Pointer's Lexington County home.

"It looked like we were in house boats. I mean, as far as you can see with your camera everything was surrounded by water," Pointer said.

But for Pointer, who bought his home on Lockner Circle in 1976, it was nothing new. It's flooded before, since his house is on Kinley Creek, which flows in several tributaries from the Irmo-area down into Lower Saluda River. It's this creek that Pointer says is the problem.

"Once Harbison started being built, we experienced more and more flooding," he said. "October the 4th was the worst, but we've had flooding for years."

Many of the homes affected weren't in the floodplain decades ago because, at that point, state and county stormwater management regulations didn't exist.

Engineers said urbanization along Harbison Boulevard and Piney Grove Road without proper stormwater management has increased the amount of water flowing into this neighborhood and others on the creek, and all that water has helped erode the creek and overwhelm it at times.

"This has been an ongoing problem, as you've heard, since 1974, and, from what I understand, even small rain events are overtopping its bank and flooding people's yards and, in some cases, their homes," said Colt Bowles, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Planner for Civil Works in the Charleston District.

Now, Lexington County is looking at the problem more closely. In a Tuesday afternoon meeting, county engineers released a joint study with the Army Corps of Engineers. In it, engineers recommend either restructuring and widening the creek, buying and destroying at-risk homes, or doing a bit of both.

"These people have families and children that they have to relocate to rebuild, and then when the flood happens again, the cycle starts over and over and over. It's a repetitive cycle," said Councilman Phil Yarborough, who represents the affected area.

Buying problematic homes makes the most sense to Yarborough, and Pointer would be fine with that, if it meant a permanent fix to a problem that continues for now.

"It will absolutely continue. Absolutely continue. I mean, it's been going on for years," he said.

However, it likely won't be a simple fix. It probably won't be a cheap one either. The three recommended plans for Kinley Creek (out of a total of 12 plans devised in the study) cost \$18-\$24 million.

Councilman Todd Cullum said he didn't know if that level of funding would even be available.

There were also questions about whether other municipalities in the watershed should be involved.

Nevertheless, the council said it'll read this study in an effort to find a feasible solution.

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Flood victims recovering while help centers begin to close (WACH)

By Tara Petitt

[WACH](#), January 8th 2016

COLUMBIA, SC (WACH) - While officials say plenty of progress has been made in the road to recovery, thousands of people are still picking up the pieces from October's flooding.

Three months after Chuck Hassel's home was destroyed, he's starting fresh. Hassel's home off Kilbourne Road in Columbia suffered heavy water damage. He had to remove everything.

"I had a wonderful collection of magazines and stuff that I kept over the years and history of, I'm a car nut, so a history of my cars I've had, and the photos and brochures and that all was just just destroyed."

The storm isn't making headlines anymore, recovery centers are closing, and volunteers are thinning out, but it's not over for many people, like Chuck.

"Its gonna take a long time I think."

"There's gonna be a lot of work to be done, there's gonna be infrastructure repair that's going on, and some of this will take time, but pretty confident that they'll come around and make a nice recovery here," said FEMA Media Relations Manager, Jim Homstad.

So far, the federal government has received more than 330 million dollars in flood claims.

Hassel received assistance from FEMA and the Small Business Administration after stopping by a local Disaster Recovery Center.

"The inside of the house doesn't look so good.. but I still love the house.. I've been here twelve years, and you know, I just love the house, and so I hate to see this happen to it," said Hassel.

He won't be living on Kilbourne Road, though. If he chose to stay, he would have to raise the house. Instead, he's

using assistance dollars to buy a new home.

Even though the deadline has passed for disaster assistance, you can still call 1-800-621-**FEMA** and share your circumstances on an individual basis. **FEMA** officials just want to re-iterate to not apply more than once. You can use your same registration number for 18 months and change anything during that period.

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New Charleston Mayor Says City Can't Rest On Success

[Associated Press](#), January 12, 2016

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Charleston's first new mayor in four decades says the city cannot rest on the success that has made it one of the world's top visitor destinations in recent decades.

Local media outlets report that John Tecklenburg said in his inaugural address Monday that the city must continue to move forward and find better ways to deal with public safety and tourism and work to improve education so everyone can share in Charleston's success.

Tecklenburg succeeds Joe Riley who has retired after 10 terms and was the longest-serving mayor in Charleston history.

Tecklenburg said he will work with city council to address flooding and sea level rise as well as achieve sustainable growth in Charleston which is South Carolina's second-largest city.

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2016 Legislative Session Kicks Off In Columbia

[Associated Press](#), January 12, 2016

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Legislators are back in Columbia for South Carolina's January-to-June legislative session.

The House and Senate will gavel in the 2016 session at noon Tuesday. Legislators' top priorities this session will be funding improvements to the state's crumbling roads and bridges, providing flood relief following last fall's historic rainfall and addressing a court order to improve public schools.

The state Supreme Court gave legislators until the end of session to come up with a plan for fixing the educational system. That revised November order followed a ruling by justices one year earlier that poor, rural students lack educational opportunities.

Justices were ruling on a lawsuit initially filed by rural districts in 1993.

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McClellanville dealing with flooding, landowner says worse than October floods (WCSC)

By Alexis Simmons

[WCSC](#) Jan 11, 2016

MCCLELLANVILLE, SC -

People in McClellanville are dealing with some major flooding.

One business owner says it's higher than the October floods when the Lowcountry had record breaking rainfall. The area is about a mile away from Hampton Plantation State Park on Rutledge Road.

Community members believe the Santee Cooper Dam water spill is causing the water to rise. Santee Cooper's spilling of the dams is a normal part of their operations to cope with high rainfall.

Cumpase and Shirley Lawrence say they left their vacation early when he got the call about the recent flooding.

"I got the notice that the water was getting excessively high again, I was concerned so I had to try to get back here and assess the situation," says Lawrence.

He and his wife Shirley own PJ's Mini-Mart and BJ's Sport's Bar off Rutledge Road in McClellanville.

"It's never been like this in the 19 years that we've been here," they say.

The Lawrences believe when Santee Cooper increased the spill rate of the Santee Dam on Lake Marion, it caused this flooding.

When reached out to Santee Cooper it was the first time it heard about these conditions. Officials say it takes a while for the water to flow downstream and it's unusual for this to impact McClellanville in this way. Officials also say it could be a combination of tidal waves and heavy rainfall over a long period of time.

"I can understand that situation that they're trying to not cause a dam break, that's understandable," says Cumpase. "Then again if someone is out here to be able to access this situation to help us better understand why it's happening."

The area in front of their business looks like a lake, but under normal conditions it's dry land. There was a road that went across the front of their property, but that is not completely submerged with water nearly four feet high.

Shirley says the postal worker had to back up in the water earlier in the week in order to get to the mailbox. There's also a mobile home on their property that the couple is renting out to some friends. The home sits on a hill.

"That water was actually seven feet deep in the front of the house," says Cumpase.

He says earlier this week the people who live in this mobile home had to walk on a stack of bricks as a bridge from the water.

"It's not only damage to the property because it's going to be soggy and messy and everything, but then again the wildlife and everything that's inside this piece of property right here is going to be affected as well," says Cumpase.

The water has receded a few feet since Saturday, but the people living and working in this area say they don't know when it might rise again.

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Help Duke Students With Flood Research, Earn Giftcard (WLTX)

Savannah Levins,

[WLTX](#), January 8, 2016

COLUMBIA, SC (WLTX)- A group of students from Duke University gave up their winter break to come to Columbia and study the effects of October's flood.

They have set up their university-funded "Research Mobile" in the parking lot of the vacant Piggly Wiggly on Garners Ferry Road.

There, they are collecting research by interviewing flood victims, under the guidance of professor Elizabeth Albright.

"We ask them please tell us what you went through," Albright explained. "And then we break it down in terms of what did you do to prepare for the floods? What did you do during the floods? How have you been recovering post floods?"

They hope to use people's responses to study what can be done differently next time a natural disaster strikes.

My concerns in coming down and conducting interviews with the public is that people would be scared to talk about it," Albright said. "But I found just the opposite to be true. The people really open up to the experience and want to share what they've been through."

Anya Bali is one of eight students selected to be a part of the research team.

She says it's been an eye opening experience.

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Great Pee Dee, Waccamaw Rivers continue to slowly drop (WMBF)

By [WMBF News](#), Jan 11, 2016

MYRTLE BEACH, SC The water levels on both the Waccamaw and Great Pee Dee Rivers will continue to drop through this week.

As of Monday, The Waccamaw River was at 12.3 feet. With the forecast of dry weather through late Thursday, the river will continue to slowly drop. By Saturday evening, the River is forecast to drop to 11.3 feet. Flood stage is 11 feet. While the water levels are dropping, flooding will linger in the flood-prone areas of Lees Landing, Riverfront South, Pitch Landing, and Savannah Bluff. Minor flooding will also linger on the south end of the Intracoastal Waterway near Socastee and Bucksport.

The Great Pee Dee River is also falling rather quickly now. Minor flooding starts at 19 feet and the river is currently at 19.97 feet. The river is forecast to fall below flood stage by late Thursday or early Friday.

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Columbia Classical Ballet Company Thrives Despite Flood Damage (WLTX)

Janae Frazier,

[WLTX](#), January 11, 2016

Columbia, SC Flood water plundered their dance studio last year, but getting back to the stage has a group of Columbia artists in full swing.

Members of the Columbia Classical Ballet Company perfectly point their toes and gracefully stretch their arms to prepare for their upcoming show next week.

Dancers from all over the world rehearsing in a less than typical dance studio, the Richland Mall.

"We had eight feet of water inside" the company's artistic director Radenko Pavlovich said passionately. "All of the doors through the glass, they were busted, and when they went in they had the snakes and the fish swimming inside in the studio."

The company was forced out of their home studio, Pavlovich Ballet School in Forest Acres.

Pavlovich is still coming to terms with the destruction of his facility.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life," Pavlovich explained.

He had just spent \$260,000 renovating the studio this past summer to see it all washed away. Not to mention the

thousands of dollars' worth of custom costumes, music and memories lost in the flood.

But from the heartbreak has built strength.

"Aside from the fact that I had a heart attack after, I think made me stronger, made the company stronger, and it really showed the unity of the dancers," Pavlovich said.

He and his company have not only found strength from each other but also in the generosity of strangers.

"It's been amazing how much support we've gotten from dancers in Columbia, and dancers from all over the country and all over the world, you know we have people tweeting about us and raising money," company dancer Emma Stratton explained.

The company hopes to rebuild and make the studio waterproof as soon as possible. They're waiting to be approved for a building permit.

The work is just beginning on their old studio and while they wait, they are continuing to work hard in their temporary space, because after all, the show must go on.

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Marion County roads still closed from flooding, what to expect with more rain this weekend (WBTW)

By Taylor Herlong

[WBTW](#), January 9, 2016

water on road

MARION COUNTY, SC— Many roads in Marion County remain closed after heavy rainfall last week caused the Little Pee Dee and the Great Pee Dee rivers to flood.

Many of you asked News 13 if the rainfall this weekend would cause additional flooding.

The Great Pee Dee River is in moderate flood stage at a little over 23 feet and is expected to drop to minor flood stage on Sunday.

The little Pee Dee is in minor flood stage at a little over 10.24 feet and is expected to drop below flood stage by Wednesday.

Marion County Emergency Management Director Jerry Williams says they are not expecting any additional problems from the rain coming this weekend.

Most areas are expected to see less than ½ inch of rain.

"It's going to be flooded probably until the middle of next week. We're looking at hopefully being able to get in there with I'm not going to say dry roads, but drivable roads hopefully by the middle of next week," said Williams.

Williams says Marion County road crews will be out monitoring the roads and trying to make sure they stay safe and open as much as possible, but with the extra water on the roads all week, he says drivers need to take precautions.

"You want to be careful when you come up to water puddles. You don't know how deep they are. You don't know if the water settling in the road or in the open area is due to a washout or if it's just a puddle that's only maybe an inch deep. You just don't know," said Williams.

Many of the roads will remain closed until the water dries up enough for crews to repair them.

Highway 9 in Gresham near Canary Court, Knife Island Court, and Pee Dee Island Road are all still closed.

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Bridges over Crabtree and Grier swamps should be ready by the end of 2016 (My Horry News)

By Kathy Ropp

[My Horry News](#), Jan 8, 2016

Motorists who use Long Avenue should have two new bridges by the end of this year, but they'll experience some inconvenience before the bridges over Crabtree and Grier swamps are complete, according to Leland Colvin, acting deputy secretary for engineering with the S.C. Department of Transportation.

Conway City Council invited Colvin and Mike Wooten, vice chairman of the S.C. Highway Commission, to attend Monday night's council meeting after a presentation on the bridge replacements late in October left some members with questions and concerns.

Councilman William Goldfinch wasn't happy that the Grier Swamp Bridge was scheduled for replacement because he fears having it closed for months will be a big inconvenience for the residents who live beyond it. He said people near Crabtree Swamp can get to their destinations by using Country Club or East Country Club drives, but people near Grier Swamp don't have handy alternatives.

However, after hearing Colvin's presentation and asking several questions, Goldfinch seemed convinced that the bridge replacements need to be made, and Colvin agreed to do what he could to expedite the replacement of the bridge

over Grier Swamp. He said the bridges are built off-site and put in place in one piece, so that step of the process is done fairly quickly. Driving the pylons is what takes the bulk of the time, he said.

Councilman Tom Anderson also questioned Colvin pointedly because he wants the bridges and roadbeds raised to help prevent future flooding.

Colvin said the bridges are set for bidding Tuesday and work should begin in March. The bridges won't be replaced at the same time. Work will be completed on one before workers to move to the next one. Total time to replace both bridges is estimated at about eight months.

Wooten spent some time explaining the recent flood's classification.

He said there's a misconception that a 25-year flood, for instance, is supposed to happen only once every 25 years, but that isn't what the classification means.

It actually means that there's a one in 25 chance of a flood that size coming in any given year. A 25-year flood takes about 7.5 inches of rain in 24 hours, he said.

The designations are based on historical records.

Wooten said all bridges must be designed for 25-year floods, but state roads must have bridges built for 50-year events. There are some bridges built for 100-year floods.

He said nobody knows what frequency the October 2015 flood will have.

"I just hope I don't see another one," he said, adding that 22 to 23-inches of rain fell.

There is a one in 200 chance that that amount will fall in any given year, he said.

There's no way all bridges can be built for "those freak events," he said, which is how he classifies the October flood.

Colvin told the group that the S.C. Legislature passed a bill in 2012 increasing the sales tax and designating the proceeds to, among other things, repair some of the state's older bridges. There is \$50 million available now for bridge replacement.

State officials hope to replace a number of their 400 bridges that are load restricted, he said.

Crabtree and Grier swamps are on that list. Both bridges, built in 1956, are restricted to loads of 33 tons and both don't meet current code requirements. He said the bridges are safe, but decaying. The current standard is to accommodate vehicles that are up to 40 tons. If these two bridges weaken any more, their allowable loads will be dropped again, which could eliminate garbage trucks, school buses and other important vehicles.

The SCDOT plans to widen both bridges and lengthen the bridge spans, allowing better water flow.

Colvin said raising the bridges and roadbeds would simply create dams that would be more harmful than the present bridges to the bulk of residents who live near the swamps, backing up water into their yards and homes.

And, he said, "The height of it isn't as important as the hydraulic opening."

Plus, he said, the State doesn't have enough money to go higher, and spending more on Horry's bridges will cause the department to have to do the same thing for the others that are being rebuilt around the state. The SCDOT has contracts now for \$43.8 million for 62 bridges. Seventeen projects have been completed.

Anderson said while the bridges were closed he got a lot of calls from irate people who complained that the water was under the bridges not on them, but the SCDOT wouldn't let them cross over.

Wooten said highway officials don't know if a bridge is damaged until the water goes down, so if they erred during the uncertain days it was on the side of safety.

He said Horry was fortunate that no one drove over the bridges and got hurt.

Although the Crabtree and Grier Swamp bridges are beginning to deteriorate, they are safe now, he said.

"If they were unsafe, they'd be closed," Wooten said.

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Group collects items to help flood victims in S.C. (Daily Reflector)

By Holly West

[The Daily Reflector](#), January 4, 2016

Monday, A group of Pitt County residents are pooling their resources to help flood victims in South Carolina get their houses back to living condition.

Focus Group of Pitt County is collecting cleaning supplies to send to Kingstree, S.C., where historic rainfall led to devastating flooding in early October. Many residents were forced out of their homes at the time and returned to buildings full of mold, mildew and other water damage.

Ben Johnson, one of the organizers of Focus Group's fundraising campaign, said it's important to help people get resettled now that colder temperatures are setting in. Focus Group is working with Siloam Baptist Church in Kingstree to help get the supplies to residents..

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Support expressed for removal of homes near Irmo for flood control (The State)

By Tim Flach

[The State](#), January 12, 2016

Highlights

Part of new strategy for reducing Kinley Creek problems

Uncertainty if improvements affordable

No quick fix foreseen

LEXINGTON COUNTY, SC--Demolition of homes and relocation of residents won support Tuesday from some Lexington County Council members as part of a new effort to reduce flood damage along Kinley Creek.

Razing some homes along the creek in the Irmo-St. Andrews area was endorsed by Councilman Phil Yarborough, who represents those neighborhoods.

“It would help end the cycle of damage and repair,” he said. “It’s going to be part of the solution.”

Yarborough isn’t sure how many homes should be considered for removal after a report recommended up to 99 be torn down.

Demolition of homes is “a last resort” but necessary to explore, consultant William Lamb told council members.

Razing homes in the most flood-prone areas bordering the creek would help “take the biggest bite out” of a long-standing problem, he said.

The creek flows through several neighborhoods from Broad River Road south to the lower Saluda River.

Tearing down 99 homes is estimated to cost \$24.8 million, a hefty price tag for a county struggling to add deputies, firefighters and ambulance crews amid steady growth.

Some council members want adjoining Richland County and Columbia City Hall to chip in since the upper part of the creek flows through those areas.

“There’s going to have to be multiple partners in this if there’s ever going to be a resolution,” Council Chairman Todd Cullum of Cayce said.

But Lexington County should bear the tab since it allowed most development along creek, homeowner Dan Dabkowski said.

Much of the problem stems from development allowed before adoption of restrictions on building near waterways, the report said.

Some neighborhood leaders are urging residents to give up part of backyard for drainage improvements. “That’s what we’re working on,” said Art Guerry, president of the Whitehall Homeowners Association.

Others said ending floods will take time. “There is no easy fix,” long-time Whitehall resident Chester Sansbury said.

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TV/Radio Clips



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FEMA on WBTW (CBS) - Myrtle Beach, SC

01/13/2016 05:07:04

News 13 First Morning (News)

... folks recovering from the october flooding... FEMA has a help-line set up... for questions about decision letters...information about home inspections... and other questions ...



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FEMA on WLTX - COL (CBS) - Columbia, SC

01/13/2016 05:10:12

News 19 @ 5am (News)

... today... but services will still be available through the FEMA helpline.disaster recovery center at the richland main library on assembly street... will close at 6pm today. survivors (the ...



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[FEMA on WOLO- COL \(ABC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

01/13/2016 05:21:09

Good Morning Columbia (Other)

... holding their "disaster recovery center"... questions about FEMA and other flood related issues will be answered... the disaster recover center closes at six tonight. for ...



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[FEMA on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

01/13/2016 05:24:49

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... michigan governor rick snyder has now requested help from FEMA. he requested that FEMA coordinates a recovery plan with other federal agencies to provide more ...



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[FEMA on WBTW \(CBS\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

01/13/2016 05:56:15

News 13 Early Morning (News)

... folks recovering from the october flooding... FEMA has a help-line set up... for questions about decision letters...information about home inspections... and other questions ...



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[FEMA on WBTW \(CBS\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

01/13/2016 06:07:07

News 13 This Morning (News)

... folks recovering from the october flooding... FEMA has a help-line set up... for questions about decision letters...information about home inspections... and other questions ...



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[FEMA. on WLTX - COL \(CBS\) - Columbia, SC](#)

01/13/2016 06:10:17

News 19 @ 6am (News)

... today, but services will continue to be available for the FEMA helpline. a disaster recover center at the richland main library will close at 6 p.m. today. ...



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[FEMA on WOLO- COL \(ABC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

01/13/2016 06:20:57

Good Morning Columbia (Other)

... library is holding their "disaster recovery center." questions about FEMA and other flood related issues will be answered. the disaster recover center closes at 6:00 tonight. ...



FEMA. on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

01/13/2016 06:24:16

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... michigan gov. rick snyder has requested support from FEMA to help with flint's drinking water crisis. snyder has asked FEMA to coordinate a recovery plan with other federal agen that ...

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FEMA. on WACH - COL (FOX) - Columbia, SC

01/13/2016 06:35:04

WACH Fox Good Day (News)

... library will be closing tonight at 6 of -- at 6:00. FEMA officials say you can still get help calling the number on your screen. >>> in your health wach this morning, listen up, paren ..

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FEMA on WBTW (CBS) - Myrtle Beach, SC

01/13/2016 06:55:46

News 13 This Morning (News)

... folks recovering from the october flooding... FEMA has a help-line set up... for questions about decision letters...information about home inspections... and other questions ...

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FEMA on WLTX - COL (CBS) - Columbia, SC

01/13/2016 06:56:13

News 19 @ 6am (News)

... here in richland county will close today, but services will still be available for the FEMA helpline disaster recovery center at the richland maine library a will close at 6 p.m. today. .

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