

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Briton S. Williams, Mayor

Jenafer F. McCauley, Councilmember – Mayor Pro Tem

David B. Buck, Councilmember

Pat C. Carpenter, Councilmember

David W. McGhee, Councilmember

Eric H. Presnell, Councilmember

Kevin W. Toole, Councilmember

ORDER OF BUSINESS

STUDY SESSION

The Study Session of September 11, 2023 for the City Council of the City of North Augusta, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Mayor Briton S. Williams at 6:03 p.m. and also streamed online for public viewing at the City Facebook page: “City of North Augusta – Public Information” and City YouTube page: “City of North Augusta Public Information.”

Per Section 30-4-80(e) notice of the meetings was sent out by email to the current maintained “Agenda Mailout” list consisting of news media outlets and individuals or companies requesting notification. Notice of the meetings was also posted on the outside doors of the Municipal Center, the main bulletin board of the Municipal Center located on the first floor, and the City of North Augusta website.

Members present were Mayor Williams, Councilmembers Buck, Carpenter, McCauley, McGhee, Presnell, and Toole.

Also in attendance were James S. Clifford, City Administrator; Thomas C. Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works; James Sutton, Director of Public Services; Lt. Junior Johnson, Public Safety; Rick Meyer, Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism; Thomas L. Paradise, Director of Planning and Development; Lynda Williamson, Director of Finance, Kayla Ferguson, Manager of Human Resources; Kevin Whaley, GIS Analyst; and Jamie Paul, City Clerk.

Mayor Williams stated that in the foyer on the first floor of the Municipal Building there is a Flag of Honor displayed with the names who perished in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. He had a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims and families.

ITEM 1. CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Administrator Clifford led Council's discussion of items for the September 18, 2023 regular meeting. **(See Attachment #1)**

Mr. Clifford stated that item numbers 6 and 7 on the Draft agenda will be removed and possibly item number 8.

ITEM 2. DEPARTMENT DETAILS:

City department directors and managers provided departmental updates. **(See Attachment #2)**

ITEM 3. MAYOR'S MATTERS:

(A) FOCUS ITEM(S):

- i. Update from Engineering on Pole Branch Watershed

Stormwater Superintendent Strickland presented to Council an update on the Pole Branch Remediation Project. She highlighted on the issues, grant, results, and current and future issues and areas of concern. **(See Attachment #3Ai)**

- ii. Update on Fiscal Year 2023

Administrator Clifford updated Council on Fiscal Year 2023 budget and other fiscal expenditures. **(See Attachment #3Aii)**

- (B) Mayor Williams will share reflections and announcements related to current City events and opportunities

Mayor Williams asked for residents to join the following City Facebook Pages to stay up to date on information throughout the City:

- City of North Augusta – Public Information
- North Augusta Parks Recreation and Tourism
- North Augusta Public Safety
- Briton Williams, Mayor of North Augusta, SC


Mayor Williams thanked everyone who participated in the 2023 Trash Bash at the Border on September 9, 2023.

Mayor Williams highlighted on the following:

- Border Bash, September 15th at SRP Park, gates open at 5:00pm


The Study Session adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 18th DAY OF
SEPTEMBER, 2013.



Briton S. Williams
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Paul
City Clerk



PUBLIC POWER HOUR

September 18, 2023 – 5:30 p.m. - Municipal Center – 100 Georgia Avenue, 3rd Floor - Council Chambers

DRAFT AGENDA: CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 18, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – Municipal Center – 100 Georgia Avenue, 3rd Floor - Council Chambers

The Public Power Hour and Regular City Council meeting will be streamed for public viewing online at:

- “City of North Augusta – Public Information” on www.Facebook.com
- “City of North Augusta Public Information” on www.YouTube.com

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Citizens may speak to Mayor and City Council on each item listed on this agenda. The Mayor will call for comments prior to Council’s discussion. Speakers shall give their name and address in an audible tone of voice. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza at the entrance for speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic. The form will be included as part of the minutes of the meeting. Citizen comments are limited to five minutes.

CITIZEN ASSISTANCE: Individuals needing special assistance or sign interpreter to participate in the meeting, please notify the Administration Department 48 hours prior to the meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- City Council Meeting minutes of August 21, 2023
- Special Called City Council Meeting minutes of September 7, 2023
- Special Called City Council Public Hearing and Meeting minutes of September 11, 2023
- Study Session minutes of September 11, 2023

5. **PROCLAMATIONS:**

- a. Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week, September 10-16, 2023
- b. Constitution Week, September 17-23, 2023
- c. Stormwater Awareness Week, September 24-30, 2023
- d. Recognition of Don “Ramblin” Rhodes

OLD BUSINESS

6. **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:** Ordinance No. 2023-15 Adopting the North Augusta Development Code, Chapter 18 of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina Code of Ordinances, Providing for New Zoning and Land Development Regulations and Updating the City-Wide Zoning Map Accordingly – Second Reading

NEW BUSINESS

7. **ADMINISTRATION:** Resolution No. 2023-32 Resolution Authorizing Expenditure of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – Expenditure Request 8
8. **ADMINISTRATION:** Resolution No. 2023-33 for Transfer Station
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**
10. **PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**
 - A. **Citizen Comments:** *At this time, citizens may speak to Mayor and City Council regarding matters not listed on the agenda. Speakers shall give their name and address for the records. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza for speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic. The form will be included as part of the minutes of the meeting. Citizen comments are limited to five minutes.*
 - B. **Council Comments:**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

DEPARTMENT DETAILS*for September 11, 2023***FINANCE:**

- Cycle 1 Disconnect Dates – September 19th and 20th
- Cycle 2 Due Date – September 18th
- Certified Letters for delinquent City taxes were sent out last week
- Property postings are planned for October 2nd and 3rd

PUBLIC SERVICES:

- Monticello Estates – Wastewater Line Testing
- Bluff Avenue Streetscape – Utility Improvements

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

- Planning Commission meeting September 20th
- 2005 Arch Drive clean up completed

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Still in the process of accepting letters from wreckers for the rotation for next year, cutoff is October 1st
- In the transition phase of the new software SmartCop

PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM:

- Aluminum bridge to Villages at Riverview project is scheduled for fabrication and installation in October
- Destination Augusta's economic impact for the 2023 Nike Peach Jam totaled \$14,646,013
- PRT had 6 staff members participate in the trash bash on Saturday

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS:

- Cypress Drive/Greenway Restroom Sidewalk
- Knobcone Avenue Sidewalk
- Waterworks Greenway Bridge
- Bluegrass/Mealing Storm Drainage

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- See the following page for the Employment Opportunities list



EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES

Firefighter – Public Safety

Grade: 4

Salary/Pay Rate: \$13.31 - \$15.97/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Heavy Equipment Operator I – Streets & Drains

Grade: 9

Salary/Pay Rate: \$17.96 - \$21.56

Closing Date: Until Filled

Laborer – Streets and Drains

Grade: 4

Salary/Pay Rate: \$13.31 - \$15.97/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Maintenance Technician – PRT

Grade: 12

Salary/Pay Rate: \$20.76 - \$24.91/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Meter Reader/Service Technician – Utilities

Grade: 9

Salary/Pay Rate: \$17.96 - \$21.56

Closing Date: Until Filled

Public Safety Officer – Public Safety

Grade: 15

Salary/Pay Rate: \$22.04 - \$26.45/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

Utility Technician – Public Utilities

Grade: 9

Salary/Pay Rate: \$17.96 - \$21.56

Closing Date: Until Filled

Engineering and Stormwater Management

Pole Branch Remediation Project

Presented to Council - City Council Study Session

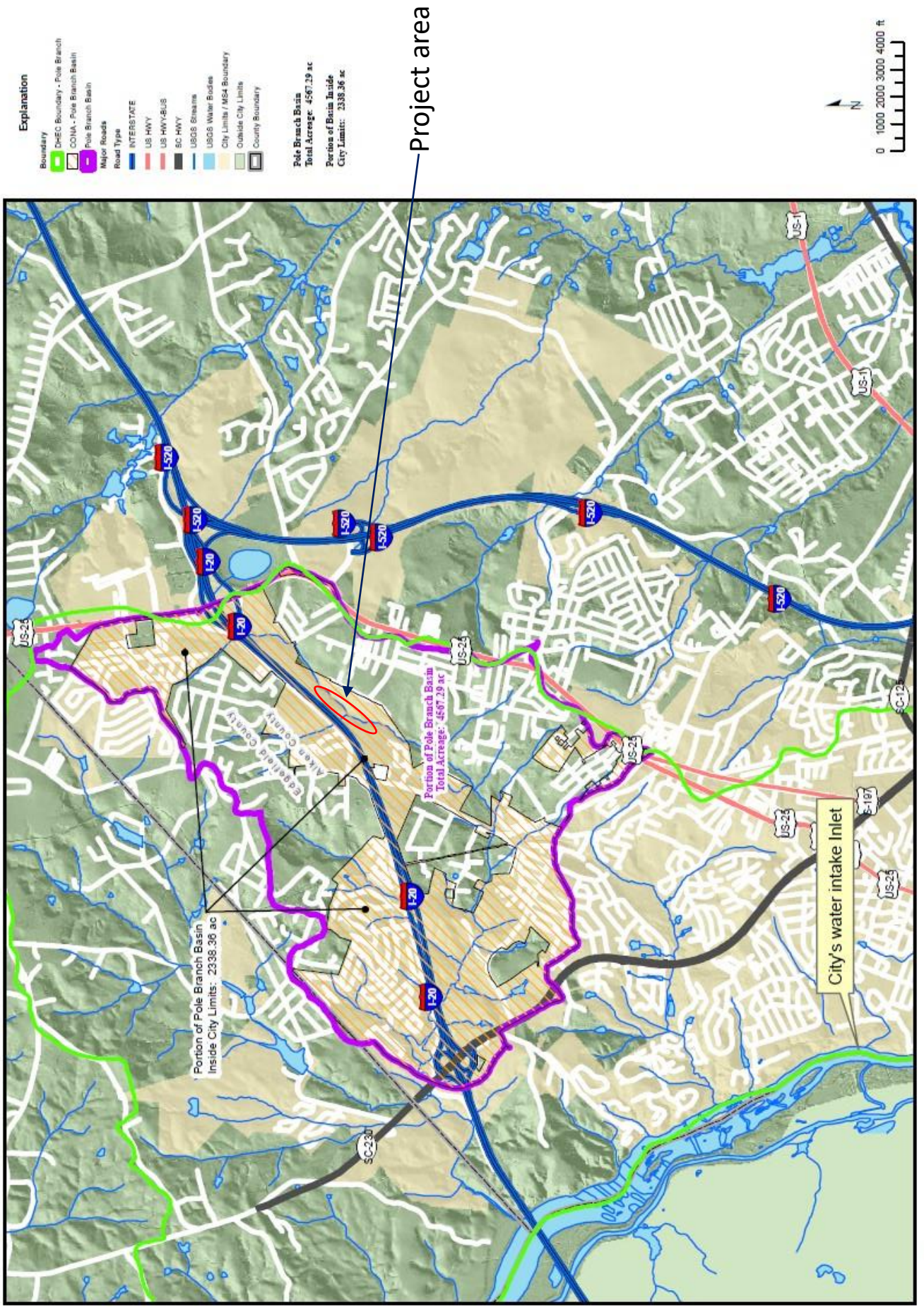
09/11/2023



As always - Michaela for Scale

Project Overview to Council

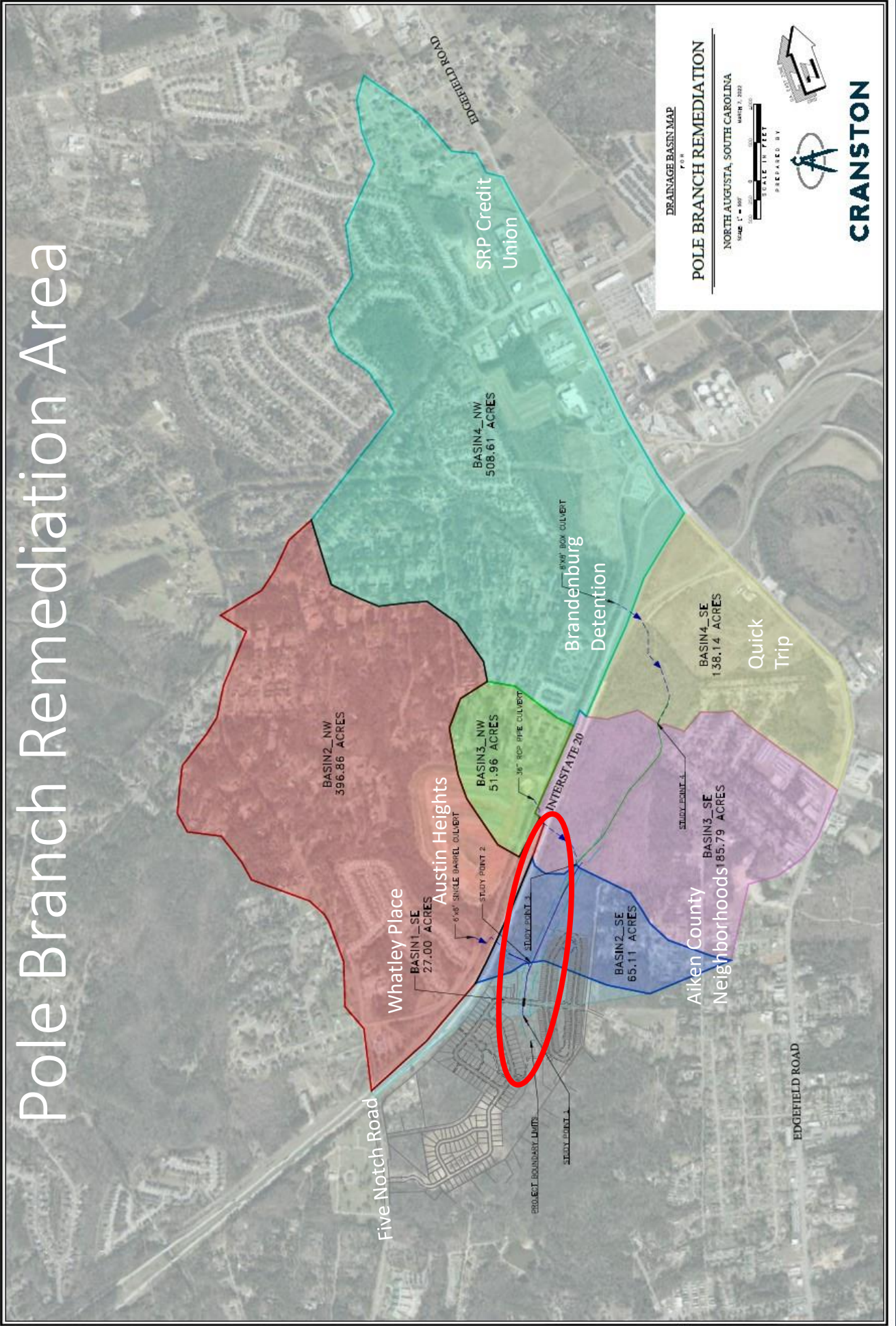
1. Pole Branch Watershed
2. Pole Branch Issues (Upper reach)
3. Project – Emergency Watershed Protection Grant
4. Results of this project - video
5. Current and Future issues and areas of concern



Overview of Pole Branch Basin



Pole Branch Remediation Area



DRAINAGE BASIN MAP
FOR
POLE BRANCH REMEDIATION
NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA
SCALE 1" = 400'
MARCH 13, 2022

PREPARED BY

CRANSTON

Pole Branch Remediation Basin



Future Road Crossing (Rushing Waters II to III)



Austin Heights Detention Area – Crossing under I-20 (top of spur)



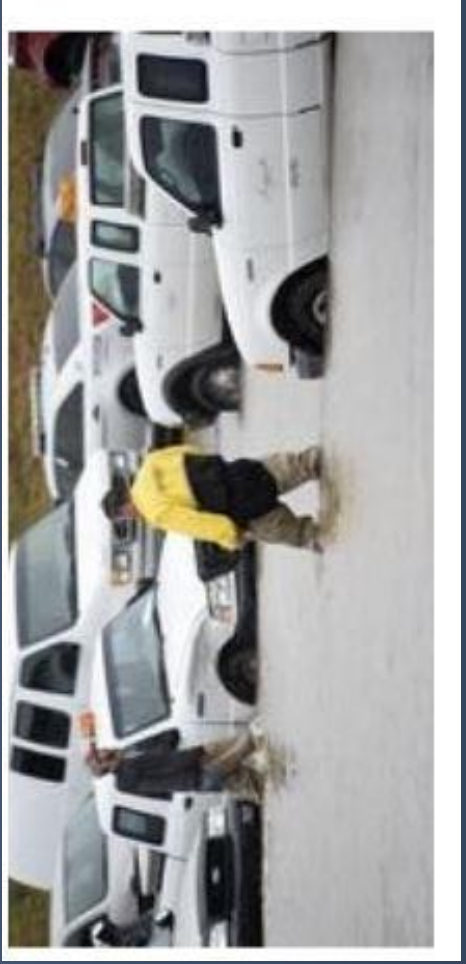
Brandenburg Detention Area – Crossing under I-20 Exit 5 (to Pole Branch)

A River Runs Through IT

Photos: Hurricane Sally rains flood Augusta (9.17.20)

September 17, 2020 at 12:25 pm

Heavy rains from the remnants of Hurricane Sally flooded streets, cars and buildings in the Augusta area Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020.

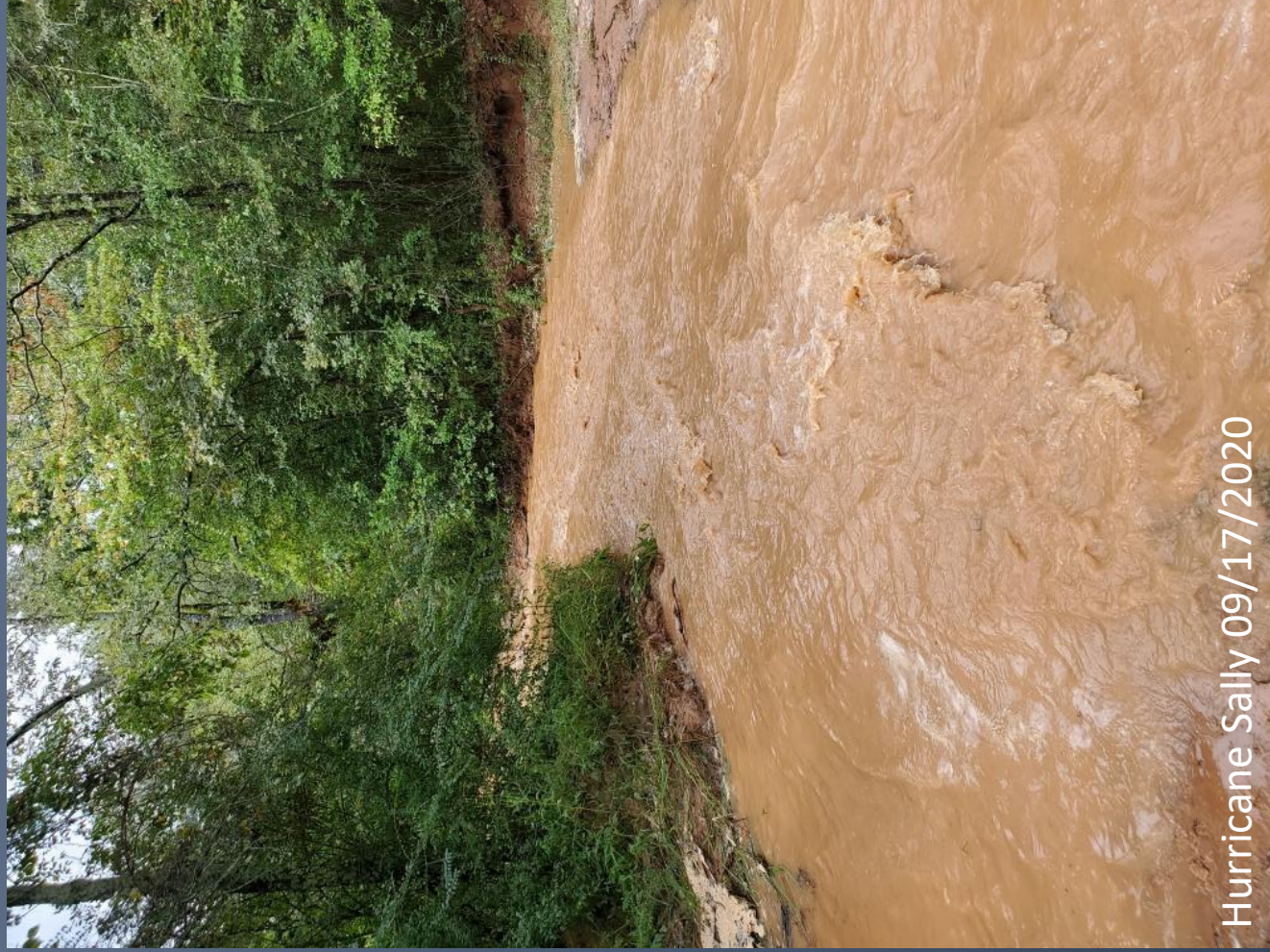


Sally Rainfall Events

09/16/2020 ~6.4"

09/17/2020 ~4"

Pole Branch Watershed Problems Revealed



Hurricane Sally 09/17/2020



Hurricane Sally 09/17/2020

DAMAGES

Sewer trunk line ruptured in lower reach causing spill.

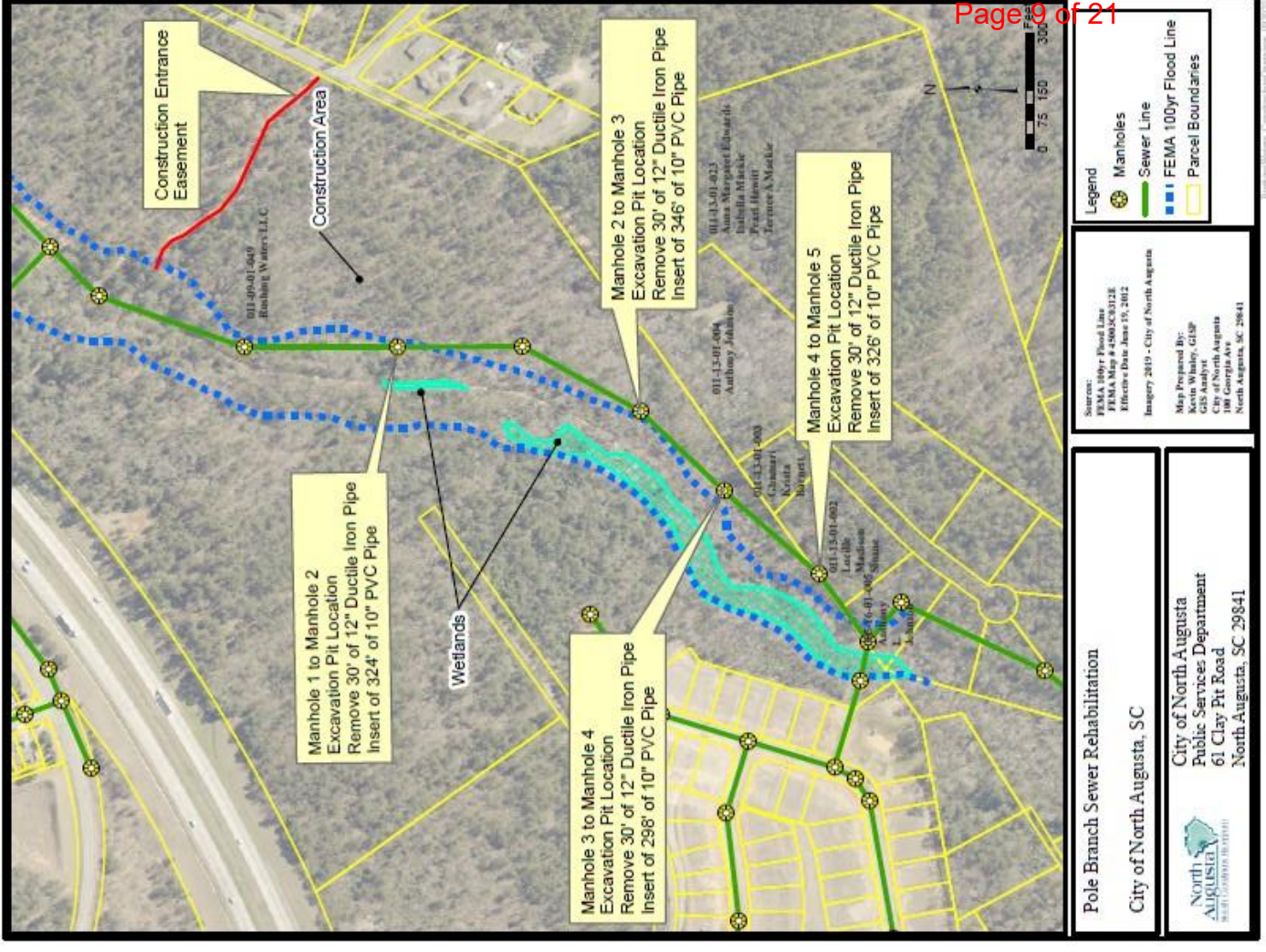
Sediment laden water entered trunk line.

Easement was severely eroded and impassable.

Emergency Actions

September 2020 - Public Utilities

- Emergency repair of drainage way and utility easement (restored easement with rock and fill dirt) for access.
- Emergency repair of sewer line in lower reach to stop spill
- Continued Repairs to reinforce failing sewer line (major repairs)
- SWMD - Find emergency funding to stabilize this easement that is continuing to erode during this time



HEAVY STORMS CONTINUED – Volume of rainfall excessive

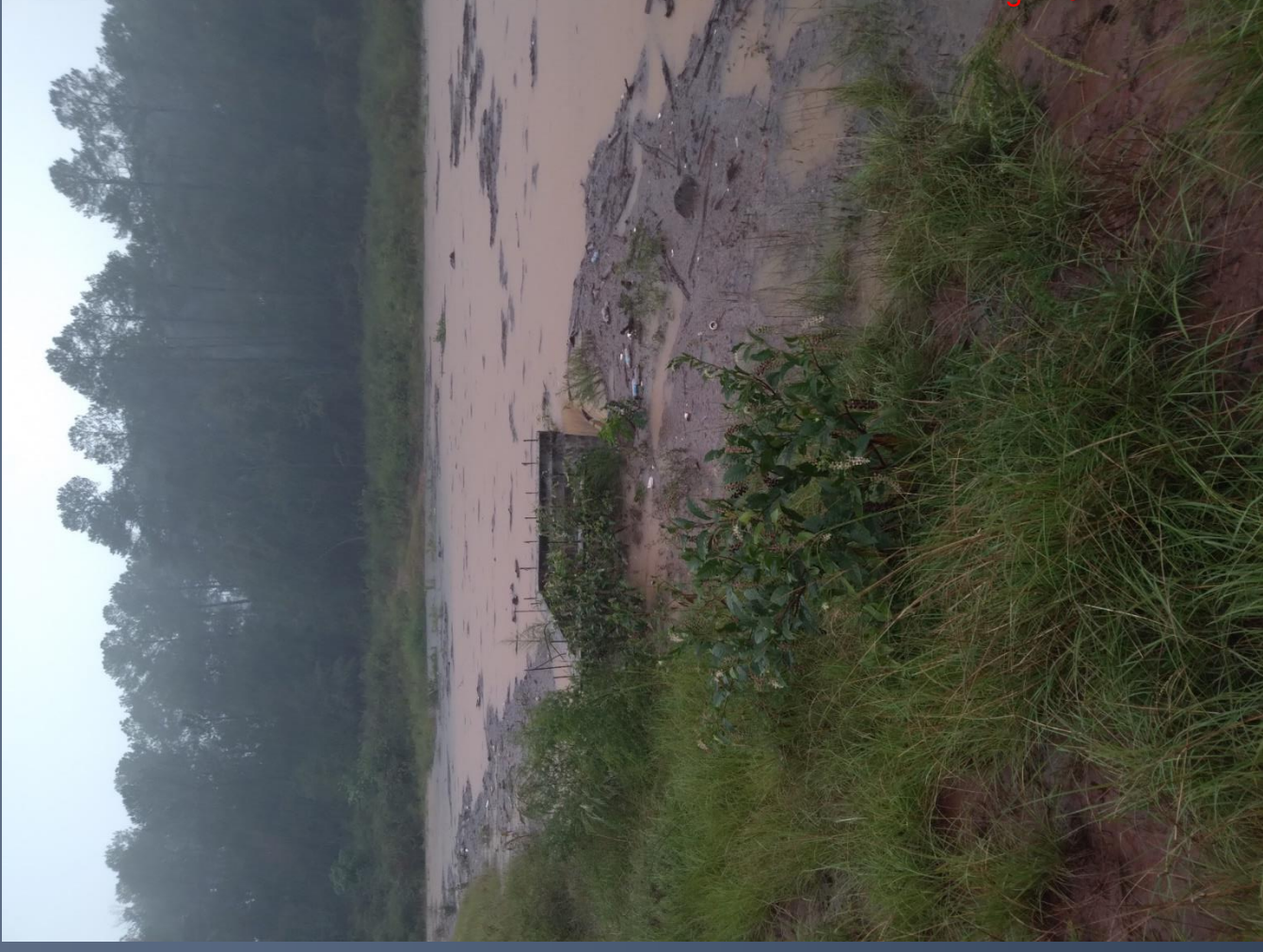
Brandenburg Regional Detention Pond at Exit 5 - Restoration



Detention Pond is approximately 15' deep at lowest point (where person is standing) to top of dam.

Top of riser is shown – 13' to bottom

Pond area is approximately 8 acres



Major Storm 5.3" 09/08/2021 Brandenburg Pond¹⁰

Pole Branch Watershed - Continues to Erode



After storm blows out repairs – August 2021



September 9, 2021

Pole Branch Watershed Erosion



September 9, 2021

Pole Branch Watershed Problems Deeper & Wider

Another major storm
March 3, 2022

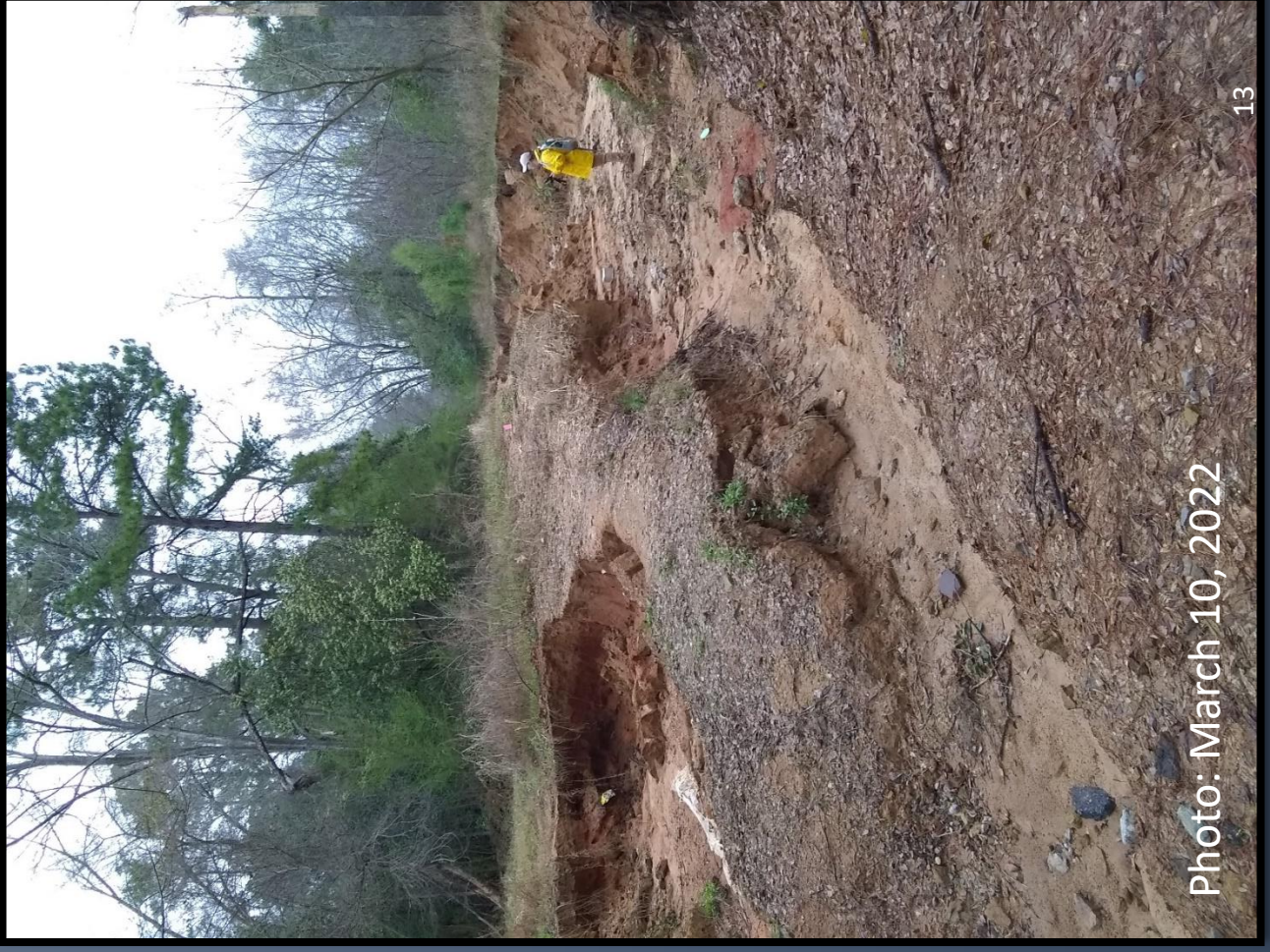
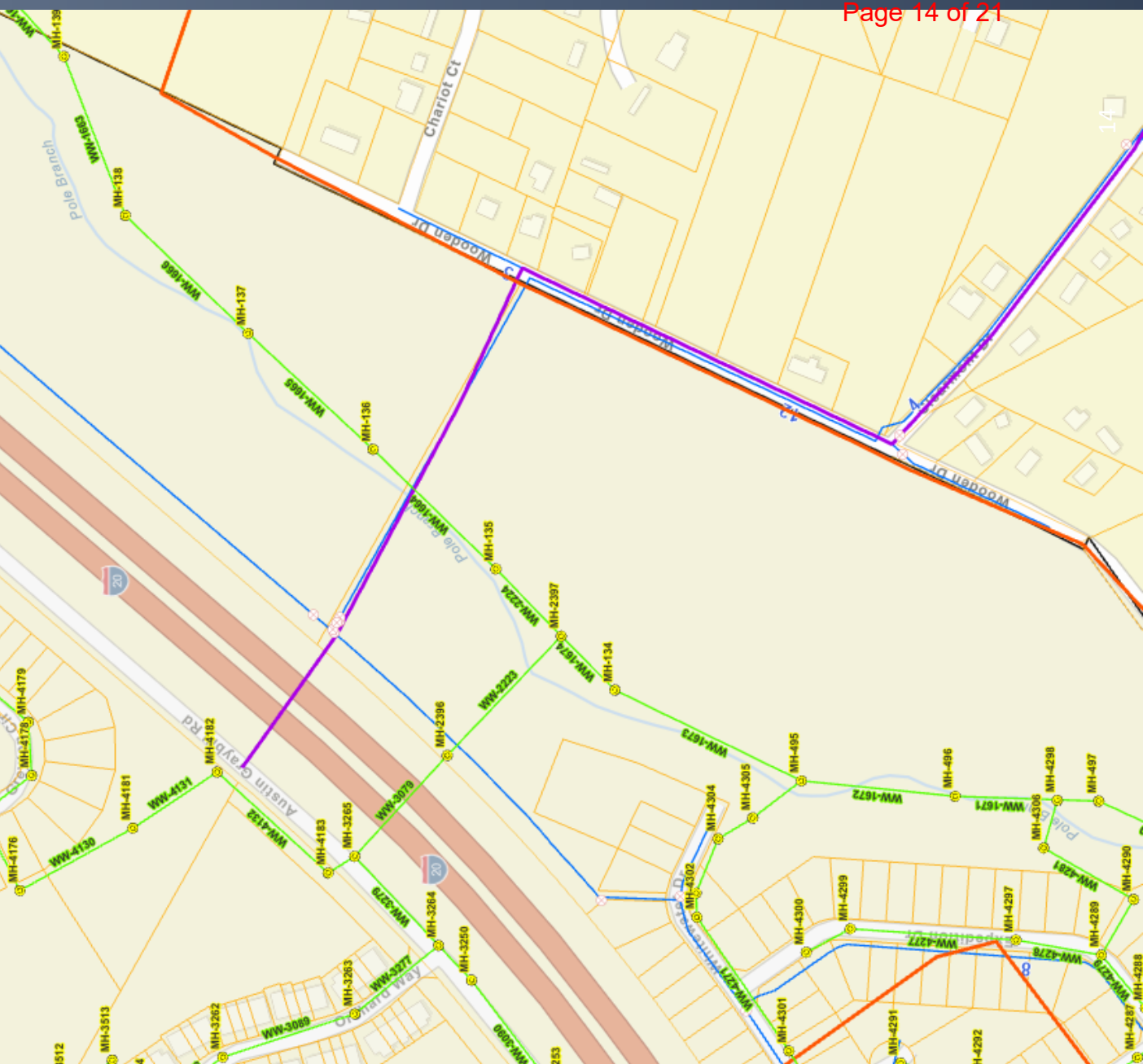


Photo: March 10, 2022



Correcting the Problem:
Move the channel back
to its historical location
and away from Critical
Infrastructure.

Pole Branch Remediation Project Funding

USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Grant Awarded

City Council Resolution No 2022-02 January 3, 2022 accepted

Grant Budget	Actual
• Construction	\$1,485,986
• Grant Funded 75%	\$1,099,714
• City Match 25%	\$ 366,846
• Technical Assistance (100%)	\$ 204,750
• TOTALS:	\$1,690,736



USDA NRCS Engineers meet with
Project Engineer & Staff to go over
plans in March 17, 2022

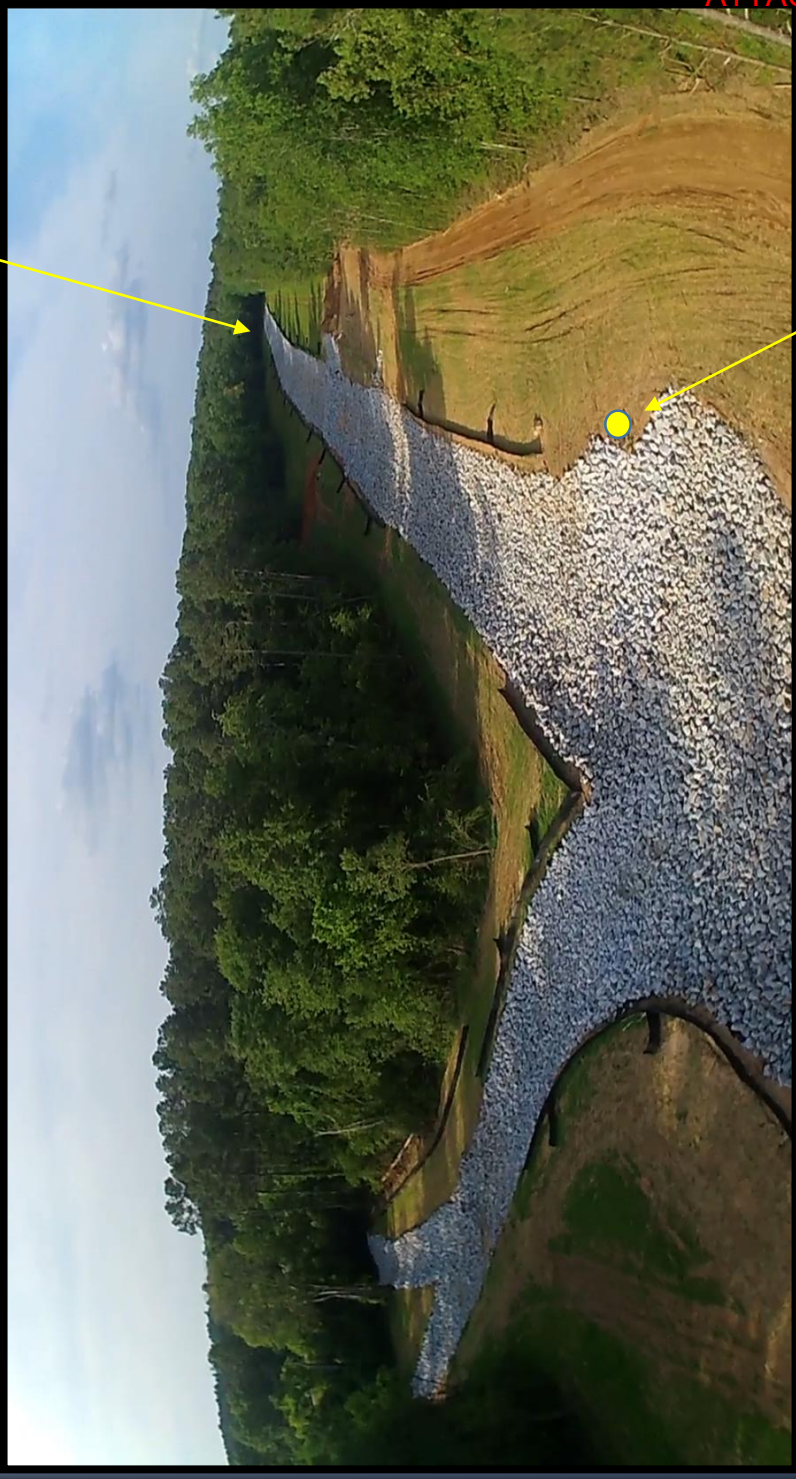
Result of Project

[Play Results Video](#)

NA Pole Branch Remediation Ditch – Video

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1--U5_8T06Kdt9YIA9I6XX3Ks-jvkgUJ/view?usp=sharing

Pole Branch Watershed Before and After – Channel Moved Away from Existing Trunk Line Sewer



Same Sewer Manhole After

Photo: March 10, 2022

Pole Branch Watershed Current and Future

More repairs needed:
Upstream of project area



Sewer manhole

Substantial Development Pressure at both – Exit 1 & Exit 5

Much of the Pole Branch basin is not within the City Limits.



Downstream – “Willow Wick”
Erosive Flows



Downstream - below Bergen Road
Failing infrastructure

The key to reducing erosive flows in our watershed

Develop with resiliency in mind, reduce runoff!

- Pole Branch Examples - SRPFCU Headquarters, Starbucks, Bentley Place Pond, Carolina Bay preservation

Reducing flows is achievable with requirements to:

- Increase infiltration in residential/commercial development (infiltration areas, greenspace)
- Increase stream/wetland buffers to; preserve tree canopy, provide infiltration, and reduce erosion along them
 - currently ~50 ft. from stream bank in most SC communities (ex., Aiken, Richland, Greenville, Lexington (is 100 ft.), and Anderson counties)

Costs of stormwater repairs

- Costs to citizens = \$ millions



North Augusta City Council

Fiscal Year 2023 Update

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Purpose:

- To update the public and city council on Fiscal Year 2023 budget and other fiscal expenditures

Personnel:

- Code enforcement position added 1 July and filled internally
- DPW Erosion Control Inspector
- PRT Part Time Center Coordinator – Activities Center
- Fire Fighter positions Grade 3 to Grade 4
- Public Safety Dispatchers updated to a Senior and Junior Dispatcher
- Utility Worker II grade increase from 6 to 9 (Utility O&M Fund)

Facilities Improvements:

- Ground mounted flagpoles
- Elevator flooring replacement
- Palmetto Terrace A/V replacement
- Lobby Improvements (working)
- Fire Station 2 QOL improvements (T)



CPST I: Waterworks Bridge Project

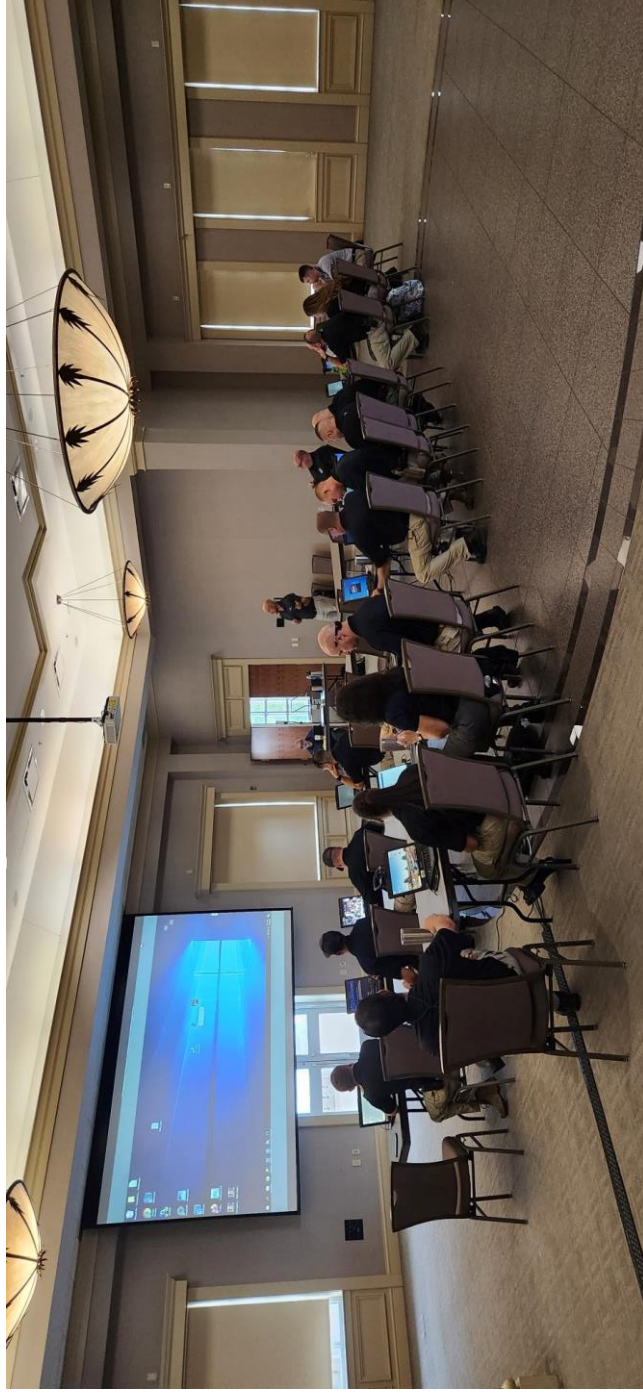
- Bridge is open to pedestrians
- Greenway paving is out for bid
(closes 14 Sep)
- Work remains on safety railings to approaches
(awaiting materials)

CPST I fund will close by 1 October 2023



CPST II: SmartCop 9-11 Software

- Training & Implementation occurred in August
- System is fully online and in-use by Public Safety
- Allowed for removal of dedicated T-1 data line to SLED
- Purchased via HGACBuy
- **CPST II fund will close by 1 October 2023**



CPST III:

- All invoices for Fire Station 1 received
- Awaiting materials to fully install warning signals
- **Remaining funds will be recommended**

For use with amphitheater project

and obligated in 2023 – anticipated closeout by 1 July 2024





North Augusta City Council

Discussion

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023