



**2020 Hampton Street · Room 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 576-2080
January 27, 2025
4th Floor Conference Room
Meeting Minutes**

Attendance

Commissioner	District	Present
Charles Weber	1	Yes
James Young	2	Yes
Wayman Stover	3	Yes
Glenice Pearson	4	No
Kip Dillihay	5	No
John Grego	6	Yes
Robert Squirewell	7	Yes
Vacant	8	
Khali Gallman	9	Yes
Kendrick Scott	10	Yes
Gail Rodriguez	11	Yes

Staff & Visitors	Affiliation
Quinton Epps	Conservation Division
Alexis Wallraf	Conservation Division
John McKenzie	Conservation Division
Synithia Williams	Community Planning & Development
Dorothy Freeman Self	Guest, DFS Creative Concepts

Call to Order

Grego welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with a quorum at 3:32 pm. Members, staff, and guests met in-person and via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda

- **Weber moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Young. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes

- **Rodriguez moved to approve the November minutes which was seconded by Young. Motion passed unanimously.**

ENRICH Tour – Presentation – Dorothy Self

Self, with DFS Creative Concepts (DFS), gave a brief presentation about the execution and implementation of the ENRICH African American History Tour. Self shared logo concepts and the project timeline, adding the application/tour would be complete by the end of May 2025, pending necessary approvals. The DFS team is currently working on the creation of the website landing page and the development of rack cards and posters and plan to have drafts ready soon for approval.

Grego asked about receiving public input on the 15 tour sites. McKenzie connected Self with preservation partners, stakeholders and other contacts to seek input. McKenzie reported staff has created the webpage to receive public input, which in turn will become the landing page for the tour.

Report of the Chair

- **Goodwill Estates Property – update:** Young reported negotiations have begun at the state legislature level with not much detail. Young stated Senator Jackson and a group of staffers visited the site and toured the property with Larry Faulkenberry. Faulkenberry would like to gather our commissioners, state senators and representatives to the Goodwill for a social/lobbying event. No dates are settled at this time.
Young stated there are disputes about validity of the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) appraisal. Scott is waiting to hear back from the new representative in the house.
 - **Greenway Advisory Committee – update:** Grego reported no new updates.
 - **Advocacy/Election Results – update:** Grego stated he will speak with Josh Archote, reporter from the Post & Courier, who would like to do an update on the Lower Richland Tourism Plan. Gallman reported she spoke with the new council member, Tyra Little, to update her on Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC) activities. Epps also spoke with Ms. Little at the open forum sessions for the Comprehensive Plan at the Richland County Adult Activity Center on Parklane. Stover has also been in contact with Ms. Little and reported she will be a presenter at his quarterly Neighborhood Association meeting on February 20, 2025.
 - **RCCC Roles & Responsibilities – update:** The Roles & Responsibilities form was provided and McKenzie requested Commissioners sign and return.
 - **RCCC Officer Elections – action item:** Grego confirmed all current officers including himself (Chair, RCCC), Squirewell (Treasurer), Gallman (Chair, Historic Preservation Committee) and Weber (Chair, Natural Resources Committee) have all agreed to be nominated.
- ⇒ **Rodriguez moved to approve the slate of nominees which was seconded by Scott. Motion passed unanimously.**

Report from Community Planning & Development

- **Community Planning & Development – update:** Williams reported her department has been holding multiple drop-in meetings with the focus on spreading awareness of the plan. They are also hoping to collect feedback from Councilmember Branham’s upcoming Town Hall in Ballentine. The goal is to complete Phase 1 of the Comprehensive Plan at the end of January and roll into Phase 2. Williams stated the surveys and idea board will remain open.

Treasurer’s Report

- **FY24-25 General Budget Status – update:** Squirewell reported no significant spending actions in this year’s budget to report.
 - **FY25-26 Budget – action item:** Epps reported there were few changes for FY25-26 budget proposal and explained the county budget submittal process. Epps pointed out minor differences in the proposed budget and large proposed changes including RCCC grant increase from \$25,000 to \$300,000 as well as additional funds for potential conservation acquisitions.
- ⇒ **Squirewell moved to approve the proposed FY25-26 budget which was seconded by Stover. Motion passed unanimously.**

Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) Report

- **Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan Implementation – update:** Gallman reported attending a recent meeting with staff and DFS. At the meeting, DFS explained the process and timeline and they continue to collect public input for the historic sites on the ENRICH Tour.
 - **Historic Preservation Plan – update:** Gallman reported everything is on track and there will be a second public input meeting on February 27th, 2025 at the Hopkins Adult Recreation Center. McKenzie shared the times will be at noon and 6:00 PM and via ZOOM to maximize public input.
 - **Historic Building Eligibility - 3612 N. Main St. – action item:** McKenzie introduced a property to be considered for historic eligibility for RCCC grant application purposes. Grego suggested referring eligibility to the HPC to vote on.
- ⇒ **Squirewell moved to refer the historic eligibility of 3612 N. Main St. to the HPC which was seconded by Weber. Motion passed unanimously.**

Natural Resources Committee (NRC) Report

- **Conservation Land Management and Open Space Strategy – action item:** Weber explained the document is the Scope of Services the NRC would need to move forward and receive a bid for the project. Epps adds this is an effort to work with administration to move forward and find the partners and options available to meet RCCC goals for our conservation properties.
- ⇒ **Weber moved to approve the Conservation Land Management & Open Space Strategy which was seconded by Young. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Cabin Branch Easements – action item:** Weber requested approval for the Letter of Intent from The Conservation Fund to place easements on the Cabin Branch properties to be submitted to Administration and County Council. Epps stated the Conservation Fund is offering the County \$1,000 per acre for easements on the property.
- ⇒ **Weber moved to approve the Letter of Intent in response to The Conservation Fund letter which was seconded by Young. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Forestry Stewardship Plan – update:** Weber reported no new updates.
 - **Mill Creek Bridge – update:** Weber reported the Mill Creek Bridge projects is at 99% completion.
 - **Mitigation Bank Credits – update:** Weber reported no new updates.
 - **Broad River Property – update:** Weber reported no new updates.
 - **Bates Old River Landing – update:** Weber reported no new updates.

Conservation Program Analyst's Report

- **Ganus Easement Negotiations – update:** McKenzie reported a proposal from the current owner, Mr. Ball is under consideration by administration.
 - **Fabel Conservation Easement – update:** McKenzie reported no new updates.
 - **Lake Elizabeth Conservation Easement – update:** McKenzie reported the Lake Elizabeth Homeowners Association is working with their lawyer to prepare a proposal.
 - **FY24-25 RCCC Grants – update:** McKenzie reported there were only a few recent requests for payments. The second quarterly grant reports show there has been positive progress on all projects.
 - **FY25-26 Grants - update:** McKenzie shared the timeline for the FY25-26 Grant applications as well as the dates for the grant presentations: February 12th, 2025 at 2:30 PM for NRC grants and February 19th, 2025 at 1:30 PM for HPC grants.
 - **Gills Creek Watershed Association (GCWA) Grant Changes – action item:** McKenzie introduced a request from GCWA to include a demonstration rain garden at the Wheatly Library Branch and to transfer \$1,200 from Educational Materials and \$1,000 from the Intern's pay for a total of \$2,200 to go towards rain garden costs.
- ⇒ **Weber moved to approve the grant change for Gills Creek Watershed Association which was seconded by Young. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Events – update:** McKenzie provided detail for the following events:
January 30, 2025, 9am to 4:30 pm - SC Farmer Resource Rodeo, Senate's End, 316 Senate St, Columbia; February 27, 2025 12pm -1pm & 6pm - 7pm - Historic Preservation Plan Public Meeting – Hopkins Adult Activity Center, 144 Hopkins Park, Hopkins, SC 29061; Wetlands Boardwalk Ribbon Cutting - Saturday, February 1, 2025, 11:30 am Camp Discovery, 208 Claude Bundrick Road, Blythewood, SC 29016

Conservation Manager's Report

- **Lower Richland Tourism Plan-Small Business Development – update:** Epps reported the proposal has been submitted to the County Attorney's Office for review.
- **Staff Vacancy – update:** Epps reported applicants are being interviewed for the Land Program Planner and an offer is being submitted to one applicant.

New Business: N/A

Public Input: N/A

Adjournment

- **At 4:58 pm, Young moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Stover. Motion passed unanimously.**