



2020 Hampton Street • Room 3063A
P.O. Box 192 • Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 576-2083

Minutes September 12, 2016

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Jim Thomas, Charles Weber, Becky Bailey, Margaret DuBard, Virginia Sanders

Absent: Sam Holland, Glenice Pearson, Jennifer Carter, Ann Furr

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel
Warren Harley, Richland County Assistant Administrator

Chair, Carol Kososki welcomed everyone and opened the meeting without a quorum at 3:40 pm.

Carol asked Warren Harley, Assistant County Administrator, to give an update on the Spears Creek/Palmetto Utility issue. Palmetto Utility's original proposal to discharge into Spears Creek went through several changes, was agreed to by Richland County Council, but was not accepted by Kershaw County. Their most recent proposal is to move forward on building a pipeline to the Wateree River which will cost approximately \$31 million and cost ratepayers \$8/month. This plan will be evaluated by Administration/Staff and most likely referred to County Council for approval. A formal amendment to the 208 plan will be submitted to Central Midlands and Santee-Lynches Councils of Government, Kershaw and Richland counties, and Camden. While the plan does not solve all of the problems, it does reduce the impact of the waste in Spears Creek. Charles Weber expressed the hope the plan could be changed so that all of the permitted 12 million gallons/day would be discharged into the Wateree River and the rapid infiltration basins would be eliminated. A larger discussion by all the entities about future capacity is needed. Carol inquired what RCCC can do to help with this matter. Charles made a motion seconded by Becky for the county to participate in a regional solution. Motion passed unanimously. Quinton will send Warren a memo explaining the Commission's position.

Warren mentioned that the interim County Administrator, Gerald Seals, will be making some changes but Warren will continue to work with RCCC.

A quorum was reached with the arrival of Becky Bailey during Mr. Harley's update.

Agenda

Charles made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Becky. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Becky made a motion seconded by Margaret DuBard to approve the minutes of August 15, 2016. Motion passed.

Report of the Chair

Carol called everyone's attention to the draft RCCC plan in their packet for the "Use, Maintenance and Operations of Richland County's Conservation Lands" prepared by Ken Driggers. Questions arise about any acquisition of property as to what is the plan for it and how will it be maintained. The plan calls for two new staff to manage lands and to develop volunteer groups to assist with the properties. Ken said the plan is still evolving and may require rewrites but it provides accountability for property management. Any questions need to be directed to Quinton. Chairman Rush has a motion on tomorrow's agenda that will be sent to Administration & Finance Committee. The motion reads:

- b. Move that Council consider providing funding in the amount of \$250,000 for operation and maintenance of conservation, park, and greenway properties under the Conservation Department. This would provide for the acceptance of land donations in sensitive areas as well the development and operation of park lands and greenways. A separate fund will be established to allow for the use of revenues generated from the properties for maintenance.

Treasurer's Report

Virginia Sanders referred everyone to the financial report in their packets. \$500,000 has been paid for the purchase of Mill Creek upper tract leaving \$220,000 in the Acquisition line item.

Nancy mentioned with regard to the conservation easement discussed at the last meeting, the landowner will accept \$500 per acre and wants to add in another two acres for a total of 188 acres and a cost of \$94,000. It is possible he may want to add another acre or two. Charles made a motion to approve the conservation easement for 188 acres at \$94,000 plus expenses for mapping and title opinion. Virginia seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Historic Committee Report

In Glenice Pearson's absence, Nancy explained the report for the Historic Initiative has now been received from Dr. Donaldson and is being reviewed for comments and feedback. Carol requested it be sent to all of the commissioners. Dr. Donaldson will meet with RCCC on October 17 and give members an overview of what has been done. A meeting is being planned in late October for county residents with knowledge of local history to meet with RCCC members and Dr. Donaldson to hear about the initiative and offer feedback and additional historical information. October 24 is the date being considered and the meeting may be held at Chappelle Auditorium at Allen University. This meeting will be limited to a total of 50 attendees which includes RCCC members. Members are asked to consider who should be invited so each area of the county is represented.

Conservation Directors' Report

Lower Richland Tourism Plan

Quinton explained comments from Councilwoman Myers regarding the Scope of Services have been incorporated into the document and sent back to Procurement. The final document will be provided to the consultant, Asakura Robinson, and the work started soon. A copy of the Scope of Services draft will be forwarded to RCCC Members.

Owens Field

Owens Field is experiencing a delay due to the discovery of an old foundation where the bio-infiltration cell will be located, causing an additional expense. Some of the foundation can be crushed for use elsewhere in

the park but the remainder will have to be removed to a landfill. Additional funding sources need to be found and/or bio-infiltration cell #2 removed from the plan in order in stay within budget.

Spring Valley Mitigation

Weekly site visits are being made to ensure the project is moving along smoothly. The recent rains from hurricane Hermine created some problems but Quinton and the contractor were on site during the storm and were able to make adjustments; none of the structures failed. The grass vegetation growing in will significantly help to stabilize the site. Three commission members – Jim Thomas, Carol, and Charles joined Councilman Manning, Quinton, Nancy, and 3 Spring Valley HOA board members for a tour on August 21.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Publicity

Nancy reported she is working with the county's Public Information office to ensure the unincorporated areas of the county receive better notification of the grant application process. Several presentations are being scheduled for District One. County tax bills going out this fall will contain a blurb about grants and conservation easements and to contact RCCC for further information.

Grants Update

A summary of the grant expenditures is in the meeting packets for everyone to review. The Slave Dwelling Conference is next week; anyone who wishes to attend Monday's lunch where Dr. Donaldson is the keynote speaker should let Nancy know right away.

The re-opening of the Mann-Simons House is Saturday September 17 with a reception being held Thursday evening the 15th at 5:30pm and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The Blythewood Historical Society is having its first quilt documentation on Tuesday the 22nd at the Langford Nord House

Website

After looking into the website issue further, it was discovered a member of Council was upset over receiving county news from several different county venues and felt that county news/information should come from one official site. Therefore an exemption request letter was not sent to Administration and the RCCC website has been deactivated.

Conservation Committee Report

John Grego reported the Blue Ribbon Flood Committee met to discuss the projects they are recommending for the \$23.5 million in Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Funds which are split into seven categories. Small rental buyouts and concerns about gaming the system created the most discussion. After the 14 day public comment time period is over, the recommendations will go to Council for approval. Changes can still be made during this process. The county is keeping a list of un-met needs that top \$230 million and may be addressed by County Council utilizing other sources of funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant