



**2020 Hampton Street · Room 3063A**  
**Columbia, SC 29204**  
**(803) 576-2080**  
**June 17, 2024**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Present</b>
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	No
Deborah DePaoli	8	No
Khali Gallman	9	No
Kendrick Scott	10	Yes
Gail Rodriguez	11	Yes

<b>Staff &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
John McKenzie	Conservation Division
Val Morris	Conservation Division
Quinton Epps	Conservation Division
Pat Ferral	Conservation Division
Aric Jensen	Administration
Chanda Cooper	Richland Soil & Water Conservation District

**Call to Order**

Grego welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with a quorum at 3:30 pm. Members, staff, and guests met in-person or by Zoom.

**Approval of Agenda**

⇒ **Young moved to approve the agenda with changes which was seconded by Stover. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Minutes**

⇒ **Weber moved to approve May minutes which was seconded by Young. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Report of the Chair**

- **Introduction:** Epps introduced the new Land Program Planner, Pat Ferral and Ferral shared his background.
- **Ag+Art – update:** Cooper provided an update of the recent successful Ag+Art Tour and shared a video and presentation highlighting the numbers of participants, artisans, volunteers, and sites.
- **Greenway Advisory Committee – update:** No updates were reported.

- **Congaree Biosphere Region – update:** Grego reported the group has an opening for Richland County and suggested Conservation staff and Administration should decide how to be a part of the group.
- **Goodwill Estates Property – update:** Grego provided a summary of the recent tour that commissioners and staff participated in at the Goodwill property. Grego listed the historical and natural resources of the property and the interest from the owners and the local community in preserving the property rather than subdividing and developing. There were discussions about how the property might be acquired and managed through partnerships with the State.
- **New Penny/Penny II recommendations – discussion:** Grego chronicled the steps taken by the County and consultants to create a list of potential Penny II projects. The Natural Resources Committee continues to work on a letter with recommendations of greenways and bikeways to submit.
- **Advocacy – update:** No updates were reported.

#### **Report from Community Planning & Development**

- **Administration – update:** Jensen provided an update on the progress in selecting a consultant for the Comprehensive Plan update. Approval may occur at the County Council meeting on July 2, 2024, along with the Historic Preservation Plan (HPP).

#### **Treasurer’s Report**

- **FY23–24 General Budget – update:** Epps reported the new Workday software does not allow a budget printout similar to our past printout and we are still working on a better printout. Epps stated two big projects, the HPP and the Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan (HTMP), are nearing approval.
- **FY24-25 General Budget – update:** Epps stated the County is still in the process of approving the new budget.

#### **Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) Report**

- **Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan (HTMP) Implementation – update:** McKenzie reported the HTMP is still in the negotiation stage.
- **Historic Preservation Plan (HPP) – update:** McKenzie updated the approval for the HPP may occur at the County Council meeting on July 2, 2024 and shared information about Ethos Preservation, the likely firm to develop the HPP.
- **Palmetto Cemetery historical marker – update:** McKenzie shared the recent approval for the marker and the text by the SC Department of Archives and History. Cory France, the point person on the project will start the order and pass on the invoice for payment.

## Natural Resources Committee (NRC) Report

- **Ganus Easement Negotiations – action item:** Weber explained the requests from the current owners of the property held in a conservation easement to make changes to the easement for further subdivision and the construction of new homes. McKenzie reported the past history and the issues of communication and solutions to date.
  - ⇒ **Weber moved for staff to proceed with negotiations with the owners of the Ganus Easement property to resolve issues which was seconded by Young. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Cabin Branch Easements – update:** Epps reported the positive progress of having conservation easements placed on some of the Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC) conservation properties.
- **Recycling Center - update:** Epps shared public comments about a preference to have the center be located along Highway 378 rather than sites proposed earlier.
- **Forestry Stewardship Plan (FSP) – update:** Epps reported the recent approval of the FSP by Administration. Ferral will start implementing the plan immediately.
- **Potential Property Purchase – update:** Epps stated he is still working on appraisals for the property.
- **Rural Tourism and Community Service (RTCS) Zoning for Lower Richland Tourism Plan – update:** McKenzie reported that he will start working with the selected consultant for the Comprehensive Plan update as soon as possible.
- **Mill Creek Bridge – update:** Epps reported the project is moving forward while the contractor resolves some permitting issues.
- **Mitigation Bank Credits – update:** Epps reported County Council approved three sales.
- **Broad River Property – update:** Epps reported there were no updates from the City of Columbia. Jensen noted County Council was considering a second sewer line through the property.

## Conservation Program Analyst's Report

- **Fabel Easement – update:** McKenzie reported the easement agreement is being reviewed and he is continuing to try to get surveying quotes. There was discussion about moving forward with the single provided quote.
- **Lake Elizabeth Conservation Easement – update:** No updates were reported.

- **FY23-24 RCCC Grants – update:** McKenzie reported all grant projects were completed and all grantee paperwork was submitted by the Friday 14, 2024 deadline.
- **FY23-24 RCCC Grants – update:** McKenzie stated he will be notifying new awardees as soon as the County budget is approved and they will be invited to a fiscal briefing meeting in mid-July.
- **Events – update:** No updates were reported.

#### **Conservation Manager’s Report**

- **Staff Vacancy - update:** Epps reported the vacant Administrative Assistant position will be posted soon.

**New Business:** None reported

**Public Input:** None reported

#### **Adjournment:**

⇒ **At 4:53 pm, Young moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Stover. Motioned passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted, John McKenzie