



2020 Hampton Street · Room 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 576-2080
April 15, 2024
4th Floor Conference Room
April 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
Deborah DePaoli	8	Yes
Khali Gallman	9	Yes
Darrell Jackson Jr.	10	No
Gail Rodriguez	11	No

Staff & Visitors	Affiliation
John McKenzie	Conservation Division
Val Morris	Conservation Division
Quinton Epps	Conservation Division

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

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

Approval of Minutes

⇒ **Weber moved to approve March minutes which was seconded by Squirewell. Motion passed unanimously.**

Report of the Chair

- **March 19th Council Report - update:** Grego presented the Annual Plan and reported it went well, council was appreciative, and they asked reasonable questions. Commissioners Weber and Young were also in attendance. Weber stated at the Richland Soil & Water Conservation District (RSWCD) meeting he gave kudos about Grego’s presentation.
- **Greenway Advisory Committee - update:** Grego reported there hasn't been a recent meeting with the Greenway Advisory Committee. He mentioned the Penny Two was discussed in the news. Weber encouraged the commissioners to become more familiar with the projects in case their input is needed.

- **Scout Motors – update:** Grego reported Scout Motors was in the news again, he believes the recent rainy weather has overwhelmed Scout Motors stormwater measures which is causing a lot of problems with muddy discharge into Beasley Creek.
- **Advocacy – update:** Young and Councilman Pugh were at Scout Motor’s event where Young shared information about Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC) grants. Stover mentioned he spoke with Councilwoman McBride, she shared that she will not run for re-election in November 2024.

Report from Community Planning & Development

- **Administration – update:** No report.

Treasurer’s Report

- **FY23–24 General Budget – update:** Squirewell reported the County is undergoing a software conversion, and not all the financial data has been transferred to the new system yet. He is unsure of when the total conversion will take place but hopes it will be completed by the next RCCC meeting. Epps reported the name of the new software is called Workday.
- **FY24-25 General Budget – update:** No report.

Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) Report

- **Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan Implementation – update:** Gallman reported the project is currently in the procurement process and is awaiting the selection of a firm to start the project.
- **Historic Preservation Plan (HPP) – update:** Gallman reported there is currently a request for proposal (RFP) open until April 22, however there are no bids for the project yet.
- **Cemetery Protection Ordinance – update:** Gallman reported there was some verbiage that was changed in the ordinance to reflect Richland County’s and not the state of South Carolina’s steps in compliance. The ordinance has moved forward to County Council. Epps explained the voting process has three readings and a public hearing before it can be approved.
- **Historical Marker – action items:** Gallman reported HPC was in favor of the historical marker for the Palmetto Cemetery. Stover asked if there would be an approval from South Carolina Archives & History. McKenzie stated yes, there will always have to be an approval from SC Archives & History.

⇒ **Gallman moved to proceed with the historical marker for Palmetto Cemetery which was seconded by DePaoli. Motion passed unanimously.**

Natural Resources Committee (NRC) Report

- **Recycling Center - update:** Weber reported he's waiting for more information from Public Works. Epps reported there will be public meetings hosted by Councilwoman English and Newton later in this month.
- **Forestry Stewardship Plan – update:** Epps reported he received an update from Administrator Brown that, at the next County Council meeting on May 7, Administrator Brown will have Assistant County Administrator Jensen explain the Forestry Plan.
- **Potential Property Purchase – update:** Epps reported he has an appraiser selected and is waiting to hear back from procurement.
- **Rural Tourism and Community Service (RTCS) Zoning for LRTP – update:** McKenzie reported this is a work in progress. He is researching other communities which have previously done this type of project.
- **Mill Creek Bridge – update:** Epps reported the project is moving forward. He has met with the contractor for various reasons. In addition, the contractors have submitted shop drawings for the engineering department at Richland County to review.
- **Bates Old River – update:** Grego reported he is waiting for Epps and Jensen to resolve the Broad River property.
- **Mitigation Bank Credits – update:** Epps reported no new major changes.

Conservation Program Analyst's Report

- **Fabel Easement – update:** McKenzie reported he has an easement written up that has been sent back to Christopher Zeigler, Assistant County Attorney, for review.
- **Lake Elizabeth Conservation Easement – update:** McKenzie reported that work is in progress; however, he has reached out to several surveyors for estimates of the property and is waiting to hear back from them.
- **Easement Monitoring – update:** McKenzie reported he has completed the 2024 monitoring for the 32 conservation easement properties and has new drone aerials for each.
- **FY23-24 RCCC Grants – update:** McKenzie reported the South Carolina Uplift; "Coach" documentary video is completed and the other grantee's have submitted their quarterly reports on time.
- **Events – update:** McKenzie reported there's a second showing of the "Coach" project on May 4, 2024, and Stormwater Studios is having Art Day this Saturday. Grego reported he and McKenzie attended the unveiling of the Hyatt Park Kiosk and thought the kiosk provided a great amount of historical information, along with pictures. In conclusion, Grego mentioned at the Poster Contest award ceremony held at Stormwater Studios, Dillihay and Councilwoman Terracio were guest

speakers. It was a well-attended event where several RCCC Commissioners and staff were present.

Conservation Manager's Report

- **Staff Vacancy - update:** Epps reported he's still interviewing and has a candidate in mind and is waiting to hear from administration about the offer proposal. He predicts there will be some delays in the hiring process due to the county's new operating system. Grego mentioned at the Council Annual Plan presentation that Councilwoman Barron asked if any of the work for the Land Planner Program position could be contracted out.
- **New Business:** None reported
- **Public Input:** None reported
- **Adjournment:**

⇒ **At 4:33 pm, Squirewell moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by DePaoli. Motioned passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted, Val Morris