



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

## **Minutes April 16, 2018**

### **Attendance:**

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Lee Rambo, Charles Weber, Jim Thomas, and Virginia Sanders and Glenice Pearson via telephone

Absent: Jennifer Carter, Margaret DuBard, and Sam Holland,

Vacant: District 7

### **Others present:**

Quinton Epps, Conservation Division

Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Division

Charlie Fisher, Conservation Division

Ken Driggers, Legal Counsel

Tracy Hegler, Community Planning & Development (CP&D) Department

Meghan Sullivan, Community Planning & Development Department

Will Culler, Clemson Regional Agribusiness Development Agent

Chair Carol Kososki made introductions, welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm with a quorum.

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

John Grego made a motion seconded by Jim Thomas to approve the agenda and the minutes of March 19 as presented. Motion carried.

### **Report of the Chair**

Carol passed around several newspaper articles regarding county current events. She said Lee Rambo has agreed to chair the Communications Committee and is looking for others to serve on the committee. Everyone needs to consider whether they know of a possible candidate to fill the vacant RCCC position in District 7. Nancy provided a map of the district.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Nancy referred everyone to their financial report and mentioned a new **Interest** budget line item (\$31,585.84) has been added to RCCC's budget for payment of the interest on the loan for the purchase of the Upper Mill Creek Tract. The interest funds came out of Professional Services. The yearly payment of \$104,652 will be paid over a 17-year period. Accounting practices require the

interest to be paid from a separate account than the principal was paid out of which came from the Acquisition Fund Balance.

**Ag + Art Tour**

Will Culler explained the first Ag & Art Tour began in York County in 2012 and has grown each year to encompass more counties, farms, and artists. This free self-guided tour educates people about where their food and fiber comes from and introduces them to local artisans and farmers markets. RCCC can choose to sponsor a table at the upcoming fundraiser on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the SC State Farmers Market or lend their sponsorship to the tour itself which will take place in Lexington and Richland in the fall. Sponsors will be recognized in a number of ways by having their name and logos displayed. John moved to fund a \$500 sponsorship for the farm tour and was seconded by Charles Weber. Motion carried unanimously.

**Community Planning & Development Director's Report**

Tracy Hegler explained Councilman Norman Jackson's February motion for RCCC to manage county-owned historic and conservation properties was deferred from the March 27<sup>th</sup> Development and Services Committee meeting until the April 24<sup>th</sup>. The County Administrator was to meet with some users of Pinewood Lake Park on April 10 but he was fired by Council on April 3. Mr. Seals is on administrative leave until his right of due process takes place.

**Executive Session**

Charles Weber made a motion seconded by Jim to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters involving Pinewood Lake Park.

Charles made a motion to come out of Executive Session and was seconded by Lee. Motion carried. No actions were taken in Executive Session

Charles made a motion to adopt the memo discussed in Executive Session with an additional sentence, "We request a final decision from Council regarding this matter." The motion carried unanimously.

**Conservation Committee Report**

Conservation Easement Strategic Plan

Quinton stated the easement policy adopted last year should be sent to County Council by email as information. John made a motion to forward the Conservation Easement Strategic Plan to Council by email and copy RCCC members. Jim seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Conservation Lands Management Manual

John reported the Conservation Committee discussed the draft Management Manual earlier this year and circulated it for feedback. Ken Driggers gave a presentation about the plan at the March meeting. John made a motion seconded by Charles to adopt the Conservation Lands Management Manual. Motion carried unanimously.

Charles made a motion to extend the meeting an additional 15 minutes and was seconded by John. Motion carried.

**New Easements**

John said Nancy has met with two land owners regarding potential easements. The Thomas Fort property consists of two tracts totaling 55 acres located in Big Cedar Creek Watershed (Priority Area #4). Cindy Bollinger's 32 acres is located in the Hollingshed Creek Watershed. John moved and was seconded by Charles to give Nancy approval to move forward with negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

**Conservation Manager's Report**

**Lower Richland Tourism Plan**

Quinton said Asakura Robinson continues to work on finalizing the plan. Notes from the February steering committee/RCCC/consultants meeting were distributed. Most of the discussion revolved around the Mill Creek property. Councilwoman Myers does not support the plan pertaining to the Mill Creek properties unless the revenue from the sale of mitigation credits goes back to Lower Richland projects.

The recently hired Land Program Planner, Christopher Hansen will start Monday, April 30.

**Conservation Coordinator's Report**

**Historic Trails**

Nancy is part of the internal team working on the Historic Trails component of Richland Renaissance. It is headed by Michael Niermeier and has met once to begin determining the mission, purpose, stakeholders, and needs assessment.

**Walden Pond**

Nine submittals for the Walden Pond feasibility study have been received. Evaluations are due to Procurement by April 17. With so many applicants, it is likely that presentations from the top contenders will be needed.

**County Disposition of Properties**

As part of Richland Renaissance, the county is looking at all county-owned lands to determine which ones are unnecessary to hold and could be sold. Nancy went through the list and alerted Administration to the many conservation and historic properties that should not be sold.

Thursday, April 19 will be the Grand Opening date for the Stormwater Studios and Kinsler Creek Greenway. Tuesday, May 8 the Hampton Preston House will re-open with capital improvements paid by the county and reinterpretation partly funded by an FY17 RCCC grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant