



2020 Hampton St. • Room 3063A
P.O. Box 192 • Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 576-2082

Minutes

June 27, 2005
4:00 P.M.

Richland County Administration Building
4th Floor Administrative Conference Room

Attendance

Seven members were present:

Becky Bailey, Margaret DuBard, Preston Holston, Stuart Hope, Frank Houston, Maxey Love, and Virginia Sanders.

Two members were absent:

Mildred Myers (attending funeral), Ken Simmons

Others Present:

Ken Driggers & Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation; Michael Criss, & John Newman, Richland County Planning & Development; Jim Wilson, USDA-NRCS; Evelyn Bush – Citizen; and Hugh Caldwell - Richland Conservation District.

Call to Order

Becky Bailey, Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum available to conduct business at 4:02 P.M. There are currently two (2) vacant positions, Districts 1 & 3.

Minutes

Minutes from April 25, 2005, were approved as presented.

Adoption of Agenda

Agenda was approved.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to go into executive session.

Mrs. Bush had requested prior to the meeting that a typed statement from her be read before going into executive session. A motion was made, seconded and approved to exit executive session. Mrs. Bush's statement was read by Hugh Caldwell. The statement referred to the news article "State probes tax breaks" which appeared in "The State" newspaper on June 23, 2005. A second item referred to item IV, Executive Session of the Administrative and Finance Committee

meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2005, relating to A Memorandum of Understanding – Acquisition of the Connor Tract by Richland County Conservation Commission.

Mrs. Bush did not have any further comments at this time.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to go into executive session.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to come out of executive session.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to give our consultant authority to negotiate the easement on property #2.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to retain our consultants, Palmetto Conservation Foundation and Richland Conservation District on a month-by-month basis until due notice is given.

A motion was made and seconded that final approval on conservation easements be made by the executive committee prior to going to County Council.

The proposal of the conservation easement presented in executive session will be reviewed by executive members Becky Bailey & Stuart Hope on Wednesday. Since Margaret DuBard is unavailable Preston Holston will assist in this review.

Attendance Record

The commission member attendance record for commission meetings was distributed.

FY-05 Budget Update

A copy of expenditures to date was distributed for information. Fund balance for FY-05 is \$117,610.19. The FY-06 Budget for milage agencies was approved for the Conservation Commission at the .5 mils which is \$515,000. Hugh will get a total dollar amount available to the Conservation Commission for our next meeting. This includes previous FY's dollars that were not spent which are designated for the Conservation Commission.

Commission Vacancies

We currently have vacancies in Districts 1 & 3. A letter from Chair Becky Bailey has been sent to Council Members Doris Corley and Damon Jeter requesting an appointee from their respective Districts.

Palmetto Conservation Foundation Report

Nancy Stone-Collum gave an update on the Monteith Property. They have received \$200,000 from City of Columbia. Nancy talked with Stephany Snowden regarding publicity for the Conservation Commission. She suggested a video be developed. A press conference will be held after the approval of the first purchase of a Conservation Easement. Another item discussed was the Conservation Commission working with the Appearance Commission on projects such as Arbor Day. We have received a statement of interest of a parcel in lower Richland County, a need to restore an old house on 6 acres. This property dates back to the 1800's. More research will be completed and bring a proposal to the next Commission meeting. Distribution of Legacy Brochures in various places, such as Clemson Extension Office, etc. was discussed.

Rules of Procedure

Recommended changes to the Rules of Procedures presented at the April meeting were approved by unanimous vote. The Rules of Procedure will be placed on our website.

Future Meeting Dates – Except for special called meetings, the Conservation Commission meeting schedule for the remainder of 2005 is at 4:00 PM on the following dates:

August 22nd, October 24th, November 28th. We will not have a regular meeting in July, September or December

Public Input

Mrs. Evelyn Bush asked the Commission to respond to the article in the “The State” newspaper regarding probes into tax breaks. Ken Driggers and Commission members responded that the probes were regarding the amounts of tax deductions and the value of the conservation easement.

Next Meeting

Monday August 22, 4:00 PM.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Hugh Caldwell
Staff Support