



Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD)

2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A

Columbia, SC 29204

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Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2024, 6 pm

Lizard's Thicket, 7938 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209

Commissioners Present

Kenny Mullis, Chair

Jeff Laney, Vice Chair

Jim Rhodes, Secretary/Treasurer

Tim McSwain

Associate Commissioners Present

Mary Frances Hendrix

Mary Beth McSwain

Logan Richardson

Charles Weber

Additional Attendees

Emily Bonilla-Gonzalez

Chanda Cooper

Quinton Epps

Chelsea Holliday

Faith Isreal

Aric Jensen

Elizabeth Jensen

Kimberly Laney

Virginia Grace Laney

Jennifer Mancke

Tom Mancke

Rosemary Martin-Jones

Jessica Thompson

Welcome, Introductions, and Invocation: Mullis called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and Rhodes gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda and Minutes: Cooper requested to amend the agenda. Instead of Cooper, Thompson would report on the 2024 Local Work Group Meeting Plan. Cooper also asked to add the 2025 Resource Rodeo, presented by Thompson, and Travel Policy, presented by Cooper, to

the agenda. T. McSwain moved to approve the amended agenda. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously. Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes. T. McSwain seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Oaths of Office: N/A

Reports:

Financial: Rhodes provided the following financial overview:

Operating Account (05/31/24 Statement)

- Beginning Balance: \$67,677.82 (05/01/24)
- Deposits and Credits: \$5,117.00
- Checks: \$6,408.68
- Expenses and Debits: \$5,146.48
- Ending Balance: \$61,239.66 (05/31/24)

Credit Card (06/05/24 Statement)

- Beginning Balance: \$4,716.17 (06/05/24)
- Payments: \$4,716.17
- Purchases: \$2,577.22
- Ending Balance: \$2,577.22 (06/05/24) <paid in full (06/10/2024)

Easement Stewardship Account (04/30/24 Statement)

- Starting Account Value: \$53,321.99 (04/01/24)
- Ending Account Value: \$53,635.27 (04/30/24)
- Ending Account Value with Accrued Income: \$53,989.44

SCACD Contribution Agreement Account (05/31/24 Statement)

- Starting Balance: \$14,992.59 (05/01/24)
- Credits: \$16,492.71
- Debts: \$-14,753.08
- Ending Balance: \$16,732.22 (05/31/24)

PayPal Account (05/31/24 Statement)

- Beginning Available Balance: \$0.00 (05/01/24)
- Ending Available Balance: \$0.00 (05/31/24)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Bonilla-Gonzalez reviewed the provided NRCS report. She stressed the local work group meeting process is different than years past; conservation districts are now responsible for inputting data. Bonilla-Gonzalez asked for details regarding the local work group meeting so she can register the event.

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR): N/A

Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC): Weber reported the RCCC's grant cycle will end on Friday, June 14. Based on their preliminary data, all grant funds will be spent and RCCC will open a new grant cycle soon. Their current objective is to make recommendations for the Penny 2 program.

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) Programs: Thompson reviewed the provided RSWCD Program Report.

Conservation Items Before County Council: Epps reported the Mitigation Bank and Penny 2 program are before County Council. Epps offered to include those who would like more information on the Penny 2 recommendations in his emails to the RCCC's Natural Resource Committee.

Attendees discussed hospitality tax funding for the 2025 Richland County Ag + Art Tour. Cooper reported the Richland County Ag + Art Tour Planning Committee applied for more than \$12,000 in hospitality tax funds for the 2025 tour and is recommended for \$3,125 in the proposed budget. Assuming the proposed budget is approved, the committee would then ask Councilmembers Newton, Terracio, and Weaver for approximately \$3,000 each from their discretionary hospitality tax funds to obtain the goal of \$12,000.

Commissioner Advocacy: Thompson reported Councilmember Livingston visited the Ag + Art Tour booth at Soda City; Councilmembers Terracio and Weaver and Administrator Brown spoke at the Ag + Art Tour Launch Party; Councilmembers Barron, Newton, and Weaver visited tour stops; and Councilmember English was scheduled to participate in the tour.

Old Business:

Credit Card Rewards: Cooper reported \$428.83 in credit card rewards. She outlined five options for the funds: get cash back, pay off a future credit card statement, donate the rewards to Teen Cancer America, divide the funds amongst those three options, or let the rewards remain untouched. J. Laney proposed letting the rewards build and then funding a future mini-grant project. There was no motion to move the funds.

Blythewood/Scout Motors Meeting Plan: Holliday contacted Scout Motors requesting a tour of their production site in Blythewood and was connected with Jeff Ruble in Richland County's Economic Development. Ruble requested to continue the conversation with either Epps or A. Jensen. More details will be provided at the July board meeting.

New Business:

Summer Meeting Schedule: Cooper acknowledged the district typically takes a recess in either July or August. Cooper and Mullis will be out of town during the August meeting, so Cooper proposed taking a recess in August and meeting in July. J. Laney stated he expects to be out of town during the July meeting; however, enough commissioners intend to be available for a quorum.

2024 Local Work Group Meeting Plan: Thompson reported planning has begun for the 2024 Local Work Group meeting. The event is expected to be in late July or early August at the Garners Ferry Activity Center from 9 am to 11 am. Should anyone have any questions, they can email her at thompson.jessica@richlandcountysc.gov. Mullis noted the state committee is streamlining the local work group meeting processes.

2025 Resource Rodeo: Thompson reported the Midlands Local Food Collaborative (MLFC) is working with the SC New and Beginning Farmer Program to coordinate the 2025 Resource Rodeo. The event will be held at Senate's End on Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 9 am to 4 pm. Dupre Catering will cater the event and has been asked to incorporate local produce into the menu. The planning committee has a goal of 175 attendees: approximately 45 exhibitors and 130 participants. Farmers will have free access and others will have ticketed entry. The planning committee's next steps include creating a sponsorship flyer and sponsorship request form. Cooper explained the Resource Rodeo is an MLFC project. RSWCD is the fiscal agent for MLFC and will manage the funds for the event. Cooper also noted the event ties into the Lower Richland Tourism Plan.

Travel Policy: Cooper updated the existing travel policy, adopted in 2012, and distributed the current draft to attendees. Cooper stated the updated policy codifies the current operating procedure and incorporates suggestions made by Mullis. She requested attendees review the policy after the June board meeting and return to the July board meeting with input. Cooper will email a digital copy of the travel policy to allow individuals to use track changes.

The Family of Rudy Mancke: T. Mancke presented Cooper with gifts from Rudy Mancke's collection.

Executive Session: N/A

Public Input: Mullis referenced the upcoming events listed on the agenda including the Richland County Neighborhood Block Party on June 27 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at Meadowlake Park.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 8 at 6 pm at Lizard's Thicket, 7938 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.