



Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD)

2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A

Columbia, SC 29204

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Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2024, 6 pm

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

Commissioners Present

Kenny Mullis, Chair

Jim Rhodes, Secretary/Treasurer

Mary Burts

Tim McSwain

Associate Commissioners Present

Mary Beth McSwain

Charles Weber

Additional Attendees

Quinton Epps

Chelsea Holliday

Aric Jensen

Jennifer Mancke

Jessica Thompson

Welcome, Introductions, and Invocation: Mullis called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Rhodes gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda and Minutes: Rhodes motioned to approve the agenda. Burts 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.

Reports:

Financial: Rhodes provided the following financial report:

10/14/24

Operating Account (09/30/24 Statement)

- Beginning Balance: \$48,599.63 (09/01/24)
- Deposits and Credits: \$10,622.50
- Checks: \$389.53-

- Expenses and Debits: \$698.85-
- Ending Balance: \$58,173.75 (09/30/24)

Credit Card (10/05/24 Statement)

- Beginning Balance: \$589.49 (10/05/24)
- Payments: \$589.49
- Purchases: \$238.79
- Credit Card Rewards: \$462.32
- Ending Balance: \$238.79 (10/05/24) <paid in full (10/07/2024)

Easement Stewardship Account (09/30/24 Statement)

- Starting Account Value: \$54,433.28 (08/31/24)
- Ending Account Value: \$55,333.18 (09/30/24)
- Ending Account Value with Accrued Income: \$55,520.57

SCACD Contribution Agreement Account (09/30/24 Statement)

- Starting Balance: \$220.01 (09/01/24)
- Credits: \$18,823.70+
- Debts: \$18,823.70-
- Ending Balance: \$220.01 (09/30/24)

PayPal Account (09/2024 Statement)

- Beginning Available Balance: \$0.00 (09/01/24)
- Ending Available Balance: \$0.00 (09/30/24)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): N/A

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

Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC): Weber stated Hurricane Helene significantly damaged the Palmetto Trail. Trail coordinators and volunteers are restoring the trail and Weber welcomed input on how best to tackle the work. Epps reported the Mill Creek bridge project is still underway despite the storm. Jensen explained Richland County’s comprehensive plan process. Weber invited RSWCD to attend RCCC’s next board meeting held on October 21 at 3:30 pm in the 4th Floor Conference Room of 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia to hear a Comp Plan 101 presentation.

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

Conservation Items Before County Council: Mullis will present RSWCD’s annual report on October 15 to County Council at 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia at 6 pm.

Commissioner Advocacy: Mancke reported interacting with Newton in September. The District has been in contact with Jensen.

Old Business:

Blythewood/Scout Motors Meeting Plan: Epps reported no updates.

FY25 RSWCD Contribution Agreement: Thompson reported RSWCD requested \$20,000 in funding from USDA-NRCS but was awarded \$15,000. T. McSwain made a motion to approve the \$15,000 and sign the agreement. Burts seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously. Rhodes permitted Thompson to e-sign the agreement. Epps noted the budget reflects \$20,000 in funding and must be amended for the \$5,000 difference.

Ag + Art Tour Sponsorship: Thompson reported Ag + Art Tour Planning Committee Vice Chair John Newman requested \$3,000 each in H-tax funding from Councilmembers Newton, Terracio, and Weaver. The councilmembers agreed and the motion to grant the funds will be finalized once the County Council minutes have been approved at the next council meeting. Thompson encouraged attendees to look for sponsorship funding from other organizations.

Resource Rodeo: Clemson Extension is spearheading Resource Rodeo and asked RSWCD to help plan the event. Thompson shared the Resource Rodeo flyer and reported she is working with Clemson Extension to set up the registration website and continue organizing the event.

New Business: N/A

Executive Session: T. McSwain made a motion to go into executive session to discuss contractual arrangements for the Ag + Art Tour Coordinator position. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously. T. McSwain made a motion to come out of executive session. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously. Rhodes made a motion to approve the contract for the Ag + Art Tour Coordinator position pending updated dates. Burts seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.

Public Input: Mancke shared Hansel Carter, known as Mr. Bunky, passed away. Mullis reviewed upcoming events. The East Piedmont Area Meeting, held by Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District, has been rescheduled for November 14, 2024. Burts announced she has completed RSWCD's contribution to the silent auction for the 2025 Conservation Partnership Conference.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12 at 6 pm at Lizard's Thicket, 7938 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.