



Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD)

2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A

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Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2024, 6 pm

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

Commissioners Present

Kenny Mullis, Chair

Jeff Laney, Vice Chair

Mary Burts

Associate Commissioners Present

Mary Frances Hendrix

Logan Richardson

Additional Attendees

Quinton Epps

Chelsea Holliday

Jennifer Mancke

Jessica Thompson

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

Approve Agenda and Minutes: Burts motioned to approve the agenda. Laney seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously. Burts made a motion to approve the minutes. Laney seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.

Reports:

Financial: Thompson provided the following financial report:

Operating Account (10/31/24 Statement)

- Beginning Balance: \$58,173.75 (10/01/24)
- Deposits and Credits: \$3,205.00
- Checks: \$464.30-
- Expenses and Debits: \$238.79-
- Ending Balance: \$60,675.66 (10/31/24)

Credit Card (11/05/24 Statement)

- Beginning Balance: \$0 (11/05/24)
- Payments: \$0.00
- Purchases: \$1,019.11
- Credit Card Rewards: \$462.32
- Ending Balance: \$1,019.11 (11/05/24) <paid in full (11/08/2024)

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 (10/1/24 Statement)

- Starting Balance: \$220.01 (10/01/24)
- Credits: \$33,166.28+
- Debts: \$13,666.08-
- Ending Balance: \$19,720.21+ (10/31/24)

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): No one from NRCS was present nor was a written report submitted. Mullis reported there is no definite date for when the Urban Ag Office will open but it is in the works with hopes to open within the next year. The office may be located in Richland County. Mullis also reported NRCS SC Acting State Conservationist Odessa Armstrong will leave at the end of the year and another stand-in will fill the role. Attendees can expect announcements soon.

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

Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC): Epps reported Richland County is working on a comprehensive plan. The plan is created every ten years and provides the county with guidance on decision-making. RCCC had a comp plan presentation at their October board meeting. Epps invited those interested to speak with him for more details. Epps also reported the Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan Implementation was before Council on November 12.

RSWCD Programs: Holliday reviewed the provided RSWCD program report. Epps announced the Conservation Division has a new administrative assistant, Alexis Wallraf.

Conservation Items Before County Council: Epps referenced the RCCC report.

Commissioner Advocacy: Mullis presented to County Council in October. Mullis also noted Russell Ott, a supporter of agriculture, was elected to the Senate. This could benefit RSWCD.

Old Business:

RSWCD Board Meeting Calendar: Burts motioned to not hold a board meeting in December. Laney seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously. Laney made a motion to approve the 2025 board meeting calendar. Burts seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.

Blythewood/Scout Motors Meeting Plan: Epps reported the Scout Motors Columbia Connection Center does not have a meeting space; only a model is present.

Ag + Art Tour Sponsorship: Thompson reported the Ag + Art Tour Planning Committee met in October. Amanda Jones, Planning Committee Chair, is searching for an artisan coordinator. The position requires approximately more than 100 hours of volunteer work. The planning committee is also looking for sponsors. Thompson asked attendees to send potential artisan coordinator candidates and potential donors to her.

Resource Rodeo: Thompson reported exhibitor and speaker recruitment will end on November 30. The event's website and Eventbrite registration site are live. Tickets are \$25 for general admission. Thompson will follow up on the ticket price for farmers and share the event's website and Eventbrite.

New Business: N/A

Executive Session: N/A

Public Input: Mullis reviewed upcoming events including the East Piedmont Area Meeting, the Conservation Division's Holiday Drop-In, and the Partnership Conference.

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

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.