



Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD)
2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204
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Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2023 • 6pm

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

Commissioners Present

Kenny Mullis, Chair
Jeff Laney, Vice Chair
Jim Rhodes, Treasurer
Mary Burts
Tim McSwain

Associate Commissioners Present

Charles Weber
Sarah Burnham
Logan Richardson
Mary Beth McSwain

Others Present

Quinton Epps
Chanda Cooper
Val Morris
Jennifer Mancke
Aric Jensen

Welcome and Call to Order: Mullis called the meeting to order and Rhodes gave the invocation at 6:02 pm.

Approve Agenda and Minutes: Rhodes made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Burts. The motion was put to a vote, and it passed unanimously. Additionally, Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, which was seconded by T. McSwain. The motion was brought to a vote, and it also passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Rhodes provided the following financial overview:

Operating Account (08/31/23 Statement)

- Starting Balance: \$55,440.74 (08/01/23)
- Deposits and Credits: \$60.00
- Expenses and Debits: \$3,570.38
- Ending Balance: \$51,930.36 (08/31/23)

Credit Card (08/05/23 Statement)

- Starting Balance: \$1,286.14 (09/05/23)
- Payments: \$1286.14
- Purchases: \$861.09
- Ending Balance: \$861.09 (08/05/23) <paid in full (09/08/2023)

Easement Stewardship Account (07/31/23 Statement)

- Starting Account Value: \$52,089.42 (08/01/23)
- Ending Account Value: \$52,248.69 (08/31/23)
- Ending Account Value with Accrued Income: \$52,491.10 (08/31/23)

SCACD Contribution Agreement Account (05/31/23 Statement)

- Starting Balance: \$252.51 (08/01/23)
- Ending Balance: \$252.51 (08/31/23)

PayPal Account (05/01/23 Statement)

- Current Balance: \$0.00 (07/31/23)

Friends of RSWCD Report: Laney reported, since the previous board meeting on 08/11/23, we welcomed one new Honorary Friend, in lieu of Kirk Commercial Construction, Jeff Laney. Our Friends count stands at a total of 43 and 11 have renewed in 2023.

Administrative Report: Morris reported South Carolina Commissioner’s School for Agriculture (SCCSA) sent a thank you card, thanking the RSWCD for their continuous and generous support. Also, Associate Commissioner Jamie Browder resigned due to a new teaching assignment and other added responsibilities.

NRCS: None Reported

SCDNR: None Reported

Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC): Weber reported they have several action items with Natural Resource Committee (NRC) and reminded the group of the upcoming public meeting with Scout Motors in Blythewood on September 19, 2023.

Education Report:

- RSWCD E-newsletter: 4,432 (+ 472) subscribers
- RSWCD Facebook: 1,209 (+5) followers
- RSWCD Instagram: 725 (+8) followers
- Ag + Art Facebook: 1,022 (+5) followers
- Ag + Art Instagram: 642 (+11) followers

Richland County Ag + Art Tour:

- Dates: June 8-9, 2024
- Planning meeting: 9/14 @ 1pm
- Seeking sponsors: goal \$15,000

- \$5,000 - Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC)
- \$2,900 - Chakisssee Newton
- \$2,900 - Allison Terracio
- \$2,100 - H-Tax Grant

Vermicompost:

- Clear Dot Charter School
- Two kindergarten classes

Watershed Explorer:

- Lake Carolina Elementary School
- Nine classes

Pollinator Conservation:

- Richland Library Blythewood
- Fourteen participants
- Pop-up seed sanctuary

Seed Sanctuary:

- > 5,440 packets distributed since 2/1/23
- 621 mail requests since 2/1/23
- 63 individual volunteers
- Still Hopes group packing continues
- Distribution continues at 2020 Hampton St. & Richland Library Eastover
- Pop-Up @ Richland Library Blythewood

RSWCD's Annual Report to Council

- Tuesday, October 3 @ 6pm
- Council Chambers @Richland County Administration Building, 2020 Hampton Street

Additionally, Cooper reported about the current open registration for the Mini Grant and Poster Contest. Detailed information regarding these opportunities can be accessed on the Richland County website.

Advocacy: Mullis contacted Councilmembers Pugh, Livingston, Newton, Barron and English to request H-Tax funding for the Ag + Art Tour. He also reached out to SC Farm Bureau asking for their continuous support for the Tour.

Old Business: None Reported

New Business: T. McSwain motioned to re-elect Mullis, Laney, and Rhodes to their respective roles as Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer, which was seconded by Burts. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session: N/A

Public Input: None Reported

Next Meeting: The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 9, 2023 at 6pm at Lizard's Thicket, 7938 Garners Ferry Rd, Columbia, SC 29209.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenny Mullis, Chair

Val Morris, Conservation Administrative Assistant