



2020 Hampton Street · Room 3063A Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 576-2083
Minutes
May 15, 2023
4th Floor Conference Room

Attendance

Commissioner	District	Present
Charles Weber	1	Yes
Tim McSwain	2	No
Wayman Stover	3	Yes
Glenice Pearson	4	Yes
Kip Dillihay	5	Yes
John Grego	6	Yes
Robert Squirewell	7	No
Deborah DePaoli	8	Yes
Khali Gallman	9	Yes
Darrell Jackson Jr.	10	No
Gail Rodriguez	11	Yes

Staff & Visitors	Affiliation
John McKenzie	Conservation Division
Val Morris	Conservation Division
Aric Jensen	Assistant County Administrator
Jim Young	Visitor
Carol Robinson Lee	Visitor
Mary Robinson Long	Visitor

Call to Order

Grego welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with a quorum at 3:30pm. Members, staff, and guests met in-person or by Zoom.

Approval of Agenda

- ⇒ **Grego moved to put the Public Input Report under the Report of the Chair and included Thompson Cottage as an action item for FY22-23 RCCC Grants, under the Conservation Analyst Report. Weber motioned to approve the changes to the agenda which was seconded by Stover. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes

- ⇒ **Weber moved to approved April minutes which was seconded by Stover. Motion passed unanimously.**

Report of the Chair

- **Public Input – discussion: South Carolina Federation of Women’s and Youth Clubs**

Carol Robinson Lee, President, of SC Federation of Women's and Youth Club and Mary Robinson Young, State Treasurer, of SC Federation of Women's and Youth Club joined the meeting to give their FY22-23 third quarter grant update. Lee reported she was unaware dual projects could be done at one time. Thus far, they've only completed the electrical work for their project. Lee and Young stated, they're still needing to complete the plumbing project and have consulted with several plumbers. Lee reported, after having consultations with several plumbers, they've found a plumber to start on their project and she's confident it will be completed by the deadline of the FY22-23 grant cycle.

- **Greenway Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee – discussion:** Grego reported he attended Greenway Ad-Hoc Committee meeting and various Greenway plans were discussed in a several formats. He mentioned Ted Thomas as the new contact for the Greenway Ad-Hoc Advisory Board.
- **Land Development Code (LDC) – update:** Grego reported the Land Development Code isn't on County Council agenda for the next council meeting.
- **Advocacy – discussion:** Grego reported, he along with other RCCC commissioners, staff members and a great number of Richland County Administrators attended the Statewide Ag + Art Tour Kickoff event which was held at the UofSC. Several RCCC commissioners and staff members attended the SC Envirothon Competition, where they assisted with judging and grading the Oral Presentations. Grego also stated he and Councilman Don Weaver plan to meet to discuss Land & Development Codes and Amendments made by the Planning Commission.
- **Scout Motors – discussion:** Grego reported on the different watersheds and streams that will be affected during the development of Scout Motors, in particularly, Beasley Creek and Crane Creek watersheds. Grego stated this will be a very large mitigation project for Richland County and is expecting some of the County's mitigation bank credits to be used.

Stover wanted to know how the mitigation banks operate. Epps explained, when a developer impacts streams and wetlands, they have to follow the Army Corps of Engineers Standard Operating Procedures (ACE). Based on those procedures, they determine how many mitigation credits, wetlands and streams, a company will need in order to be permitted for the work needed to build the facility. The determination for the prices of mitigation credits are based on a number of market factors, such as supply and demand, credit availability and other factors. To sum it all up, Epps reported there's a three-phase process for mitigation of impacts in the ACE process:

- Avoidance: Where you avoid making any impacts to water resources
- Minimization: Where you try to minimize your impacts
- Compensation: Provide compensation with mitigation credits for unavoidable impacts

Report from Community Planning and Development

- **Land Development Code-Remapping Restart – update:** Jensen reported on May 23rd, the Land Development Code, Text Amendments and Zoning Maps will be going before Development &

Service (D&S) Committee and he anticipates it will take at least three readings before it goes to County Council.

- **Treasurer’s Report – update:** Epps reported no major activities in the budget.

Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) Report

- **Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan – update:** McKenzie reported Historic Columbia has continued research to create a comprehensive data base of African American heritage sites and historic resources in Richland County. Thus far, 16 sites have been researched and databased. They’ve had follow-up conversations with Wavelength, a digital networking source for Black content creators around the world, met with visiting travel writers and presented at Chamber Breakfast Briefing. More conversations are being held with public relations agency Fahlgren Mortine to develop a media relations plan, and individual press/influencer trips were conducted to garner organic media coverage.
- **Historic Preservation Plan (HPP) – update:** McKenzie reported he has started a scope of services for the HPP and he will share this information with HPC at their committee meeting.

Natural Resources Committee (NRC) Report

Executive Session – Potential Property Purchase – action:

- ⇒ **Weber motioned for the RCCC to enter into Executive Session, which was seconded by Rodriquez. Motion passed unanimously.**

At 4:09pm RCCC went into Executive Session.

At 4:27pm RCCC came out of Executive Session. No action was taken.

- ⇒ **Weber moved that Richland County Conservation Commission direct Quinton Epps to obtain an updated appraisal or a second appraisal for the property that is being considered for purchase and grant Quinton Epps the authority on behalf of Richland County Conservation Commission to request approval from Richland County Council for permission to apply to the South Carolina Conservation Bank for funding, which was seconded by Dillihay. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mill Creek Bridge – update:** Epps reported he’s working on the procurement process for the Mill Creek Bridge.
- **Columbia Rowing Club – update:** Epps reported the Operating Agreement with the Columbia Rowing Club will go before the Administration and Finance (A&F) Committee on May 23, 2023.
- **Bates Old River – update:** Grego reported they’re consulting with Richland County maintenance staff, who are in charge of the Barney Jordan Landing and Bates Bridge Landing about the cost of maintenance. We hope that taking on maintenance for the Bates Old River Landing will not be prohibitive.

- **Mitigation Bank Credits – update:** Epps reported no changes in credits, however there are about eight wetlands mitigation credit requests they’re currently working on. If they all sell, it could possibly bring in about \$230,000 of revenue.
- **Forestry Stewardship Plan – update:** Epps reported they’ve received recommendations from the Forestry Commission and it was discussed with the NRC. We are working on how to implement those recommendations from the Forestry Commission before the next NRC meeting in June.

Conservation Program Analyst’s Report

- **Koinonia Sculpture Garden – discussion:** McKenzie reported he extended an invitation to Dr. Dezmund Sumter to attend next month’s meeting to further discuss the conceptual images he submitted for the Koinonia Sculpture Garden. He will also reach out to Councilwoman Cheryl English, District 10 to see if she’s available for the presentation.
- **FY 22-23 RCCC Grants – update:** McKenzie reported the third quarter reports are coming in and some recipients have completed their projects. Earlier today, he emailed the grant recipients a reminder about the approaching deadline. Benedict College is showing no progress with their project. McKenzie reports, he’s been unsuccessful communicating with their point of contact to discuss their progression. Gills Creek Watershed Association project has been terminated, they’re continuing to work out technicalities with the Timberlane Area before they could put up signage, which was the purpose for the grant. Since the last meeting, Dutch Fork Elementary has made progress with their project. They’ve had several field trips and are planning a few more before the school year ends.
- **Thompson Cottage – action item:** Stacy Richie, point of contact for the Thompson Cottage grant, submitted a request changes for the grant funding. Per policy, if the amount is over \$1000.00, a vote would have to be taken by the RCCC. In the request, there were two-line items totally over \$1000.00.

⇒ **Weber moved to accept the changes in the line items budget for the Thompson Cottage, which was seconded by Rodriguez. Motion passed unanimously.**

⇒ **Weber moved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, which was seconded by Dillihay. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Conservation Easement – update:** McKenzie reported he’s still working with the owner for the Fable easement. The town of Blythewood has a new ordinance which requires new developments to place fifty percent or more of purchase development property in a conservation easement. The developers who wanted to work with the RCCC for this easement have not returned his phone messages.
 - **Events – update:** The Ag + Art Tour kickoff event will be held at the Sandhill Farmers Market on Tuesday, May 30, from 2-6pm. They’re still needing 32 volunteers to assist with registration at the 15 tour sites on June 10 and 11. McKenzie reported he attended the Hattie Anderson

marker unveiling, SC PTA 100th Anniversary Celebration, Camp Discovery Parent Day and the ribbon cutting ceremony at Harbison State Forest. During the ceremony, RCCC was presented with a plaque of appreciation from the Friends of Harbison Forest for their grant support on various projects.

Conservation Manager's Report

- **FY23 – 24 Annual Budget – update:** Epps reported the first reading for the FY23-24 budget was completed and during the public hearing on May 9th, there was no mention of RCCC. Epps also reported he's fairly optimistic there will be a resolution for the missing \$143,988.00 for Pinewood Lake Park and Mill Creek & Cabin Branch in the General Ledgers being developed in Administration.
- **Staff vacancies – update:** Epps reported he's still seeking applicants for the Land Program Planner position.
- **Mitigation Report – update:** An update was given under the NRC report.

New Business: None

⇒ **At 5:05 pm, Dillihay moved to adjourned the meeting, which was seconded by Depoli. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Val Morris