

**2020 Hampton Street ▪ Room 3063A**

**P.O. Box 192 ▪ Columbia, SC 29202**

**(803) 576-2083**

**Minutes**

**August 25, 2014**

**Attendance:**

Members present: Carol Kososki, Margaret DuBard, Sam Holland, Ann Furr, Virginia Sanders,

Jim Thomas, Glenice Pearson, Charles Weber, John Grego

Absent: Becky Bailey, Mildred Myers

Others present:

 Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department

 Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department

Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel

Quinton Epps, Richland County Stormwater Director

David Shelley, Congaree National Park

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 3:38pm.

**Agenda:** Margaret DuBard moved and Jim Thomas seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion was approved.

**Minutes:** Carol requested an addition be made regarding when a quorum was reached at the June 23rd meeting. Ann Furr made a motion to accept the minutes with the addition and was seconded by Jim Thomas. Motion was approved.

Carol expressed her condolences to Sam Holland on the loss of his father-in-law, John V. Green, who was Chair of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District.

Introductions were made to new Commission Member, Charles Weber, appointed by Councilman Bill Malinowski to represent District 1.

**Congaree National Park Grant Presentation**

Dr. David Shelley, Education Coordinator for the Park, thanked the Commission members for the $15,000 grant used for training teachers and Informal Conservation Educators based on the Framework for K12 Science Education. The funding was used to pay for interns, consumables for teacher workshops, and lendables teachers can check out and return. Eight workshops were provided. The Park provided over $20,000 match through staffing.

**Report of the Chair**

Carol reported interviews for hiring the new Director for the Conservation Department are scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2014 with Assistant County Administrator Sparty Hammett. Carol will participate for RCCC and Kenny Mullis will represent the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Virginia Sanders referred everyone to their copy of the budget report. Nancy reviewed the parts of the FY15 budget the Commission has some discretion over - Professional Services, Acquisitions, Construction. When the FY14 rollovers are approved in late September, an additional $72,711 will be added to Construction, Grants, and Appearance. A total of $167,319 has not been allocated and is available for easements, research projects or new projects of interest to RCCC. Ken Drigger’s contract expired the end of June and needs to be extended through December. The department’s new car has finally arrived and was paid for with FY14 funds.

**Conservation Committee Report**

John Grego reported he is working with Congaree National Park on a new Memorandum of Agreement with the Friends of Congaree Swamp for the McCord’s Ferry trail which has not been completed. Good access to the trail improvements at Hwy. 601 will be difficult due to road widening by SCDOT. John and Nancy visited a potential easement property on Cabin Branch which has a wide vegetated stream buffer and approximately 60 acres planted in longleaf pine. With County acquisitions and easements, there should be the potential to develop a Cabin Branch conservation corridor.

**Historic Committee Report**

Glenice Pearson said the Historic Committee has completed the initial work developing a document requesting historians to make recommendations on future research and means to more fully engage the public. Jim and Nancy will attend a three-day conference on Slave Dwellings in Savannah while Glenice will attend a one-day conference on African American tourism in Charleston. Copies of the grant funded Modjeska Simkins booklet were distributed.

**Conservation Coordinator’s Report**

Owens Field Update

Efforts to get a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Columbia, School District 1, and the County have not yet been successful. The District’s attorney has been out on medical leave all summer and her insistence of an indemnification clause has slowed down the process. October 11 has been scheduled as a work day to remove invasive species, especially privet; however, the MOA needs to be signed before any work takes place.

Reallocation for Cemetery Survey

Mike Trinkley from Chicora notified RCCC staff the cemetery project is $11,505 over budget due to more extensive staff time than anticipated. Nancy requested RCCC reallocate carry-over funds of $8,558 from the now defunct Sustainable Midland’s grant to the cemetery project. She also asked if the Commission would be willing to cover the printing costs of the report. John made a motion to reallocate the funds and pay for the report printing. Ann seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Grants Update

Several of the FY15 grants are off to a strong start. Quarterly reports are due October 15. County Council approved the funding of $20,000 for the Olympia Mill Village Museum. Nancy will meet with Sherry Jaco, Robin Waites of Historic Columbia, and Valeria Jackson of Community Development to brainstorm next steps for the project.

The historic marker unveiling at the Cornwell Tourist Home is September 4 at 4pm.

Richland County’s “Viewing the Plan” meetings are scheduled for September 8-10.

Meeting adjourned 5:05pm

Next meeting is September 22, 2014

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant