



2020 Hampton Street • Room 3063A  
P.O. Box 192 • Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 576-2083

## Minutes July 25, 2011

### **Attendance:**

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Glenice Pearson, Virginia Sanders, Margaret DuBard, Becky Bailey

Absent: Frank Houston, Gary Atkinson, Mildred Myers, Sam Holland, and Jim Lawracy

### Others Present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy) Environmental Planning Division  
Nancy Stone-Collum, Environmental Planning Division  
Charlie Fisher, Environmental Planning Division  
Ken Driggers, Legal  
Anna Fonseca, Planning Director  
Stuart Greeter, Congaree RiverKeeper

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:02pm and introduced special guest Stuart Greeter, the Congaree Riverkeeper, to give the Commission an update of the state of the river and the results of the FY11 Community Conservation grant they received.

Presentation of Congaree RiverKeeper: Mr. Greeter has been the RiverKeeper for the last year and he encouraged all the Commission members to promote recreation on our rivers. The focus of the RiverKeeper is to keep the water in the Congaree, Saluda and Broad Rivers clean. Unfortunately, sewage treatment plant spills, sanitary sewer overflows and nonpoint source pollution impair the water quality in these rivers. Twenty one spills occurred last month; in a fourteen month period there were 248 spills. Sewer system overflows, leakage, and stormwater issues are the greatest problems. The RiverKeeper uses permit review, hot-line tips, and education to work toward improving water quality. He also mentioned the operation of two new nuclear reactors at Jenkinsville will have a tremendous impact on the streamflow in the Broad River. Mr. Greeter offered to arrange an excursion, possibly using the Congaree National Park boat.

**Minutes:** The minutes for June 27, 2011 were approved as written.

**Agenda:** Carol asked to move the Finance Committee report to follow the Division Manager's report. Becky Bailey moved to approve the change of agenda and Glenice Pearson seconded the motion, which was approved.

**Division Manager's Report:** Buddy Atkins  
SCE&G transmission line easement

Buddy reviewed the status of the easement requested by SCE&G to construct a new 230Kv transmission line across county-owned land near Farrow and Clemson Roads. A summary of the meeting between SCE&G and county staff on July 20, 2011 and a map of the company's preferred route was distributed. When SCE&G explained their route selection methodology, it was discovered they used inaccurate zoning data for the future Killian's Crossing development and the county sports complex. Correct zoning could result in a different route than proposed. SCE&G is to report back on the sources of their data from Richland County. However, SCE&G will be filing an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity with the Public Service Commission (PSC) by August 8, 2011. They are not expected to rerun their route selection analysis prior to submittal to the PSC. The County will have 30 days, from SCE&G's filing date with the PSC, to decide whether to intervene in the case but County Council does not return from their August recess until after the deadline for response. Commission members agreed that staff should investigate how best to provide a briefing to members of County Council as soon as possible.

Jackson Creek Mitigation Bank

Buddy referred Commission members to their handouts on Jackson Creek regarding implementation of the mitigation bank upstream of Decker Boulevard. The US Corps of Engineers expressed its concern about future land-use plans for undeveloped properties adjacent to the stream and wetlands. The project would restore and protect 36 acres along Jackson Creek, including development of a trail. Expenses for the land purchases, restoration, studies, best management practices and trails would likely exceed the revenue from mitigation bank credits. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27 with County staff to discuss a mechanism to allow staff to negotiate land protection acquisitions and easements associated with the bank.

**Finance Committee Report:** Virginia Sanders, Finance Committee Chair explained that the final FY11 financial report will be provided when the budget is closed out and the rollovers are determined. Buddy reviewed the services provided by the Soil and Water Conservation District staff. The contract is the same as last year - \$1300 per month. Virginia Sanders moved and John Grego seconded the motion to approve the contract, which was approved.

The contract for Ken Driggers was approved at the November 2011 meeting. Staff will pursue a new appraiser through the procurement process. The contract with the Gills Creek Watershed Association will no longer go through USC but directly to GCWA. There will be a \$6,070.26 roll over from FY11 to FY12. John Grego moved and Becky Bailey seconded the motion to approve the change in contract which was approved.

A scope of work for services from Palmetto Conservation Foundation and a detailed budget for developing and printing a county-wide Bicycle Trails Map was distributed. Buddy said the PCF contract will be modeled after the new Gills Creek contract. He asked the Commission approve the first three items in the scope of work and said staff would finalize PCF's contract by the next meeting for their consideration. Those items are:

1. Assistance for conservation easements with baseline documentation through GPS, \$1,000
2. Office space, computer, and payroll for Historic Preservation intern, \$3,000
3. Palmetto Joyride event sponsorship, \$1000

Nancy Stone-Collum passed around a flyer for the Palmetto Joyride event. PCF and Palmetto Cycling are bringing Portland-based bicycle transportation expert and author Mia Birk to South Carolina for a three-day tour. Meetings in Charleston, Columbia (September 8) and Greenville will involve elected officials, business leaders, government staff, and the public to examine transportation policies and educate on creating bike-friendly communities and promote walking and cycling programs. PCF asked the RCCC to be a sponsor on behalf of Richland County. Questions were raised about the Joyride sponsorship – should this be in a professional services contract, or is it more suited for a grant. Glenice Pearson asked if PCF were the only organization that could provide these services and should the work be put out for bid? Nancy explained that the sponsorship was included in the contract for ease of payment and items 1 and 2 are a continuation of the FY11 contract and will conclude by the end of September. The remaining work item concerned the development of a bike map. Staff indicated they would further research the need for the work and other potential vendors.

**Time Extension:** At 5:30 pm, John Grego moved and Margaret DuBard seconded the motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, which was approved.

*Discussion continued:*

Becky Bailey moved and Virginia Sanders seconded the motion to approve items 1 and 2, which was approved. Discussion continued about the Joyride sponsorship until Becky Bailey moved and Virginia Sanders seconded the motion to approve (item 3) the \$1,000 sponsorship for the Palmetto Joyride event. Glenice Pearson left before the vote. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 1, with John Grego in opposition.

Carol asked the Commissioners to look over the FY12 grant listing by district with contact information and to get involved with any grants in their districts. Carol also asked the members to review the attendance record included in their handouts.

**New Business:**

The Appearance Commission is sending out invitations to attend an Appearance & Beautification leadership conference on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

John Grego said there was a Development Round Table meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Input:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm

Next meeting: Monday, August 22, 2011 at 4:00 pm at the Richland County Administration Building

Submitted by  
Charlie Fisher  
Administrative Assistant