



**P.O. Box 192
Columbia, SC 29202**

Minutes

January 24, 2005
4:30 P.M.

Richland County Administration Building
4th Floor Administrative Conference Room

Attendance

Seven members were present:

Becky Bailey, John Davis, Margaret DuBard, Stuart Hope, Maxey Love, Jeanette McBride and Ken Simmons.

Three members were absent:

Marian Hampton (Sick), Frank Houston and Mildred Myers (Sick)

Others Present:

Ken Driggers and Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation; Carey McSwain, County Administrator; Ashley Bloom, Assistant County Administrator, Michael Criss & John Newman - Richland County Planning Dept., Joyce Dickerson, County Council, Jim Wilson, Richland Conservation District, Evelyn Bush & John McDuffie - Citizens, and Hugh Caldwell - Richland Conservation District.

Call to Order

Becky Bailey, Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum available to conduct business at 4:35 P.M. Carey McSwain, County Administrator, introduced Ashley Bloom as a new Assistant County Administrator. Mrs. Bloom will be the County liaison to the Conservation Commission.

Minutes

Minutes from November 15, 2005 were approved as mailed.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Executive Session

A motion was made, seconded and passed to enter into executive session.

A motion was made. Seconded and passed to come out of executive session.

Chair Becky Bailey stated that discussion on contractual issue was discussed but no action was taken.

Attendance Record

The commission member attendance record for commission meetings was distributed. Stuart Hope indicated that he was not on the attendance roster. Mildred Myers called to let us know she was sick and could not attend. Becky Bailey indicated that Marian Hampton has resigned but no official letter. Becky will get letter of resignation.

FY-05 Budget Update

Expenditures through Dec. 31, 2004 were \$55,409.81 leaving a balance of \$149,190.19. A copy of the expense report is attached to minutes. Our budget request for millage agencies funding needs to be submitted to the budget office by February 28, 2005. A committee will be appointed to prepare the budget request after election of officers later in the agenda.

Palmetto Conservation Foundation Report

Ken Driggers reported on the progress of the roof repair of Monteith School. Roof is going up but not yet completed. They do have a plan for funding the rest of the restoration.

There are two proposals under review, one on historical property and the other on river front property. These may be ready for review at next meeting. Ten properties were reviewed in 2004. A report of the 2004 activities of the Commission was passed out.

County Policy On Endorsing Easements

(Background information) Prior to the Dec 14th County Council meeting Ken Driggers was asked to respond to the Mungo Conservation Easement Resolution which he provided to the County Attorney. On Tuesday Dec. 14th, 2004, County Council adopted two resolutions recognizing conservation easements given by Stuart Mungo. Council also directed staff to develop a policy for accepting/recognizing conservation easements of this nature in the future. This information was emailed from Tony McDonald, Assistant County Administrator, to Hugh Caldwell of Richland Conservation District and as staff support for the Conservation Commission asking that a policy be developed. Hugh forwarded Tony's email to the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Ken & Nancy, and to Jim Wilson, Richland Conservation District for suggestions for the policy. Ken Driggers prepared the draft policy and forwarded it back for review before today's meeting.

The draft policy was amended to add to item #4 under the first paragraph, that the donee organization would have to be approved by the Commission. A motion was made, seconded and passed to recommend the draft to County Council. Tony McDonald requested that the draft be reviewed by Richland County Legal Dept. before going to Council. Ken Driggers will draft a cover letter to accompany the draft policy. A copy of the draft policy and other related emails are attached to minutes.

Planning Strategies

Nancy Stone-Collum made a presentation on a watershed approach at projecting possible parcels that may have conservation easement potential that meets the Conservation Commission objectives. Two watersheds were reviewed, Crane Creek, northwest portion of county and Cedar Creek, southeast portion of county. By consensus, the concept was approved for staff to continue and inventory possible parcels.

Old Business

After discussion a decision was made to meet the 4th Monday of each month at 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Hugh will provide a list of dates for the remainder of 2005. For those Monday's that fall on a holiday, a decision will be made at the previous month's meeting as to rescheduling a meeting for that month.

New Business

The following were nominated for officers for 2005:

Chair -	Becky Bailey
Vice Chairs -	John Davis & Margaret DuBard
Finance Chair -	Stuart Hope

A motion was made that nominations be closed and those nominated be elected by acclamation. The motion was duly seconded and passed.

The two Vice Chairs, John Davis & Margaret DuBard, and Finance Chair, Stuart Hope, were appointed to develop our budget request. Margaret DuBard will chair the committee. Consultants and staff support may be asked to meet with the committee. The committee will meet Tuesday Feb. 15th at 4:00 PM. Hugh will schedule a meeting room.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to give the Executive Committee the authority to approve the Budget Request Committee's recommendation.

Public Input

Evelyn Bush expressed concern about the conservation easement article that appeared in a Charleston and Greenville paper but not in "The State" in Columbia.

Next Meeting

Monday February 28, 2005, at 4:00 PM

Adjournment

There being no further, business the meeting adjourned at 6:03 P. M.

Respectfully Submitted

Hugh Caldwell
Staff Support