



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

## Minutes August 26, 2013

### **Attendance:**

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Glenice Pearson, Gary Atkinson, Margaret DuBard, Ann Furr, and Becky Bailey

Absent: Virginia Sanders, Mildred Myers, Jim Lawracy, Sam Holland

### Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department  
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department  
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department  
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel  
Julie-Ann Dixon, Richland County Council  
Richard Lindler, Lexington Co. citizen

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:05pm with a quorum present.

**Agenda:** John Grego made a motion to change the order of the agenda, moving Committee Reports ahead of the Director's Report. The motion was seconded by Gary Atkinson and carried.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Becky Bailey and seconded by Glenice Pearson to approve the minutes of June 24, 2013 as written. Motion carried.

### **Report of the Chair**

Carol reported the Transportation Penny Advisory Committee (TPAC) approved a mission statement at their last meeting and the new Director of Transportation, Rob Perry, was introduced. Mission statement and vita for Rob Perry will be emailed to the Commission. Consideration is being given as to how to relocate funds from completed projects on the approved list and how to add projects from entities that were not included, i.e. Forest Acres, Eastover, and Blythewood.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Buddy referred everyone to their copy of the current Budget Inquiry Report. The top listing of Conservation reflects the remaining salary amounts paid for by General Fund revenues formerly shown under Soil & Water. Under Professional Services, after funds are encumbered for Historical

Markers (\$12,000), the USC Opinion Poll (\$8,000), and the Hopkins easement (\$60,000), a balance of \$127,390 remains. This will be augmented in late September by \$72,500 (10% of total budget) rolled over from FY13.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Conservation Committee

John reported field testing of the opinion survey has identified a few problems, resulting in modification of some of the questions for a second field test. John will provide an analysis of the results of the survey at the next RCCC meeting. A copy of the survey questions was requested and will be sent to each Commission member. Carol requested a demonstration of GIS mapping to show conservation priority areas at the next meeting.

#### Historic Committee

The Historic Committee met immediately prior to the Commission meeting. They recommended adoption of language establishing the Richland County Historical Marker program. Interested parties will go through SC Department of Archives and History for text approval. RCCC will pay the cost of the marker fabrication to Sewah Studios, the approved company for SC Historical Markers. Prices range from \$2,000 to \$2,280 depending on city versus country size markers and the same or different text on either side. Glenice moved to approve the proposed language with one deletion and to allocate \$12,000 for five markers. Becky seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Nancy explained that under the Bailey Bill, property owners may request historic building designation in order to apply for the tax abatement program. RCCC has had a Historic Landmark designation application to determine historic preservation grant eligibility. Since the same information is needed for both programs and confusion will result from two forms with different names, the Committee recommended eliminating the landmark application form in favor of the Historic Building Eligibility form for both programs. Margaret moved to eliminate the application for Historic Landmark designation and use in its place the application for Historic Building Eligibility. Glenice seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

### **Conservation Director's Report**

Buddy announced the addition of several new high level County staff members. In addition to Transportation Director Bob Perry, Warren Harley has been hired and Roxanne Ancheta was promoted to Assistant County Administrators, and Beverly Harris is Director of the Public Information Office.

#### Haile Mitigation

In July, the Army Corps of Engineers announced a public hearing for the proposed Haile Gold Mine in Lancaster County. The mitigation proposal to compensate for impacting 120 acres of wetlands and 26,460 linear feet of streams calls for the preservation of three large conservation properties - Rainbow Ranch in Lancaster County, Cook's Mountain, and a portion of the Goodwill Plantation both in Richland County. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would own and manage the properties. At a prior COWASEE Basin Task Force meeting, DNR indicated public access at Cook's Mountain would be restricted to limited hunting and educational activities. Chairman Washington

is interested in much greater public access and a more involved role for Richland County. Carol and Nancy attended a public meeting in Kershaw where many residents expressed displeasure with the mitigation plan taking place largely in Richland County which is not affected by the environmental impacts of the proposed mine.

#### Jackson Creek Mitigation Bank

Landowner Hugh Palmer did not respond to the County's proposal to purchase approximately 25 acres along Jackson Creek upstream of Decker Blvd., thus ending any opportunity for a mitigation bank. Richland School District 2 has an option to purchase the high ground for an elementary school, but filling 1.24 acres of wetlands on the property will require mitigation. Gills Creek Watershed Association and Cary's Lake Homeowners Association are concerned about the water quality impacts of filling the wetlands. Comments for the Army Corps of Engineers' 404 permit and DHEC's 401 permit are due Sept. 6 and Sept. 21 respectively. Julie-Ann Dixon requested a detailed email to Council members explaining the pros and cons of building on wetlands. Buddy stressed the importance of working with the new owners to implement Best Management Practices and the possibility of building a trail along Jackson Creek. Carol moved and Gary seconded a motion to send an email to Council which was approved unanimously.

#### Owens Field

Buddy reported Fuss & O'Neill was awarded the contract to design the trail improvements and stormwater Best Management Practices at Owens Field Park. The cost of the design work is \$90,048 to be paid with \$50,000 from the Neighborhood Improvement Program and \$40,048 from RCCC. Gills Creek Watershed Association and Buddy co-wrote a 319 Implementation Grant to DHEC which was recently approved. The grant will provide \$170,000 for Richland County to construct stormwater Best Management Practices at Owens Field.

#### **Conservation Coordinator's Report**

Nancy announced a tour of four Historic Preservation projects is being planned for the Commission and Council. September 5 is one potential date. The Cowasee Basin History and Nature Tour on September 20 was emailed; reservations are needed right away. RCCC will cover the cost of \$39 for each Commission participant.

A copy of the RCCC Ordinance as amended with appearance duties (highlighted in red) should be added to member's notebooks. RCCC will receive approximately \$8,000 from Temporary Alcohol Sales for appearance projects. *The State* newspaper recently featured articles on the rehabilitation of the pool and gymnasium behind 701 Whaley and on the Curtis Wright Hangar project. Belser Arboretum and USC Children's Center have already completed 75% of their projects. The Town of Blythewood was reimbursed \$4,000 of the remaining \$7,000 for the trail at Blythewood High School Trail.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant