



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

Minutes September 28, 2015

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Jim Thomas, Charles Weber, Becky Bailey, Ann Furr, Virginia Sanders, Glenice Pearson, and Sam Holland

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel
Sparty Hammett, Richland County Assistant County Administrator
Julie-Ann Dixon, Richland County Council
13 Additional attendees representing several organizations/agencies (see attachment)

Chair, Carol Kososki welcomed visitors made introductions and called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

Approval of Agenda: Charles Weber moved and John Grego seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from August 24: Becky Bailey moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by Jim Thomas. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Virginia Sanders referred everyone to their copy of the financial report. Nancy explained the rollovers have been approved and are reflected under Prior Year Rollovers.

Wateree River Heritage Preserve Presentation

Willie Simmons, the Region 3 Wildlife Coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported two full-time and one hourly employee have been hired to manage the preserve. The tract has a large road network which has required much work; the property has been posted to delineate property lines; thirty-two gates along with two educational kiosks have been installed. Within two months a management plan will be provided to Quinton and Nancy for the purposes of RCCC providing feedback. Although the preserve has been open since Sept. 15, a dedication will be held October 29 and RCCC members will receive an invitation. A variety of hunts are scheduled over 149 days; portions of the property will be available for the non-hunting public some of these days.

Virginia expressed her displeasure that DNR has excluded the interests of the local community. Richland County Council signed off on the property with the understanding RCCC would be directly involved in the development of the management plan. John said it was supposed to be a collaborative relationship. Billy Dukes of DNR questioned whether the MOA referenced in the letter to Bob Perry dated November 19, 2014 had been written and signed. RCCC attempts to work on the management plan have been delayed by DNR with the promise they will be in touch. Mr. Dukes explained DNR management plans deal primarily with habitat and will not be a day-to-day management plan. Carol Kososki asked what can be done at this point to establish a joint partnership arrangement.

Palmetto Utilities Inc. (PUI) - Spears Creek 208 Plan Amendment

Bryan Stone explained PUI, owned by Pacolet Milliken, is the county's designated agency for implementing the county's 208 Water Quality Management Plan for providing wastewater services to residents in the northeast. PUI is requesting a plan amendment to allow a 6 million gallon per day (MGD) discharge into Spears Creek due to population growth in the area. The utility currently holds two permits - 6 MGD no discharge permit for land application to Rapid Infiltration Basins in Kershaw County and a 6 MGD discharge permit to the Wateree River for which the pipeline has never been built. At the September 8 Council meeting, Council requested RCCC review the PUI request and make recommendations. Council is scheduled to vote on the request October 6. If approval is given, the amendment then goes to Central Midlands Council of Governments for approval then to DHEC for a final permit.

PUI claims water quality will not be impaired by the discharge of treated effluent into Spears Creek since it is already designated as impaired and it will not cause any adverse impact during flood conditions. They will reach capacity limits for treatment and disposal in 2017 at the Spears Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. A pipeline to the Wateree River would have to be run 13 miles or 70,000 linear feet whereas a pipeline to Spears Creek would only be 3500 linear feet resulting in a monthly rate increase of \$8 for the Wateree option versus a lower rate increase for the Spears Creek pipeline.

A vigorous discussion ensued with questions and comments from members and other attendees. Vic Carpenter, Kershaw County Administrator, provided a letter to members from the Council Chairman stating their objections to the amendment. Mr. Carpenter contended that a regional solution is needed and the best one is the pipeline to the Wateree that was agreed to in 2006. Andy Yasinsac with Sierra Club raised concerns about the degradation of the creek due to ammonia nitrogen discharges and an increase in the biological oxygen demand.

Becky made a motion to defer remaining items on the agenda to the next meeting. Virginia seconded the motion which passed. Discussion continued on the Spears Creek amendment. Mr. Yasinsac was asked to put his comments on paper. Mr. Stone requested time for PUI to respond to several environmental issues raised. Carol stated she would allow comments until noon on Wednesday the 30th. RCCC members will be polled for a vote on a memo with recommendations to Council on Thursday so that the memo can be included in the council packet that is distributed Friday afternoon.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05.

Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant

Results of Thursday, October 1, 2015 Conference Call

A memo from Carol to Council was distributed to Commission members as well as an email from Mr. Yasinsac and the letter from Palmetto Utilities. Rather than have an electronic poll, it was decided to have a conference call. The following members called in: Carol Kososki, Glenice Pearson, John Grego, Charles Weber, Sam Holland, Ann Furr, Becky Bailey, and Jim Thomas.

John made a motion to approve the memo with one numbering change and Ann Furr seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. A cover letter will be sent with the memo. Both documents are attached.

Nancy Stone-Collum