

BEAUFORT COUNTY RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

The regular meeting of the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board (hereafter known as the Board) was held on February 12, 2009 in the Conference Room at Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Building at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Steve Riley (Chair)
Ms. Gloria Cartwright (Vice-Chair)
Ms. Selena Brown
Mr. Pete Dawson
Ms. Janice Johnson
Mr. York Glover
Mr. Malcolm Goodridge
Mr. Ed Pappas
Mr. Jacob Preston
Mr. Joseph Vercellotti

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Ray Tudor

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner
Mr. Glenn Stanford, Mr. Slade Gleaton - Trust for Public Land (TPL)

GUEST PRESENT:

Reed Armstrong, CCL
Beekman Webb, OLT
Terry Murray, OLT
Ann Bluntzer, OLT
Dean Moss, OLT
John Miller, PALS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steve Riley called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Riley asked if there were any changes to the Agenda. Chairman Riley added two items, a Beaufort County Open Land Trust presentation and an update on the status of TPL.

Chairman Riley asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the November 13, 2008 Board meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Pappas made a motion and Mr. Dawson seconded the motion to accept the Minutes from the November 13, 2008 Board meeting.
Motion carried.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Glenn Stanford introduced members of the Beaufort County Open Land Trust; Ann Bluntzer, Terry Murray, Beekman Webb, and Dean Moss. Mr. Moss presented a property that OLT is interested in for a potential purchase located beside the Lady's Island landing. Mr. Moss gave a brief history of how the OLT got started and that its vision is to preserve scenic views and vistas. Mr. Moss showed a panoramic picture of what the property currently looks like with buildings. Then he showed a second picture of what the property could look like without buildings and with an open vista. There are three other properties down from this property that could also be potential purchases. OLT thinks that purchasing this first piece is a key to obtaining these other properties. OLT has discussed with Mr. Stanford about partnering with RCLP on this project and is committed to help with any demolitions of the buildings and maintenance of the property if it is purchased. This property is located within the City of Beaufort. Mr. Dawson asked if we could consider purchasing the piece of property down White Hall Rd. where the old road bed and bridge was located. Mr. Webb stated that he thought that property was already preserved by the City of Beaufort.

Chairman Riley announced that TPL is backing out of their contract with Beaufort County due to recent cutbacks. Mr. Stanford stated that TPL had five employees between Charleston and Beaufort and they are now down to two. After March 31, 2009, Mr. Glenn Stanford and Mr. Raleigh West will no longer be employed by TPL. TPL gave a 90 day notice to the County so that they could have an easy transition over to whoever replaces TPL. Mr. Stanford is in the process of trying to fulfill that replacement by forming his own non-profit organization. Mr. Gleaton stated that these cutbacks were a shock to him as well and said that the closing of the South Carolina Conservation Bank seemed to hurt TPL the most. Mr. Gleaton said that he did not want to see all the hard work that TPL has done go down the tubes. So TPL fully supports what Mr. Stanford is trying to accomplish. Also, TPL will still be able to work with the county on a contract by contract basis as well as other non-profits such as the American Farm Trust.

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Chairman Riley introduced a new member of the board, Ms. Janice Johnson, who replaced Ms. Dorothy Giddens.

The RCLP Board congratulated the staff on a great job done for the Orientation meeting that was held last month at the Marine Corps Air Station.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Riley entertained a motion by Mr. Preston, seconded by Mr. Goodridge, to adjourn the Open Session at 3:41 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters associated with property acquisitions. **The vote was unanimous to enter into Executive Session.**

The Board re-entered Open Session at 4:42 p.m.

The following to be presented to Land Management Committee:

Mr. Goodridge made a motion; seconded by Ms. Cartwright, to recommend to the Land Management Committee of County Council to pursue Parcel T under the terms and conditions as recommended by TPL, as discussed in Executive Session. **The motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Riley entertained a motion at 4:43 p.m. from Mr. Glover, seconded by Mr. Vercellotti, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Approved:

Steve Riley, Chairman, Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land
Preservation Board

Date: _____