

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 April 14, 2011 in the Conference Room at Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Malcolm Goodridge (Chairman)
Mr. Ed Pappas (Vice-Chairman)
Ms. Selena Brown
Mr. Pete Dawson
Mr. George Johnston
Mr. Steve Riley
Mr. Joseph Vercellotti

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. York Glover
Ms. Janice Johnson
Mr. Jacob Preston
Mr. Ray Tudor

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner
Ms. Ann Bluntzer, Mr. Garrett Budds, Beaufort County Open Land Trust (BCOLT)
Mr. Ken Driggers, Attorney for BCOLT
Ms. Billie Lindsay, Beaufort County Planning Department
Mr. Brian Flewelling, County Councilman

GUEST PRESENT:

Mr. Joe Croley
Mr. Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League
Mr. Richard Brooks, Bluffton Today
Mr. Eddie Bellamy, Beaufort County Public Works Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Malcolm Goodridge called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Chairman Goodridge asked if there were any changes to the Agenda and there were none.

Chairman Goodridge asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the March 10, 2011 Board meeting. There was a request to change CCC (Conservation Consulting Company) to BCOLT (Beaufort County Open Land Trust) under recommendations to the Natural Resources Committee at the end of the minutes. With the addition of this change, Mr. Vercellotti made a motion and Ms. Brown seconded the motion to accept the Minutes from the March 10, 2011 Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Garrett Budds thanked everyone for attending the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board Retreat that was held last month at Palmetto Bluff and thought it was an extremely successful afternoon. He has written a summary of the Retreat and will distribute it to everyone by email.

Mr. Budds began the discussion of one action item from the Retreat which was a classification system for the fee simple properties that the RCLP program has purchased over the years. He distributed a hand-out created by Mr. Ken Driggers that showed five different classifications. Mr. Driggers based this hand-out on the classification system that is used by South Carolina State Parks. Ms. Ann Bluntzer asked the Board if these classifications would work. If so, BCOLT and County staff would categorize all fee simple properties and bring back to the Board for approval. The Board agreed and asked that the staff have this information ready by July 2011. Councilman Brian Flewelling added that this classification system needs to be included with properties when they are presented to the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. George Johnston reported on the Bond Referendum Language Committee that was formed as a result of another action item from the Board Retreat. This Committee consisted of Mr. Johnston, Mr. Driggers, Mr. Budds, Ms. Bluntzer, Mr. Jacob Preston, and Ms. Amanda Flake. After some research it was found that the Board can give advice on the bond language, but County Council would come up with the actual language. Also, the Board has a role to recommend management of RCLP properties to County Council. Ms. Bluntzer asked the Board if they want the referendum language to stay the same or add operations and maintenance. After much discussion the Board decided to first classify the fee simple properties to determine how many will need regular maintenance (i.e. a passive park will need more maintenance than a property that will stay green). The Board also decided to calculate how much each fee simple property would cost to manage and include this in the Annual Report. According to the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program Policies and Guidelines, when fee simple properties

are recommended for purchase the Natural Resources Committee (formerly the Land Management Council) shall consider the following:

1. Consider the recommendation of the RCLPB;
2. Consider County financial resources available;
3. The economic impacts of the acquisition to the tax base of the County; and
4. The costs of managing the property if the County would own the property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Goodridge entertained a motion by Mr. Riley, seconded by Ms. Brown, to adjourn the Open Session at 3:59 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 4:52 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Goodridge entertained a motion at 4:53 p.m. from Mr. Riley, seconded by Ms. Brown, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Approved:

Malcolm Goodridge, Chairman, Beaufort County Rural and
Critical Land Preservation Board

Date: _____