

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 December 8, 2011 in the Conference Room at Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ed Pappas (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. Pete Dawson
Ms. Janice Johnson
Mr. Jacob Preston
Mr. Ray Tudor
Mr. Joseph Vercellotti

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Malcolm Goodridge (Chairman)
Ms. Selena Brown
Mr. York Glover
Mr. George Johnston
Mr. Steve Riley

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Planning Director
Ms. Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner
Mr. Garrett Budds, Beaufort County Open Land Trust
Ms. Billie Lindsay, Beaufort County Planning Department
Mr. Brian Flewelling, County Councilman

GUEST PRESENT:

Mr. Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League
Mr. Will Abberger, Trust for Public Land

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Ed Pappas called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Pappas asked if there were any changes to the Agenda and there were none.

Vice-Chairman Pappas asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from November 10, 2011 Board meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Dawson made a motion and Mr. Vercellotti seconded the motion to accept the Minutes from the November 10, 2011 Board meeting.

Motion carried.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

County Councilman Brian Flewelling mentioned that the third and final reading of the drawdown of the last ten million of the bond referendum was approved by County Council (9 for – 2 against). Mr. Garrett Budds added that the third and final reading for the 2012 Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program bond referendum was also approved by County Council. He stated that the language for the bond question will probably be ready by March 2012.

Mr. Budds introduced Mr. Will Abberger, guest speaker, who was from the Trust for Public Land. Mr. Abberger specializes in conservation finance and focuses on bond referendums. Beaufort County Open Land Trust received a grant to fund assistance from the Trust for Public Land to do the polling and campaign for the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program 2012 bond referendum. Mr. Abberger stated that this program is viewed as a model program around the country. He said that throughout the nation, the majority of funding for land conservation has been generated at the state and local levels. Based on his research, people are still voting for land conservation. By a 4 to 1 margin voters still think that we can protect the land and water and have a good economy. Mr. Abberger's presentation focused on how to campaign for a program like the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program, and how to pose a ballot question that will pass.

Mr. Tony Criscitiello asked Mr. Abberger his opinion about the part of the bond language that referenced infrastructure improvements. Mr. Abberger stated that he will test the infrastructure improvement language in the polling question to see how the public responds. Ms. Billie Lindsay asked how the poll will be distributed. Mr. Abberger said through random phone calls to registered voters. Mr. Criscitiello asked if Mr. Abberger had any experience with saturation of a program. Mr. Abberger answered that many areas have come back with the same program multiple times and have been successful.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice-Chairman Pappas entertained a motion by Mr. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Vercellotti, to adjourn the Open Session at 4:14 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 4:57p.m.

The following to be presented to Natural Resources Committee:

Mr. Preston made a motion; seconded by Mr. Tudor, to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Parcel A under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session. **The motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Vice-Chairman Pappas entertained a motion at 4:58 p.m. from Mr. Vercellotti, seconded by Mr. Tudor, 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: _____