

**BEAUFORT COUNTY  
RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board (hereafter known as the Board) was held on February 11, 2016, at the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Board Room at 3:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Ed Pappas(Chairman)  
Mr. Mark Baker  
Mr. Bob Bender  
Ms. Susie Fripp-Gordon

Mr. York Glover  
Mr. Michael Mathews  
Ms. Gail O’Kane  
Ms. Norma Stewart

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Selena Brown (Vice-Chairman)  
Ms. Denise Sullivan

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Planning Director  
Ms. Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner  
Mr. Ken Driggers, Beaufort County Open Land Trust Attorney  
Ms. Lisa Lord, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Ms. Cindy Baysden, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ed Pappas called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Chairman Pappas asked if there were any changes to the Agenda and there were two.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Chairman Pappas asked if there were any changes to the Memo from the December 10, 2015 Board meeting. Hearing none, Ms. O’Kane made a motion and Ms. Baker seconded the motion to accept the minutes with amendments from the December 10, 2015 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes with amendment from the December 10, 2015, Board meeting (FOR: Pappas, Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Glover, Mathews, O’Kane, Stewart).**

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Ed Pappas introduced the newest Board member from District 1 Mrs. Susie Fripp-Gordon.

Ms. Amanda Flake announced that Mr. Alan Eisenman had accepted a new job with the City of Beaufort and that Ms. Chanel Lewis in Finance will take his place in dealing with the finances of the Rural and Critical Program.

Mr. Tony Criscitiello gave an update on the passive park development. At this time the Planning Department is working on bringing three passive parks online; Crystal Lake, Okatie Preserve, and Fort Fremont. The Crystal Lake plans went out to bid and the winning bid is being brought forward to the Finance Committee and then to County Council for approval. The plans for the tower were too expensive, so we are going with the alternate bid to build a pavilion. Fort Fremont is moving forward and the project to address the comments from SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) is proceeding as planned with the archaeologist on site. The Planning Department is working on getting a Manure Management Plan for Okatie Preserve as a requirement by the Town of Bluffton.

Ms. Lisa Lord gave a communications update. The survey that Clemson University, BCOLT, and the Planning Department collaborated on has been sent out to the public. It will be available until February 29, 2016. So far we have received more than 600 responses. Once the survey ends the Clemson researchers will analyze the information and produce a report. Ms. Lord has some people at Dataw Island that are willing to write articles and newsletters for the Rural and Critical Program. As far as the TPL Study, there has not been any funding available. Ms. Lord said that many groups do not want to donate money if it might be considered lobbying for a referendum. So far TPL will donate \$25,000.00 but another \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 is needed. Ms. Lord and Mr. Ken Driggers might approach the County for funding opportunities.

Mr. Bob Bender would like to have sea level rise on the agenda for the Retreat in March. He would like to know what the County is doing to address sea level rise. Also, the Board needs to consider sea level rise when buying properties for the Program. He would also like to discuss at the Retreat the idea of submitting the Port Royal Sound to become part of the National Estuaries Program. If accepted into the Program this area could receive federal funding.

Chairman Ed Pappas and Vice-Chairman Selena Brown will be leaving the Board as their terms are expired. Therefore, a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman need to be elected. Mr. Mark Baker nominated Mr. Mike Mathews for Chairman. Mr. York Glover seconded the vote. Ms. Gail O'Kane moved for nominations to be closed. Mr. Baker seconded. **The motion was carried unanimously to elect Mr. Mike Mathews as Chairman** (FOR: Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Glover, O'Kane, Stewart). Mr. Mike Mathews nominated Mr. Mark Baker for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Glover seconded the vote. Ms. O'Kane moved for nominations to be closed. Mr. Bender seconded. **The motion was carried unanimously to elect Mr. Mark Baker as Vice-Chairman** (FOR: Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Glover, Mathews, O'Kane, Stewart).

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Pappas entertained a motion by Mr. Glover, seconded by Mr. Mathews, to adjourn the Open Session at 4:02 p.m. and convened Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters associated with property acquisitions. **The motion was carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session** (FOR: Pappas, Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Glover, Mathews, O'Kane, Stewart).

**Chairman Pappas adjourned Executive Session and convened Open Session at 4:45 p.m.**


Mr. Mathews made a motion; seconded by Mr. Baker, to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Parcel J under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session. **The motion was carried unanimously to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Parcel J under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session.** (FOR: Pappas, Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Glover, Mathews, O'Kane, Stewart).

### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Pappas entertained a motion at 4:51 p.m. from Ms. O'Kane, seconded by Mr. Bender, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously** (FOR: Pappas, Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Glover, Mathews, O'Kane, Stewart).

**Submitted by:** Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

**Approved:**

 Nike Mathews  
Ed Pappas, Chairman,  
Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board  
Date: 3/10/16