

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

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board RETREAT (hereafter known as the Board) was held on March 10, 2016, at the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Board Room from 9:00 am until 2:00 p.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Mike Mathews (Chairman)  
Mr. Mark Baker (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr. Bob Bender  
Ms. Susie Fripp-Gordon  
Mr. York Glover

Ms. Gail O'Kane  
Ms. Denise Sullivan  
Ms. Norma Stewart

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

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

### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Mr. Tom Keaveny, Beaufort County Attorney  
Ms. Allison Coppage, Beaufort County Assistant Attorney  
Mr. Eric Larson, Beaufort County Director of Environmental Engineering  
Ms. Alice Howard, Beaufort County Councilwoman  
Ms. Cindy Baysden, Beaufort County Open Land Trust Executive Director  
Ms. Colleen Barrett, Marine Corps Air Station Community Plans and Liaison Office  
Captain Clay Groover, Marine Corps Air Station  
Colonel Sean Henrickson, Marine Corps Air Station Executive Officer  
Ms. Diane Leone, National Resource Conservation Service  
Mr. Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League  
Ms. Kendre Lelie, Town of Bluffton Director of Growth Management  
Mr. Richard Walls, nominated RCLP Board Member  
Ms. Dorothy Scanlin, nominated RCLP Board Member  
Mr. Ed Riley, nominated RCLP Board Member

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mike Mathews called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

## **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

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

## **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the February 11, 2016 Board meeting. Hearing none, Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion and Ms. O'Kane seconded the motion to accept the Minutes as written from the February 11, 2016 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes as written from the February 11, 2016, Board meeting** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Fripp-Gordon, O'Kane, Sullivan, Stewart).

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

### **Introduction**

Chairman Mike Mathews had all Board members and guests introduce themselves and welcomed everyone to the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program (hereafter know as R&C Program) Board Retreat.

### **Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort**

Ms. Colleen Barrett, MCAS Community Plans and Liaison Office, introduced the Executive Officer for MCAS Colonel Sean Henrickson. Colonel Henrickson gave an overview of the Marine Corps Air Station of Beaufort including a video of the new F-35 Jet. MCAS Beaufort is comprised of 6,154 acres, was established in 1943, and will have 182,000 active marines worldwide by 2017.

Ms. Barrett gave an overview of the partnership between MCAS and the R&C Program. The REPI Program (Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program) is where MCAS enters into formal agreements with other entities to acquire real estate near the base to prevent encroachment. The REPI Program publishes reports yearly and in 2015 the REPI Program had received over one million dollars in funding and protected 362,501 acres nationally. To date MCAS Beaufort, in partnership with the R&C Program, has protected 3,700 acres locally.

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

Ms. Diane Leone discussed the partnership between NRCS and the R&C Program. She works locally with the NRCS to administer the Farm Bill. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners, such as farmers, with cost share programs. Over the last 12 years through the Farm Bill NRCS in combination with the R&C Program has preserved seven farms on St. Helena with conservation easements totaling 1,609 acres.

### **Beaufort County Open Land Trust (BCOLT)**

Executive Director Cindy Baysden gave an overview of the partnership between BCOLT and the R&C Program. She announced that BCOLT just received accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance which they had been working on for the last four years. BCOLT is the oldest land trust founded in 1971 by three Beaufortonians to preserve the Bay Street Bluff. Currently BCOLT holds 83 easements and owns 42 properties within Beaufort and the surrounding counties.

BCOLT has been a partner with the R&C Program since the beginning and has helped preserve many properties within Beaufort County.

### **Greenprint Overview**

Ms. Lisa Lord with BCOLT gave a brief history of the Greenprint Map that was produced in 2014. The Greenprint map is a strategic working framework and identification of opportunities that meet the R&C Program criteria. The first Greenprint was made in 2003 and a second one in 2006. By 2014 it had been seven years since a Greenprint was developed and a lot had changed. The landscape of Beaufort County was different, there had been limited funding from the 2012 referendum, and there was a desire for a higher level of detail and strategic direction. So BCOLT began evaluating the existing R&C Program criteria, talked to stakeholders, developed maps, and refined the maps. The County was separated into eight planning districts; Beaufort/Port Royal Island, Northern Beaufort County, Lady's Island, St. Helena, Bluffton, Okatie, Daufuskie Island, and Hilton Head. Through this process some common threads emerged; existing R&C Program criteria still held true, water quality was a top priority, people wanted public access to public land, and the public wanted more focus on connecting protected lands. Now two years later, the Greenprint is a good working document even though the landscape is dynamic and always changing.

### **Chairman's Referendum Spending Questions**

Chairman Mike Mathews prepared some documents that he presented to the Board about how much the R&C Program had spent over the years. Ms. Lord also developed a document that showed spending trends. Chairman Mathews suggested the Board think about what has been spent to date and how we want to spend funds going forward that are in line with the Greenprint.

### **Passive Park Update**

Mr. Tony Criscitiello stated that Crystal Lake is up for approval at the next County Council meeting to build the second phase of the park for \$802,000.00. Fort Fremont is in the last stages of the archeological investigation. The next step would be to apply for permits and then send the project to bid. Okatie Preserve is involved in meetings with the architect and engineer and will soon go to the Town of Bluffton for approval.

### **Communications Update**

Ms. Lord stated that she had pitched a show idea for the R&C Program to the County Channel Department. It would be like a nature show, maybe two to three minutes for each segment, highlighting properties in the R&C Program. Her idea for a title was "Out and About". She will be working with the County Channel Department to begin shooting some of these segments soon.

### **Ideas for Future Meetings**

Chairman Mathews would like to get some ideas from the Board members of what type of topics the Board would like to have presented at the monthly meetings. He also wants each Board member to present a biography at the next Board meeting. Chairman Mathews thinks it would be a good idea to have an education topic on the agenda at each monthly meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Mathews entertained a motion by Mr. Glover, seconded by Vice-Chairman Baker, to adjourn the Open Session at 12:16 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: Mathews, Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Glover, O'Kane, Sullivan, Stewart).


**Chairman Mathews adjourned Executive Session and convened Open Session at 1:38 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chairman Mathews entertained a motion at 1:39 p.m. from Ms. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Sullivan, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Glover, O'Kane, Sullivan, Stewart).

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

**Approved:**

  
Mike Mathews, Chairman,  
Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board

Date: 5/12/16