

BEAUFORT COUNTY RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mike Mathews (Chairman)
Mr. Mark Baker (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. Bob Bender
Mr. Ed Riley

Ms. Dorothy Scanlin
Ms. Norma Stewart
Mr. Richard Walls

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Susie Fripp-Gordon
Mr. York Glover
Ms. Gail O’Kane
Ms. Denise Sullivan

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Amanda Flake, Beaufort County Natural Resources Planner
Ms. Lisa Lord, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Larson, Beaufort County Director of Environmental Engineering
Mr. Gerald Dawson, County Councilman
Ms. Alice Howard, County Councilwoman
Ms. Donna London, Clemson University
Ms. Colleen Barrett, Marine Corps Air Station
Ms. Kate Schaeffer, Coastal Conservation League

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Mathews called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.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 July 14, 2016 Board meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Baker made a motion and Mr. Riley seconded the motion to accept the Minutes as written from the July 14, 2016 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes as written from the July 14, 2016, Board meeting (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Bender, Riley, Scanlin, Stewart, Walls).**

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Financial Update

Ms. Amanda Flake reported on information received from the Finance Department about financial updates for the R&C Program. Reports will be sent out every quarter and are available online at the Beaufort County website. Chairman Mike Mathews would like to see a report every month. He will send an email to the Chief Financial Officer with this request.

Passive Park Update

Ms. Flake updated the Board members on the development of the three passive parks. Crystal Lake is being constructed at this time and will hopefully be finished by October. Phase 3 which entails connecting the boardwalk around the lake will begin the planning stages soon. The archeological report for Fort Fremont was submitted recently and staff is waiting to hear from the State Department of Historic Preservation before moving forward with sending this project out to bid. Okatie Preserve is in the finishing stages of the manure management plan and once in hand will then submit plans to the Town of Bluffton.

Clemson Survey

Ms. Donna London presented the survey performed by Clemson University and the Strom Thurmond Institute. The purpose was to ensure strategies for use, development, and/or management of Rural and Critical Lands were designed with the benefit of the community knowledge, and a general understanding of community sentiments. The survey was focused on passive recreation and the overall purpose of the R&C Program. The results were that the majority of people surveyed wanted more access to passive parks, wanted passive parks protected, valued natural and conservation areas in their community, wanted nature-based activities on parks, and thought it was important to protect, maintain, and improve passive parks. The next step to this survey will be the companion report that Lisa Lord and Ken Driggers wrote about the status of the current properties and the future of the R&C Program.

REPI Funding

Ms. Lisa Lord stated that there was a current opportunity for funding through the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS). Out of committed monies in 2011 and some bargain sales, there was an excess of two million dollars that will expire on September 30, 2016. After some research, Ms. Lord realized that this money could be used on natural resource management of fee owned properties (where MCAS was a partner) within the R&C Program. The only requirement was a management plan outlining where and when the money will be used and report this information to MCAS once a year. This money may be used on the following five properties: McLeod, Adams, Lucky, Ihly Farm, and Battey/Wilson. The MCAS was in favor of Beaufort County using this money to manage natural resources on these properties. The R&C Board members were also in favor of this plan and referred it to the Natural Resources Committee for approval.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Mathews entertained a motion by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Riley, to adjourn the Open Session at 4:50 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, Riley, Scanlin, Stewart, Walls).

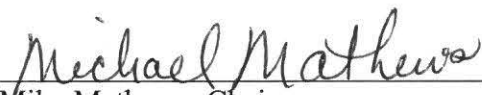
Chairman Mathews adjourned Executive Session and convened Open Session at 4:52 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Mathews entertained a motion at 4:58 p.m. from Vice-Chairman Baker, seconded by Mr. Riley, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Bender, Riley, Scanlin, Stewart, Walls).

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Approved:


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

Date: 1/12/17