

## **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 September 8, 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  
Ms. Susie Fripp-Gordon  
Mr. York Glover

Mr. Ed Riley  
Ms. Denise Sullivan  
Ms. Norma Stewart  
Mr. Richard Walls

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Gail O'Kane  
Ms. Dorothy Scanlin

### **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

### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Ms. Alice Howard, Beaufort County Councilwoman  
Mr. Ray Wenig, Experience Green  
Ms. Cindy Baysden, Beaufort County Open Land Trust  
Ms. Nancy Moss, Beaufort County Planning Department  
Mr. Tray Hunter, Palmetto Electric Coop  
Ms. Kate Schaefer, Coastal Conservation League  
Ms. Rikki Parker, Coastal Conservation League

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mike Mathews called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

### **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any changes to the Agenda and there were one. Ms. Lisa Lord will give an update on current projects.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the August 11, 2016 Board meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Walls made a motion and Mr. Riley seconded the motion to accept the Minutes as written from the August 11, 2016 Board meeting. **The motion was**

**carried unanimously to accept the minutes as written from the August 11, 2016, Board meeting** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, Glover, Riley, Sullivan, Stewart, Walls).

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

### **Financial Update**

Ms. Amanda Flake gave a financial update. As of July 31, 2016 the R&C Program has a total amount of \$4,946,485.00 in funds. Of this amount \$3,609,452.00 is unrestricted and \$1,337,033.00 is restricted. The restricted funds have donor specific restrictions on how these funds can be used. The Finance Department intends to issue the \$20 million referendum (approved in November 2014) by December 2016. Chairman Mike Mathews had some questions on how to access this information online and will email the Chief Financial Officer with these questions.

### **Experience Green**

Mr. Raymond Wenig spoke to the Board about Experience Green and its vision. Experience Green's mission is to build sustainable communities that benefit the planet, its people, and prosperity. The goals of Experience Green are to educate individuals and stakeholders on sustainability and to support decision making and actions to improve sustainability in the Lowcountry. In 2010 this group focused on Hilton Head Island and performed an assessment report and came up with six different projects that they would like to implement; Trash and Recycling, Telecommunications Road Map, Water Use Efficiency, Electricity Conservation/Efficiency, Mobility/Transportation, and Hilton Head Island visioning. Please visit their website at [www.experiencegreen.org](http://www.experiencegreen.org) for more information.

### **Role of the Board**

Ms. Lisa Lord gave an overview of the role of the Board members within the R&C Program. There were two ordinances approved in 2006 that outlined the roles and responsibilities of Board members. The Board members review properties brought forward by Beaufort County Staff and Beaufort County Open Land Trust for purchase within the R&C Program. They then recommend approval to move forward to Natural Resources Committee and County Council for purchase, recommend changes for further review, or recommend denial. Chairman Mathews brought up a discussion point that 9 million dollars out of the last two bond referendums were supposed to be dedicated to passive park development and should the Board have a role in determining how this money is to be spent. A long discussion ensued on whether or not the Board should evolve into more of a Passive Park Task Force. Ms. Kate Schaefer with the Coastal Conservation League pointed out that the historic role of the R&C Program has been land protection. She said it was important to open some passive parks to the public but to not let that distract the Board members from the Program's main goal.

### **REPI Update**

Ms. Lisa Lord stated that the REPI funding opportunity through the Marine Corps Air Station had been approved by the Natural Resources Committee and County Council. A resolution was

sent to have the Marine Corps Air Station and Beaufort County sign an MOU about this project. The REPI funding project has been approved by the Marine Corps Air Station locally and regionally and is currently at the national level in Washington, D.C waiting on approval.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chairman Mathews entertained a motion at 4:53 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, Riley, Sullivan, Stewart, Walls).

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

**Approved:**

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

Date: 1/12/17