

BEAUFORT COUNTY RURAL AND CRITICAL LANDS PRESERVATION BOARD

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board (hereafter referred to as the Board) was held on Thursday, June 13, 2019, at the Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Conference Room, 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mike Mathews (Chairman)
Mr. Walter Mack
Mr. Beekman Webb (Vice Chairman)
Mr. Arthur Baer

Mr. Terry Hill
Ms. Gail O’Kane

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bob Bender
Mr. Doug Koop

Ms. Dorothy Scanlin
Mr. Richard Walls

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Greenway, Beaufort County Community Development Director
Ms. Barbara Holmes, Beaufort County Open Land Trust
Ms. Diane McMaster, Beaufort County Community Development Senior Admin Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ms. Alice Howard, Beaufort County Council
Ms. Ashley Jacobs, Beaufort County Administrator
Ms. Rikki Parker, Coastal Conservation League
Mr. Dean Moss, Port Royal Sound Foundation
Ms. Kristin Williams, Beaufort County Open Land Trust
Mr. Caylor Romines, Beaufort County Open Land Trust
Mr. Richard Balkite, St. Mark’s Church, Port Royal

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME (STAFF AND GUEST INTRODUCTIONS)

Chairman Mike Mathews called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any revisions to the agenda. There being none, Mr. Arthur Baer made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented, and Mr. Walter Mack seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval for the motion.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were none.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any revisions/corrections to the May 7, 2019, meeting minutes. Mr. Walter Mack made a motion to accept said minutes as submitted, and Ms. Gail O’Kane seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval for the motion.

REGULAR MEETING

Port Royal Sound Mapping Presentation

Mr. Dean Moss, Chairman of the Port Royal Sound Foundation, presented information on the importance and process for the Port Royal Sound Watershed Analysis. The Foundation’s main focus is on education, research, and conservation.

Nearly 75% of the watershed is dominated by forest, wetlands, or open water and is located in Beaufort, Jasper, and Allendale counties. Areas with the greatest conservation impact are ranked by conservation value using a Water Quality Priority Index and Flooding Priority Index. The Index results can be used independently of one another or combined to create a composite ranking. All surrounding land must be protected to ensure continued water quality. The Water Quality Priority Index considers land cover, proximity to streams and wetlands, soil characteristics, and stormwater runoff potential. The Flooding Priority Index considers possible storm surge as well as future sea level rise predictions and marsh migration – areas that could transition from uplands to salt marsh over time.

Mr. Eric Greenway, Beaufort County Community Development Director, commented on the timing regarding updates to both the Greenprint and Comprehensive Plan. Preservation efforts regarding the Port Royal Sound will be a priority within both documents.

Chairman Mathews is actively involved with the Port Royal Sound Conservation Initiative, and he will continue to keep the Board informed of all news and developments.

Greenprint Update

Ms. Barbara Holmes, Director of Land Protection, Beaufort County Open Land Trust, spoke briefly regarding most recent progress. The Beaufort County Natural Resources Committee has given their approval for BC Open Land Trust personnel to proceed with the update process.

Rural and Critical Lands Board Ordinance

Ms. Alice Howard, Beaufort County Councilwoman, gave an update on the RCLP Program Ordinance rewrite. Beaufort County Open Land Trust and Beaufort County personnel met recently to discuss procedural content for the final document. A second planning meeting will occur in approximately two (2) weeks. The R&C Board will have an opportunity to review the draft document and provide feedback. The goal is to have the Ordinance presented at the August 2019 meeting of the BC Natural Resources Committee for their approval.

Mobley Tract Ranking Exercise

Board members discussed the ranking criteria for the Mobley tract which included, Property Characteristics, Financial Considerations, Public Benefits, and Environmental Benefits.

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Chairman Mathews suggested that individual Board members participate in future property rankings for their specific district. He also requested that all future ranking feedback be shared with Board members which would include criteria subtotals as well as the overall total.

Other Business

Mr. Eric Greenway shared information regarding an upcoming press release from the Beaufort County Communications Department showcasing RCLP Program property acquisitions over the past year. The Department also plans to create a public video featuring Fort Freemont, the Mobley tract, and Altamaha Town-Heritage Preserve.

The Board will not meet during the month of July 2019. The next meeting of the R&C Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2019. Chairman Mathews asked Ms. Barbara Holmes to schedule Mr. Scott Teodorski of the National Parks Service to give an educational presentation at the Board's August 2019 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Mathews adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Diane McMaster, Beaufort County Community Development
Senior Administrative Specialist

Approved:

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

Date: 8/8/19