

**MINUTES
RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**

November 12, 2020

Webex/Crystal Lake Park Building

The electronic and print media duly notified in
accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Michael Mathews, Vice-Chairman Walter Mack, Art Baer, Terry Hill, Doug Koop, John Maffei, Chris Marsh, Gail O’Kane, Ryan Stefonick, Beek Webb

Absent: None

County Council: Alice Howard, York Glover

Staff: Eric Greenway, Interim Community Administrator; Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Visitors: Tom Keaveny, Beaufort County Assistant Attorney; Whitney Richland, Beaufort County Finance Director; Hayes Williams, Beaufort County Finance

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mathews called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Ms. O’Kane, seconded by Mr. Maffei to approve the agenda as presented. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer, Mr. Hill, Mr. Koop, Mr. Maffei, Mr. Marsh, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 8, 2020

Motion: It was moved by Vice-Chairman Mack, seconded by Mr. Maffei to approve the minutes from October 8, 2020. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer,

Mr. Hill, Mr. Koop, Mr. Maffei, Mr. Marsh, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Financial Report

Chairman Mathews introduced Ms. Whitney Richland, the new Beaufort County Finance Director. He then introduced Mr. Hayes Williams who discussed the latest R&C financial report. Mr. Williams stated that the 25 million dollar bond revenues were received into the Program. As of September 2020 the R&C Program had \$20,777,469 available. Chairman Mathews added that with committed projects the amount to be used for future purchases was closer to \$19 million.

Greenprint Update

Chairman Mathews stated last month that Design Workshop would be sending the Board a draft of the Greenprint plan for the Board to review. Ms. Flake stated that the timeline was recently delayed. According to the revised timeline the draft would be available November 20th, comments would be due back to Design Workshop on December 9th, revisions would be sent back to the Board on December 16th, and final adoption of the Greenprint plan would happen around January 14th.

R&C Application Process

Mr. Greenway stated that the application process is a new dynamic to the R&C program. In the ordinance it states that applications are received and reviewed by County staff and the consultant, ranked by staff and consultant, and then brought forward to the Board for review. If the Board denies the applications they are still sent to the Natural Resources Committee for review. If the NRC denies the applications, then the applicants are sent notifications that the projects were not accepted into the program. The two projects that were reviewed last month will go forward to NRC on December 7th for recommendations of denial. The Board requested that a list of all applications received, including the ones that did not meet the standards of the program, be submitted to the board for information. The Board then asked about the status of the consultant for the program. Mr. Greenway stated that the RFQ bids were rescinded and a new RFQ was going to be written with modifications and put back out to bid soon. In the meantime, the County was going to enter into a 3 month contract with the Beaufort County Open Land Trust as the consultant for the R&C program.

ACTION ITEMS

2021 Schedule

Ms. Flake gave a report on the meeting schedule for 2021. All meetings will be held the 2nd Thursday of the month from 2:30 pm until 4:30 pm. At this time all meetings will still be held virtually until further notice.

Board Member Reappointments

Ms. Flake stated that 4 Board members were up for reappointment in February 2021. They were Mr. Art Baer, Mr. Doug Koop, Vice-Chairman Walter Mack, and Mr. John Maffei. She asked them if they all still intend to stay on the Board and they all agreed.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Mathews congratulated Mr. Greenway on being named Interim County Administrator.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: It was moved by Ms. O’Kane, seconded by Mr. Maffei to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 pm. The vote: YAYS – Chairman Mathews, Vice-Chairman Mack, Mr. Baer, Mr. Hill, Mr. Koop, Mr. Maffei, Mr. Marsh, Ms. O’Kane, Mr. Stefonick, and Mr. Webb. The motion passed.

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Beaufort County Community Development
Natural Resources Planner

Approved: _____
Mike Mathews, Chairman
Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Board

Date: _____