

Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.
FINAL Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2013

EB Members Present: Alex Ashton (Chair, Guilford), Eddie Culberson (Vice-Chair, Durham), Norton Webster (Secretary, Chatham), Rudy Langley (Treasurer, Alamance), Frank Green (Rockingham), Hazel Puckett (Rockingham), Gail Hughes (Orange)

Staff Present: Jacob Leech

Guests Present: Catherine Deininger, Joshua White

EB Members Absent: Hester Vernon (Caswell), Bill Alston (Randolph)

- I. **Call to Order & Chairman Comments:** Alex Ashton began the meeting at 6:40 pm and announced the presence of a quorum. There were short introductions of members and guests. Among the guests was Catherine Deininger of Biocenosis LLC. who would be presenting a partnership opportunity. Also in attendance was Joshua White of Knickpoint Engineering in Cary who had learned about PCC from Eddie Culberson.
- II. **Minutes:** A motion was made to accept the minutes of the August 6, 2013 Executive Board meeting (M: Hughes, 2: Culberson; unanimously approved).
- III. **Discussion/ Decision Items**
 - a. **Lassiter Mill Dam Removal:** Jacob presented a brief slideshow of pictures from the previous week's dam removal, as well as a video by USFWS. The project was very successful and completed in a fraction of the estimated time. Some minor site work including permanent seeding, planting and some grading would need to be completed in the coming months, but the removal of the powerhouse foundation and dam structure was complete as well as bank stabilization and temporary seeding.
 - b. **Biocenosis:** Catherine Deininger of Biocenosis LLC was introduced and gave a brief presentation of a grant project they were awarded through the NC Forestry Service-Urban and Community Forestry. The project is part of the implementation phase of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Chatham County, specific to Pittsboro. Biocenosis is going to coordinate the project, but a local organization such as PCC is needed to provide contract administration and administer the funds from the NC Forestry Service beginning in October 2013. A motion was made for PCC to contract with the Forestry Service and subcontract with Biocenosis. PCC would provide administration services for 5% of the total award, pending review of the contract language. Norton Webster disclosed a conflict of interest and recused himself from the vote. (M: Culberson, 2: Hughes; unanimously approved).

- c. **Person County Project Discussion:** Jacob informed the board that he had anticipated a potential member from Person County would attend this meeting, unfortunately they were not available. Jacob was in discussions with several folks in Person about a potential Farmland Protection Plan. At this time there was some hesitancy on part of the county to move forward due to the ongoing hiring process for an Extension Director. However, Jacob has been invited to provide a presentation to the Person County Board of Commissioners later in September and will try to keep the discussion going. Gail indicated that she would be willing to accompany Jacob to the presentation, schedule pending.
- d. **Cape Fear River Partnership:** Gail Hughes had brought up the potential to work with the Cape Fear River Partnership several months ago to Alex and Jacob. Alex initiated a phone call with a Partnership representative and the four had a teleconference earlier in the week. The Partnership had a stream barrier removal/fish passage component that included many partners/funders of PCC's dam removal projects. PCC would only need to submit a logo for the Partnership website and participate in quarterly teleconferences to join. A motion was made to move forward with joining the Cape Fear River Partnership. (M: Webster, 2: Langley; unanimously approved).

IV. **Updates**

- a. **Operations:** Jacob gave a summary of the July financial statements which show payments to Jacob Leech and Michelle Green for project management, and other small payments for website hosting and grant search database access. The statements also show pending reimbursement requests from ADFP as well as a \$1,000 donation to Fab Lab.
- b. **Fab Lab Carolinas:** Michelle, Tushar and Gail met with Z. Smith Reynolds as a follow up to the grant proposal submitted in August. The grant officer was enthusiastic about the proposal but no final decisions would be made until November.
- c. **Durham Green Roof:** Jacob and Eddie have a meeting scheduled with Jim Halley to plan the remainder of the stakeholder engagement and design process. We are still awaiting a decision on the 2012 EEG award for construction funds.
- d. **Chapel Hill High School:** Gail and Jacob showed some pictures of the potential stormwater pond and stream restoration. 319 and CWMTF were both denied. CWMTF was funding no stormwater projects this year as their priorities had shifted, and 319 would not fund because the match was dependent on CWMTF. Gail and Jacob met with Paul Clarke from DENR on the site and he was helping with some funding ideas moving forward.

- e. **Smithermans Dam and Troy 2:** Smithermans Dam Removal was planned for November with USFWS taking the lead and PCC providing logistical support. Troy 2 is on the back burner for the moment while some other priority projects were taking place.
 - f. **Farm Incubator:** Alex and Jacob sought the permission of the Parks & Rec Commission recently, after gaining approval from the Open Space Committee earlier in the summer to use the Hines Chapel site for the incubator farm. The P&R Committee had some concerns, primarily about appropriate use of open space and competition with existing farmers. They did ultimately approve use of the site with the caveat that the committee holds a work session with county commissioners. The Hines Chapel Incubator Farm committee was planning to do a focus group with local farmers prior to meeting with Commissioners.
- V. **Board Comments:** No additional board comments.
- VI. **Upcoming events/meetings:**
- a. Next Full Council Meeting: October 17, 2013 at Alamance Community College
 - b. Next Executive Board Meeting: November 5, 2013 at Alamance Community College from 6:30-8:30 pm
- VII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.