

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

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

**Staff Present:** Jacob Leech

**Guests Present:** Walt Lasater, Walker Insurance

**EB Members Absent:** Hazel Puckett, Hester Vernon, Bill Alston

- I. **Call to Order & Chairman Comments:** Alex called the meeting to order at 6:30 and recommended that we move the insurance item to the top of the agenda so our guest could complete his business.
- II. **Minutes:** Meeting minutes for September 3, 2013 were reviewed and approved (M: Hughes, 2: Webster; unanimously approved)
- III. **Discussion/ Decision Items**
  - a. **Asheboro Project Presentation:** Mr. McNair from Asheboro was scheduled to present a project idea to the board about a community park in Asheboro. He called Jacob earlier to announce that he was ill and would have to reschedule.
  - b. **Insurance Review:** Mr. Walt Lasater was invited to attend to review PCC's existing policy needs. One issue that was brought to light was the apparent need for Hired and Non-Owned vehicle insurance for the Fab Lab bus. Additionally, we should make sure we always retain the certificate of insurance from companies we do business with and be listed as additional insured on their policies. Alex asked about additional liability for projects like the farm incubator and ag landlord to which Mr. Lasater replied that owning equipment on a farm is a huge risk that would need to be covered.
  - c. **Smithermans Dam Removal Complete:** Jacob's presented a brief slideshow of the Smitherman's Dam Removal project, which was completed in early November by members of Fish & Wildlife. There was a great turnout for media day and articles had already been published in local papers. There is still some funding from Patagonia that was not spent and Jacob hoped to line up some additional site work as needed before those funds expired.
  - d. **Annual Report Review:** Jacob was unable to complete the Annual Report in its entirety, but brought excerpts for review by the board. Gail mentioned that in the council member listing, David Stancil wished to remain as an alternate for Orange County. A final product will be distributed for review to the whole council prior to the January meeting date.

- e. **Fab Lab Discussion:** Tushar and Michelle have communicated an intent to create a separate 501(c)(3) for Fab Lab, but as of now Jacob has been unable to get their schedules to line up with members of the FLC subcommittee for a teleconference to go over the details and feasibility of the transition, therefore he saw no need to bring anything before the board until the subcommittee was ready to make a recommendation.
- f. **Grants for Approval:** Jacob announced intent to apply for funds in December and January for the Durham Green Roof project. Two grants were being prepared, Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities (via the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation) and the 2013 round of NCDOJ Environmental Enhancement Grants. Both grant applications were approved for up to \$60,000. (M:hughes, 2: Webster; unanimously approved)

#### IV. Updates

- a. **Operations:** Jacob Leech reported that Beehive Insurance/Carolina Casualty is in the renewal process currently for D&O Liability. Also, Marie Martin with J. Michael Fargis will be working on PCC's 990 and financial review between December and February.
- b. **Natural Resource Planning, Pittsboro:** Jacob has finalized contracts with Biocenosis and NC Forestry Service.
- c. **Durham Green Roof:** EEG's 2012 grants were announced and the green roof project was not funded. Jacob and Eddie feel it may be better to submit the request to several entities rather than asking one for such a large percentage.
- d. **Chapel Hill High School:** Waiting on final word of potential school renovations to see if the project is still necessary and viable.
- e. **Troy 2 Dam Removal:** Now that the bulk of work with Lassiter and Smithermans is complete, focus can turn to the Troy 2 dam for removal. USFWS has requested a biological committee to convene before proceeding to discuss potential options for dewatering and removing the dam without damaging the mussel species. This will need to take place prior to releasing an RFP for design.
- f. **Farm Incubator:** Alex attended recent presentations of HCIF business plans by Janet's students at Elon. Alex and Jacob both attended a November Guilford Co. BOC meeting and were not able to complete their presentation about the HCIF proposal – instead the BOC wants more time to discuss the project and suggested holding a work session devoted to Open Space.
- g. **NC Association RC&D Councils:** Alex and Rudy mentioned that there would be an April meeting for the NCARCDC at Haw River State Park. Alex is contemplating leading a trail hike and Rudy is working on other activities. Jacob will be inviting a

representative from American Rivers to come speak about dam removal projects.

- V. **Board Comments:** Eddie Culberson commented that grant funding seems to be getting more competitive and coming from fewer sources, particularly related to watershed improvement and stormwater projects like PCC has implemented in the past. Alex suggested that we use our upcoming board meetings to discuss project and grant ideas.
- VI. **Upcoming events/meetings:**
  - a. Next Full Council Meeting: January 23 at 6:00 pm at Alamance Community College
  - b. Next Executive Board Meeting: February 4 at 6:30 pm at Alamance Community College
- VII. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.