

Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2011

Members Present: Bill Alston, Chairman (Randolph), Alex Ashton, Vice-Chair (Guilford), Larry Baker (Rockingham), George Bain (Randolph), Eddie Culberson (Chatham, Durham) Frank Green (Rockingham), Hazel Pucket (Rockingham), Rudy Langley (Alamance), Millie Langley (Guilford), Rick McVey (Caswell), Norton Webster (Wake), Janet MacFall (Alamance), Brenda Sutton (Rockingham), Tushar Mahale, Julie Elmore, Carol Melton.

Members Absent: Shaunnika Johnson (Wake), Herb Hendrickson (Guilford), Talmage Layton (Durham), Jarvis Martin (Durham), David Stancil (Orange), C. Hester Vernon (Caswell), Brenda Williams (Chatham)..

Guests: Jenny Sayers, Mark Wells, Jeff Crews

I. Call to order

Bill Alston called to order the regular meeting of the Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc (PCC) at 6:05 p.m. on January 20, 2011 At Alamance Community College.

II. Chairman Comments

III. Approval of minutes from October 21, 2010 meeting

Minutes from October 21, 2010 were reviewed by the council members. .

MOTION: George Bain made a motion to approve at noted above. Motion was seconded by Larry Baker.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

IV. FabLab Presentation – Rhode Island Lab

Julie described the hands on training received including:

- Taking a simple idea (everyone has an idea of something that can help everyday tasks they perform) and developing it into a reality.
- Starting by showing the student how to make a simple electric charge to make a light bulb work- demonstrating that a student does had the capability to develop their own ideas.
- Taking their individual idea and starting out by making a proto type from a laser cutter and paper materials; Round table discussions with others in the lab to discuss and work out solutions to problems and learning to use a computer to find assistance, designs, components.

Julie described examples of student's ideas:

- Temperature driven windows in a greenhouse that opened when the temperature rose to a set figure;
- Engraving keepsakes onto glass.

Members discussed that the FabLab application is to assist the community with a hands on opportunity to enrich individual lives and encourage independency by developing job skills that is not otherwise available for all citizens.

Julie asked the council to think about an idea and bring back for using in the Fablab arrival the first week of March.

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Jenny Sayers of the Nicholas School of Environment presented findings from Strategic Analysis of the RC&D program. Her presentation included:

- ✓ Addressing the organizational goals of PCC by prioritizing categories:
- ✓ Points Recommendations
- ✓ Contributions
- ✓ Local Business & jobs created and retained
- ✓ Land & water resources benefitted
- ✓ Communication of stakeholders, by developing and operating a PCC website
- ✓ Board member participation
- ✓ Measures of success

V. Decision Items:

A. Business – approve invoices

Julie presented invoices for approval for payment as:

1. Tushar Mahale, FabLab training \$2900.00

MOTION: Rudy motioned approval of the invoice. Seconded by Eddie

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

B. Contracts

Julie presented two contracts for consideration:

1. **Network of Fablabs Annual Conference Agreement** with Jeff Crews to attend and represent PCC.

Members discussed the need to have representation to network with other FabLab operators and bring back information to help us with managing the Fablab when it arrives.

MOTION: Rudy motioned approval of contract for \$1100.00. Seconded by MacFall.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

2. **Contract with Stephanie Grant** to work as:

- a contractor fully reimbursed by grant funding;
- project manager for Alamance Stormwater and CW Stanford Stormwater projects.

The board discussed adding: attending council meetings; and, managing more projects than the two outlined. Members decided to table this contract until the executive board meeting on February 1st, 2011.

C. RC&D Carryover Funds to States:

Julie explained the information received regarding councils with Circle of Diamonds status receiving \$8730 for justified projects. The projects must relate to the USDA and NRCS priorities. Proposals are due Friday January 28th. Chairman Alston added that the executive board had reviewed the information and noted that if PCC did not want the funds they could be awarded to another council. Members discussed several ideas including:

- Piedmont Local Foods needs a project manager;
- Soil & Water National Conference Expo Setup next year;
- Clean Energy Durham individual workshops

In conclusion members agreed to submit a proposal to use the funds for Piedmont Local Foods program.

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MOTION: Eddie Culberson motioned to submit a proposal to use the funds for Piedmont Local Foods. Seconded by Janet MacFall.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

Sandra Weitzel reported that next year's national Soil & Water Conservation Conference will be held Greensboro and that PCC has been asked to provide an Expo setup with a theme of Conservation as an exhibit. Tim Garrett and Sandra have additional information for PCC's further consideration. Chairman Alston reported attending this year's conference and encouraged the council to work on this project.

VI. Discussion Items

1. By-laws

In accordance with PCC's by-laws amendment rules the council was given notice by Vice-Chairman Ashton of two suggested changes including:

- Quorum requirement and
- Requirement for NRCS annual assessment.

Members were asked to review the by-laws amendment for a vote at the next quarterly meeting.

2. Recruitment

Members discussed vacancies in Alamance, Guilford, Caswell, Orange and Chatham counties.

Gail Hughes suggested sending notices to each county Soil & Water office to publicize meetings.

Eddied added to post notices fifteen days prior to meetings.

3. Area Plan/Strategic Plan

Julie and asked members to review the contract and contact her with ideas and a cover page for the document.

4. PCC Website

Members discussed setting up a website subcommittee and decided to send individual ideas of what they want to include in the website to the administrative assistant.

VII. Project Updates

Julie reviewed the following matrix of ongoing PC projects:

Project Title	Description
FabLab Durham Co. \$70k	Collaboration with MIT, community outreach project technology innovation/prototyping. To encourage community economic development by enabling access for individuals to tools for digital fabrication. The goal is to bridge the widening technology and economic gap by fostering innovation in the general public by offering simplified technology and instruction to benefit underserved communities.
Guilford Farmland Protection Plan	Development of a farmland protection plan for Guilford County.
Piedmont Local Foods	Linking rural farmers with restaurant chefs and other industry with bulk purchasing power via website and food service delivery

Clean Energy Durham	Non-profit partner outreach funds to impoverished community in NE Central Durham. Teaching residents and implementing energy saving measures in the home.
FRPP Easements (Dick Fowler)	NRCS contracted with PCC to have Dick Fowler review FRPP easements.
Trees NC - Asheboro	YES! Eastside (Youth Environmental Service Program) Summer Camp.
Piedmont Quilt Trail	Agritourism - Quilt Squares on barns, website, brochure, map development.
Chatham County Conservation Plan	1st comprehensive conservation plan compiling GIS data into "one stop shop" for Chatham County.
Alamance Community College Stormwater Project	Innovative Stormwater solutions for Haw River Campus: to improve the infrastructure for treating stormwater runoff on the campus of Alamance Community College (ACC) and provide educational opportunities and a forum for demonstrating the effectiveness of a distributed stormwater BMP approach on a typical community college campus.
CW Stanford Stormwater	Orange County Schools and Charles W. Stanford Middle School want to conserve water, reduce stormwater pollution leaving the school campus, and increase educational opportunities for students.
Lassiter Mill Dam	The project is to develop a full engineering design for the removal of the Lassiter Mill Dam on the Uwharrie River in Randolph County.
Caswell Farmland Protection Plan	Farmland Protection Planning for Caswell County.
Wick applicator RAFI	Safe, environmentally efficient applicator of pesticide/herbicide for Caswell SWCD.
Dan River Coalition	Establishing strong linkages among agencies, organizations, and individuals is critical to a projects success in addressing water quality issues for more efficient and more effective river stewardship.
Duke Univ. Carbon Offsets Initiative	Partnership with Duke for project management to develop high integrity offset projects that provide significant environmental, economic and societal co-benefits for the Durham and regional community,
Caswell Watershed Assessment	An aerial photography assessment of Caswell County's Water Supply Watershed to ID potential BMPs
Deep River Rail/Trail	Grant writing assistance for converting an old rail line into a paved walking trail in Franklinville connecting to Ramseur

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.