

Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.

FINAL Full Council Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2014

Members Present: Alex Ashton (Chairman, Guilford), Norton Webster (Secretary, Chatham), Rudy Langley (Treasurer, Alamance), Gail Hughes (Orange), Larry Baker (Rockingham), Bill Alston (Randolph), Terry Hackett (Orange), Millie Langley (Alamance), Joanna Lelekacs (Orange), Claudia Berryhill (Person), Bo Rodenbough (Guilford), Frank Green (Rockingham), Hazel Puckett (Rockingham)

Staff Present: Jacob Leech

Guests Present: Julius George (USDA - NRCS), Denile McNair, Brian Grogan, Sam Kennington (Council Applicant – Person Co.)

- I. **Call to Order & Chairman Comments** – Alex Ashton, Chairman
 - a. Alex Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on January 23, 2014 at Alamance Community College in Graham, NC and confirmed the presence of a quorum.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** from October 17, 2013 Full Council meeting unanimously approved (M: R. Langley, 2: Hughes; unanimously approved).
- III. **Discussion/ Decision Items**
 - a. **Dues Reminders:** Dues remain outstanding for Guilford, Caswell, Randolph, and Wake counties. All remaining counties have paid FY 2014 dues in full.
 - b. **Asheboro Park Project:** Denile McNair, pastor of Vision of Unity outreach Ministries in Asheboro, presented a brief summary of a proposed park rejuvenation project on a 3 acre site located at Booker T. Washington Ave. and Old Cedar Falls Rd. in Asheboro. Washington Park was once a thriving center of activities in Eastside Asheboro but has been an eyesore since the late 1990's and the location of many illegal activities. Mr. McNair and other local partners have acquired the park and surrounding tracts and wish to rejuvenate it, transforming it to its original purpose. They are seeking PCC's assistance in grant writing and stakeholder initiation. A motion was made to allow Jacob to invest a small amount of time toward assisting in the development of this project (M: Alston, 2: Lelekacs; unanimously approved).
 - c. **Town of Hillsborough Public Works Eno River Restoration:** Terry and Jacob met recently to discuss the project – to relocate the Hillsborough Public Works facility and restore the area including a riparian buffer. They looked at the site and discussed some adjacent projects happening on the Eno River. A motion was made to adopt the project (M: Hackett, 2: M. Langley; unanimously approved).
 - d. **Council Application:** Sam Kennington of Person County presented his application and provided some background. A motion was made to approve his application to the Council (M: Alston, 2: Hughes; unanimously approved).

- e. **FY 2013 Annual Report:** Jacob reviewed the highlights of the annual report for FY 2013. A motion to accept it was made, with amendments (M: Webster, 2: Alston; unanimously approved).
- f. **Project Management Contract:** Jacob presented a contract proposal to provide contract management services for 1 month until finances could be figured out for the remainder of the fiscal year. The amount of the contract was \$4,000. A motion was made to accept the contract with amendments (M: Norton, 2: Alston; unanimously approved).
- g. **Nominating Committee:** Frank Green agreed to Chair the nominating committee to nominate officers for elections in April. Also serving on the committee will be Rudy Langley, Bill Alston, and Bo Rodenbough.
- h. **Grant Opportunities:**
 - 1. **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation/Wells Fargo** – an application was submitted in December for the Durham Green Roof project in the amount of \$50,000. (Motion to approve: R. Langley, 2: Hughes; unanimously approved)
 - 2. **Environmental Enhancement Grant Program (EEG)** – an application was submitted in January in the amount of \$107,000. (Motion to approve: R. Langley, 2: Hughes; unanimously approved)
 - 3. **Z. Smith Reynolds** – Jacob suggested that there may be an opportunity to pursue ZSR funds for the incubator project. The deadline is in February. Jacob will investigate the feasibility of this grant and proceed if it looks like an efficient use of time.
 - 4. **Quilt Trail Project** – Bill Alston suggested looking into possible expansion of the Quilt Trail in areas surrounding Randolph County due to its popularity. Resourceful Communities may be a source to look into.

IV. Updates

- a. **Operations/accounting:** Renewals were being worked on for the Charitable Solicitation License, General Liability Insurance. Jacob continues to work with J. Michael Fargis for the 990 and financial review. Jacob also mentioned that the SE Association had recently held a teleconference with poor attendance and wanted to remind everyone to make the effort to participate. It was noted that there was not much done to let folks know, so Jacob will try to follow up and make sure the appropriate folks are on the reminder list and that he receives future notifications from the SE Association.
- b. **Fab Lab Carolinas:** Awaiting a teleconference with Michelle and Tushar w/ subcommittee. Joanna L. is attending a meeting of CRAFT and would like a synopsis to discuss the project at that meeting. Jacob will send it to her asap.
- c. **Chapel Hill High:** CHHS has a new sustainability director who is following up on smaller-scale projects.
- d. **Town of Hillsborough Public Works Restoration:** See adoption above.
- e. **Durham Green Roof:** See grant opportunities above.
- f. **Dam Removals:** Moving forward with Town of Troy on Troy Reservoir No. 2. Video for the Smitherman's project was released through USFWS.

- g. **Biocenosis:** Currently working to finalize subcontracts. 1st report is due by March 1.
- h. **Caswell Co. Farmland Protection Plan:** Project is closed out officially.
- i. **Person Co. Farmland Protection Plan:** Grant pending with ADFP Trust Fund. Necessary matching is secured.
- j. **Hines Chapel Preserve Incubator Farm:** Project has been approved by the Guilford County Board of Commissioners!
- k. **Ag Landlord Project:** Pending grant with Syngenta.
- l. **Pending Grants:**
 - 1. Syngenta (Ag Landlord Project)
 - 2. EEG (Durham Green Roof)
 - 3. NFWF/Wells Fargo (Durham Green Roof)
 - 4. ADFP Trust Fund (Person County Farmland Protection Plan)

V. Board Member Comments, New Business

- a. Julius George introduced himself. He is the new District Conservationist for USDA-NRCS in Alamance and Caswell counties. He wanted to come to the meeting to learn more about PCC and introduce himself, and offer any assistance needed through NRCS.
- b. Rudy Langley reminded everyone of the upcoming NC RC&D Association meeting at Haw River State Park in April (23rd-24th).

VI. Upcoming events/meetings

- a. Next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for February 4 at ACC 6:30 – 8:30 pm.
- b. Next Full Council meeting is April 17 at Eddie Culberson's 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.