

Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.

FINAL Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2012

Members Present: Alex Ashton (Chairman, Guilford), Eddie Culberson, Vice-Chair (Chatham), Frank Green (Rockingham), Rudy Langley, Treasurer (Alamance), Hazel Puckett, Secretary (Rockingham), Gail Hughes (Orange), Hester Vernon (Caswell), Stephanie Grant (staff)

Members Absent: Talmage Layton, Bill Alston

- I. Call to Order & Chairman Comments – Alex Ashton, Chairman
 - a. Alex Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. on February 7, 2012 at the May Memorial Library in Burlington and confirmed the presence of a quorum.
- II. Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2011 and January 19, 2012 Executive Board meetings
 - a. Correction to draft 12-6-11 minutes: decision item 4(c) should say \$800,000 not \$800.
 - b. Correction to draft 1-19-12 minutes: Change upcoming meeting from “Full Council” to “Executive Board.”
 - c. With changes, both minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. Discussion Items
 - a. Guest speaker, Michelle Gonzales-Green, recently hired Fab Labs Carolinas project manager. Ms. Green gave an overview of what work she has done so far and near-term plans. She conducted strategy meetings a couple of weeks ago with Stephanie Grant, Tushar Mahale, Drew Nelson, Jeff Crews and Sallye Coyle; has developed a FLC mission statement, worked on a new website design and promotional materials, and begun working on our strategic plan.
 - b. County Dues
 - i. Still need a POC in Randolph to send the invoice to
 - ii. Send the Caswell invoice to Kevin Howard, County Manager
 - iii. Frank and Brenda Sutton are meeting with Rockingham County Manager on Monday 2-13-12
 - iv. Board members will work on lining up meetings with soil & water and/or commissioners to encourage dues and increase visibility.
 - v. Guilford CBO process – as an option, PCC may be able to apply for a small “Community-Based Organization” grant from Guilford County. It would be reduced by 1/3 each year for three years, but should not negatively affect the amount we get from S&W. Staff will look into PCC eligibility.
 - c. Protecting PCC finances – in light of financial fraud in other RC&D’s recently, board members discussed a system for financial oversight.
 - d. New project idea from Julie – inventory of BMPs in Jordan Lake Watershed. Could also be replicated for High Rock Lake. NRCS is fully behind this project, the deliverable of which is a list of landowners and potential BMPs on their property, ranked for

environmental impact. Potential \$300,000 in EPA 319 grant, would need another \$140k in match. Julie should be sending a write-up to Alex about it.

IV. Decision Items

- a. Rudy moved to have Treasurer review financial statements online before each meeting and give a report to the board. 2nd: Gail. Unanimously approved.
- b. Our State Magazine ad proof for Piedmont Local Food.
Motion: Rudy; 2nd: Frank; Unanimously approved. Invoice approved at 12-6-11 meeting, pending ad proof approval.
- c. Apply for 2013 giving year of Earth Share combined charity. Alex and Janet met with a rep of Earth Share, and while it's competitive, definitely seems worth it to him.
Motion: Gail; 2nd: Eddie; Unanimously approved.
- d. Extension of Fluvial Solutions Construction Contract. Experienced additional delays due to subcontractor ordering of pump system components. Proposed extension from Feb 28 to April 15.
Motion: Gail; 2nd: Hester; Unanimously approved
- e. Joining the Sustainable Communities Consortium as a stakeholder in the Regional Sustainability Plan being conducted. Will affect Guilford, Rockingham, Randolph, and Alamance Counties. Alex volunteered to be PCC's representative to the SCC.
Motion: Eddie; 2nd: Gail; Unanimously approved.
- f. North Carolina Association of RC&D's dues. Dues have been reduced to \$500 from last year's \$1,000. Kip did our strategic planning retreat pro-bono. Group discussed paying half of the dues and explaining that is all we can afford, and we may be able to pay more as we get more revenue.
Motion: Rudy; 2nd: Frank; Unanimously approved.
- g. Submit 990 IRS tax forms. Put together by J. Michael Fargis, reviewed by Amy Parker Cook and Stephanie Grant.
Motion: Rudy; 2nd: Eddie; unanimously approved.
- h. Resubmit Alamance Community College Phase II application for 2012 funding year.
Motion: Eddie; 2nd: Gail; unanimously approved
- i. Smitherman's Dam Removal. Postponed vote until after Environmental Impact RC&D weighed in. They are dissolving, so have no issues with PCC moving forward on Smitherman's.
Motion: Rudy; 2nd: Gail; unanimously approved
- j. Timeline and Budget for new hire. Stephanie will send around the job description for comments, then send out widely for distribution. Goal is to have someone hired by mid-March or early April to work part time. No official actions taken.
- k. Additional compensation for Stephanie Grant. Will compensate her for 6 months worth of administrative assistance budget = \$3,000 total.
Motion: Rudy; 2nd: Gail; unanimously approved.
- l. Set up a separate checking account for the FLC project.
Motion: Eddie; 2nd: Rudy; unanimously approved.
- m. All invoices unanimously approved as presented.

- i. Amy Parker Cook – \$175.55
- ii. Princeton Hydro – \$6,237.95

Motion: Rudy; 2nd: Hazel; unanimously approved.

V. Project Updates

- a. Caswell County FPP – Jerry Dorsett is working on contacting advisory board members. PCC will send invoice for 2,500 to Caswell Farm Bureau when we will begin reporting/PJM in earnest, likely next month.
- b. Other projects covered in earlier discussion or omitted because of time.

VI. Upcoming events/meetings

- a. Next Executive Board meeting is March 6, 2012 6:30-8:30pm, location TBD.
- b. There will be no April EB meeting, just the Full Council meeting April 19th.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.