

Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.
FINAL Executive Board Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2014 - Teleconference

EB Members Present: Alex Ashton (Chair, Guilford), Eddie Culberson (Vice-Chair, Durham), Rudy Langley (Treasurer, Alamance), Gail Hughes (Orange), Frank Green (Rockingham), Hazel Puckett (Rockingham), Bill Alston (Randolph), Bo Rodenbough (Guilford)

Staff Present: Jacob Leech

EB Members Absent: Norton Webster, Hester Vernon

- I. **Call to Order & Chairman Comments:** Alex called the meeting to order at 6:30.
- II. **Minutes:** Meeting minutes for February 4, 2013 were reviewed and approved upon the contingency that Frank and Hazel review them upon receipt (M: Alston, 2: Hughes; unanimously approved).
- III. **Discussion/ Decision Items**
 - a. **Outstanding Dues:** All counties have paid dues with the exceptions of Wake.
 - b. **Format for April Council Meeting:** A mini-retreat is planned for the April meeting wherein the council will discuss and prioritize project areas. Millie Langley will coordinate the food dishes and Eddie Culberson and Rudy Langley will be cooking fish and chicken for the council. Jacob will distribute directions to the council to Eddie's home for the meeting.
 - c. **Annual Meeting of NC Association of RC&D Councils:** The members were reminded of the upcoming annual meeting of the NC Association taking place at Haw River State Park on April 22-23.
 - d. **NARCDC Request:** Jacob announced that the Nation Association of RC&D Councils issued a request to councils to find out if their current statuses and what services could be provided by National. The board offered a few suggestions and questions that Jacob sent to the representative from National:
 - i. More updates provided to councils.
 - ii. How many councils are operational nationwide?
 - iii. Is the SE Association lobbying for projects based in the southeast?
 - iv. Will NARCDC survey councils to see what kind of grants/subawards councils could utilize?
 - e. **Haw River Dam Removals:** There are two potential dam removal projects on the Haw River. American Rivers is working on the design and may be looking for an organization like PCC to manage the construction portion of the projects. More details will follow once American Rivers has concluded design and planning. Bill Alston mentioned that the Randolph SWCD members had expressed concern that no local contractors were able to bid on the demolition of the Lassiter Mill

Dam, and asked Jacob to give him some information on the decision making so he could convey the facts to the SWCD. Jacob explained that components such as hauling, grading, and seeding were hired out locally to contractors, while the demolition was conducted internally by USFWS, the primary funder of the project. Utilizing USFWS personnel for demolition was appropriate given that USFWS was the funder, but also it allows PCC to utilize the remaining grant funds to remove the Troy 2 Dam which would be contracted locally. Alex asked for clarification from the board on whether or not they were comfortable pursuing more dam removals in Montgomery Co. The board replied in consensus that projects outside the PCC area were not to be prioritized over projects within, however pursuing these projects was appropriate considering the habitat enhancement and water quality benefits would be felt within the PCC area upstream.

- f. Grant Opportunities:** Jacob presented two grant opportunities for consideration for the Hines Chapel Incubator Farm. A motion was made to approve the applications at the following amounts (M: Hughes, 2: Green; unanimously approved).

 - i. Tobacco Trust Fund:** \$92,500.00
 - ii. Goldenleaf Foundation Open Grants:** \$99,000.00
- g. Fab Lab Carolinas:** Alex made a connection in Greensboro with an individual who may be interested in purchasing the Fab Lab equipment if sold. Jacob will contact him with details.
- IV. Updates** (Updates were not discussed for purposes of brevity)
- V. New Business:** Gail mentioned that we should have a discussion of grant opportunities at the council meeting.
- VI. Upcoming events/meetings:**

 - a. Next Full Council Meeting:** April 17 at 6:00 pm at Eddie Culberson’s house.
 - b. Next Executive Board Meeting:** May 6 at 6:30 pm at Alamance Community College
- VII. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. The Nominating Committee remained on the line to discuss nominations for board officers at the April meeting.