

Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.

FINAL Full Council Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2014

Members Present: Alex Ashton (Chairman, Guilford), Norton Webster (Secretary, Chatham), Rudy Langley (Treasurer, Alamance), Gail Hughes (Orange), Larry Baker (Rockingham), Bill Alston (Randolph), Millie Langley (Alamance), Joanna Lelekacs (Orange), Claudia Berryhill (Person), Bo Rodenbough (Guilford), Sam Kennington (Person), Tushar Mahale (Wake), Frank Green (Rockingham), Hazel Puckett (Rockingham), Brenda Williams (Chatham), Janet MacFall (Alamance)

Staff Present: Jacob Leech

Guests Present: Julie Elmore, Dale Threatt-Taylor, Megan Barrett, Bettye Alston, Joan Culberson, Fred Hughes

- I. **Call to Order & Chairman Comments** – Alex Ashton, Chairman
 - a. Alex Ashton called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and expressed his gratitude to the hosts, the Culbersons, for their hospitality. Introductions were also provided for guests present.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** from January 23, 2014 Full Council meeting unanimously approved with the addition of Frank Green and Hazel Puckett to the list of attendees (M: R. Langley, 2: Hughes; unanimously approved).
- III. **Discussion/ Decision Items**
 - a. **Website and Social Media presence:** Jacob Leech expressed to the council that a social media presence may help PCC with the establishment of a brand and greater participation. He could start the endeavor as time permits with little additional time needed, although it may be summer before it would be up and running. There was a consensus to proceed.
 - b. **PCC Project Priorities:**
 - **New Project Area Discussions**
 - a) **Renewable Energy/Biomass** – Norton Webster presented the project area of renewable energy and biomass, noting that it seemed to be a hot topic demanding ample federal funding initiatives from DOE, DOD, etc. NC Bioenergy Research Initiative, NCSU Switchgrass research, Cherokee Fund in Raleigh, and several other local entities were named as significant local stakeholders.
 - b) **Wind/Solar Energy** – Jacob Leech presented the project area noting that it was prevalent in NC but he was not sure exactly what the nonprofit role was at this time. Eddie C. mentioned the possibility of PCC identifying solar farm properties for a finder's fee. Wind is less feasible in the Piedmont.

- c) **Rural Dry Hydrants** – Claudia research the dry hydrant project area, explaining that dry hydrants are non-pressurized pump systems that fill fire trucks. The Forest Service is a potential funder and county governments are potential partners. Julie E. mentioned the potential need for creating a regional bubble map to id. Dry hydrant locations.
- d) **Quilt Trail** – Gail had looked into the idea of doing a Quilt Trail in Orange County and found that the tourism bureau is willing to be a partner and that an “Arts & Ag” type of tag could get foundations interested in funding.

c. **Grant Opportunities:**

- **319 NPS** – Eddie explained that the Durham SWCD introduced Jacob to the NC School of Science and Math and have a potential stormwater collection and treatment project that would be perfect for a 319 grant. At this time there is not matching funding available, but if it becomes available the project would be worth pursuing. (consensus agreement)
- **CWMTF** – Terry, Gail , and Jacob working on an application for the Eno River project at the Hillsborough Public Works site for \$90,000. (M: Brenda, 2: Eddie; Unanimously approved)
- **BFRDP** – Joanna briefly explained the NCAT/CEFS project proposal for USDA-NIFA’s BFRDP program. Jacob will bring back details next month for a vote.

- d. **Fab Lab Closeout:** Tushar discussed several options proposed to closeout the Fab Lab project, (1) including donation of equipment to Michelle for continued work on the project independently, (2) donation of equipment to other nonprofits. A motion was made to consider option 1. Jacob presented the estimated depreciated book value of the equipment, noting that it was an imperfect number at this point and more research needed to be done to ensure PCC would not take a loss on its books. Eddie C. raised the point that the subcommittee had only been given these options from Tushar yesterday and he would like more time to give consideration. Sam K. counter motioned to send the issue to the subcommittee. Eddie C. seconded. The first motion was negated and the counter motion passed unanimously.

- e. **Elections:** Frank Green presented the nominating committee’s results for officers:

- **Chair – Gail Hughes**
- **Vice Chair – Norton Webster**
- **Secretary – Janet MacFall**
- **Treasurer – Bo Rodenbough**
- **Non-officers: Claudia Berryhill added to EB, Tushar Mahale added to EB, and Frank Green removed from EB to remain as full council member.**

A motion was made to accept the nominations (M: Frank Green, 2: Millie Langley; unanimously approved)

- f. Results of Project Priority Exercise:** Members were asked to rank project priorities according to their opinion of importance to PCC's mission and sustainability. Results were (incl. project area and corresponding points):
 - a. Local Food System (55)**
 - b. Farmland Preservation Projects (52)**
 - c. Stormwater Management Projects (40)**
 - d. Dam Removals (39)**
 - e. Community Development (38)**
 - f. Renewable Energy (36)**
 - g. Agritourism (34)**

IV. Upcoming events/meetings

- a.** Next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for May 6 at ACC 6:30 – 8:30 pm.
- b.** Next Full Council meeting is July 17 at ACC 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.