

Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.
FINAL Executive Board Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2014 – Alamance Community College

EB Members Present: Norton Webster (Vice-Chair, Chatham), Bo Rodenbough (Treasurer, Guilford), Alex Ashton (Guilford), Eddie Culberson (Durham), Rudy Langley (Alamance), Hazel Puckett (Rockingham), Claudia Berryhill (Person)

Staff Present: Jacob Leech

EB Members Absent: Gail Hughes (Orange), Janet MacFall (Alamance), Hester Vernon (Caswell), Bill Alston (Randolph)

- I. **Call to Order & Chairman Comments:** Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Norton Webster, Vice-Chair.
- II. **Minutes:** Meeting minutes for March 4, 2014 were reviewed and approved with the addition of Alex Ashton to the attendees. (M: Ashton, 2: Culberson; unanimously approved).
- III. **Discussion/ Decision Items**
 - a. **Council Member Application, Dale Threatt-Taylor:** Dale Threatt-Taylor's application was reviewed and approved. (M: Ashton, 2: Culberson, unanimously approved)
 - b. **Rural Roundtable Update:** Jacob Leech reported on the Rural Center Roundtable held in Asheboro as part of the NC Rural Center's reorganization. He noted that they will be continuing loan programs for small businesses and community projects as well as technical assistance for nonprofits, however they will be doing fewer direct grants. There will be opportunities to partner with NCRC on grant opportunities in the future.
 - c. **Cape Fear River Partnership update:** Jacob Leech and Janet MacFall attended the annual meeting for the Cape Fear River Assembly and Partnership. Jacob noted the completion of the barrier removal prioritization tool developed by SARP and American Rivers which will be instrumental in identifying promising dam removal projects and also reported on potential Duke Energy funding.
 - d. **FY 2014 Taxes and Financial Review:** The 2014 990 is complete as well as the Financial Review. J. Michael Fargis reported that the PCC books were in good order. Copies are available from Jacob and have already been signed and distributed to past and current Treasurers and Chairs.
 - e. **PCC Financial Status update:** Jacob handed out a spreadsheet detailing the estimated balance for the end of the FY, which is approximately \$24,000 in unencumbered funds.

- f. **FY 2015 Budget:** Jacob reviewed a rough draft of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The members present asked for a detailed budget vs. actual to be brought to the next meeting prior to approval.
- g. **Grant Opportunities:** Jacob presented the following grant opportunities:
 - i. **Farmers' Market Promotional Program:** Jacob reviewed the FMPP program RFP which could be utilized for either the Hines Chapel Incubator Farm or Quilt Trail, although given the short deadline he would need to investigate the feasibility of either. He was directed to look into it further and report back a proposed amount at the next meeting if feasible.

IV. Updates

- a. **Accounting/Ops:** 990 and Financial Review complete. Jacob asked if we should get estimates from other accounting firms for next year. In complying with best practices, he was directed to get estimates prior to approving another contract with J Michael Fargis, although it was noted that they would likely be the best option given their knowledge of the organization's finances.
- b. **Madison/Mayodan STEP Project:** Jacob reported that Madison and Mayodan in Rockingham county were both part of the NC Rural Center's STEP Program and had some river access projects and other potential project PCC may be able to write grants for.
- c. **Biocenosis/Natural Resource Planning:** Biocenosis will be asking for an extension on the project from NC Urban Forestry.
- d. **Washington Park Project – Asheboro:** Jacob will be facilitating a kickoff meeting of stakeholders in Asheboro in July.
- e. **Dry Hydrant Projects:** Contacts in Person and Wake Counties are polling fire stations to gauge interest in participation.
- f. **Durham Green Roof:** The design firm is putting together a rendering that can be used to solicit funds from potential donors.
- g. **Troy 2 Dam Removal:** Jacob is continuing to work with USFWS, American Rivers, and Troy to finalize agreements.
- h. **Person Co. Farmland Protection Plan:** The AFDP Trust Fund grant is still pending.
- i. **Town of Hillsborough/Eno River Restoration Project:** A grant with CWMTF is currently pending.
- j. **Hines Chapel Incubator Farm:** We are still trying to finalize a lease with Guilford County for the site.

- k. **Ag Landlord Project:** Janet MacFall has received an invitation from Norfolk Southern to speak about the project at an upcoming meeting. They have land and may be interested in partnering.
 - l. **Pending Grants:** EEG 2013, CWMTF, ADFP Trust Fund, BFRDP.
 - V. **New Business:** Rudy has a project site near his church for a potential community garden or park. Jacob will be meeting with him to investigate a role for PCC.
 - VI. **Upcoming events/meetings:**
 - a. Next Full Council Meeting: July 17 at ACC.
 - b. Next Executive Board Meeting: August 5 at ACC
 - VII. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.