

*Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.*

*FINAL Executive Board Meeting Minutes*

*January 10, 2013*

**EB Members Present:** Alex Ashton (Chair, Guilford), Rudy Langley (Treasurer, Alamance), Hazel Puckett (Rockingham), Frank Green (Rockingham), Gail Hughes (Orange)

**FC Members Present:** Janet MacFall (Alamance), Millie Langley (Guilford), Bo Rodenbough (Guilford)

**Staff Present:** Jacob Leech, Michelle Gonzales-Green

**Guests Present:** Sandra Weitzel, Brian Grogan

**EB Members Absent:** Eddie Culberson, Norton Webster, Bill Alston, Hester Vernon

- I. **Call to Order & Chairman Comments:** Alex Ashton, Chair
  - a. Alex Ashton, Chair, began the meeting by having guests present introduce themselves to the Council. He noted that there was no Full Council quorum present, and an EB meeting was called to order based on the present quorum of EB members.
- II. **Minutes:** Since the meeting was intended to be a Full Council meeting, minutes from the November 29, 2012 Executive Board meeting had not been circulated for review therefore would be presented for approval at the February meeting of the Executive Board.
- III. **Discussion/ Decision Items**
  - a. **Council Member Application:** Bo Rodenbough was asked to introduce himself and briefly tell about his experience in the field of conservation. His completed Council application was distributed to the members present and a motion was made to accept Bo to the Council. (M: Puckett, 2: R. Langley; Unanimously Approved)
  - b. **Nominating Committee:** Alex Ashton noted that the next scheduled Full Council meeting in April would include officer elections, therefore it was time to appoint a nominating committee to make recommendations. Alex asked Frank Green to serve and for two other members to volunteer. Rudy Langley and Gail Hughes volunteered to serve.
  - c. **Start2Farm Conference:** Jacob Leech announced that during a trip to Rochester, MN for an unrelated client project he was asked to participate in a planning meeting for the 2013 Start2Farm Conference to be located in the Triangle area. Start2Farm is an online clearinghouse of beginning farmer information through USDA. The Conference planners are asking local groups for recommendations of sponsors and other planning assistance. The Council mentioned Syngenta and Southern Seasons as potential sponsors. Jacob will take that information to the conference planners.
  - d. **Person County Membership:** Gail and Jacob had both been in contact with representatives from Person County who had renewed interest in becoming part of PCC. The District Conservationist and a representative from the SWCD Supervisors will be attending the next PCC meeting to discuss the possibility of joining.
  - e. **Grant Opportunities:**

- Chapel Hill High CWMTF –Alex noted the need to make sure that the School Board includes in their Letter of Commitment that they are willing to maintain the project area and also to make sure that PCC is adequately compensated for work. A motion was introduced to allow Jacob to proceed in proposal development in line with the engineer’s recommended budget of \$605,000 + PCC administrative costs. (M: Hughes, 2: R. Langley; Unanimously approved)
- Orange Co. Outside Agency Support: Gail recommended application to this funding source as a way to get operational funding for PCC in addition to Orange County’s dues. A motion was introduced to proceed for an application for \$3,000 to include new farmer initiatives. (M: Langley, 2: GHughes; Unanimously approved).

f. **Invoices:**

- The following were approved for payment in full:
  1. Jacob Leech - \$1,750.00
  2. Jacob Leech reimbursement - \$100.00
  3. NCARCD - \$500.00
  4. Wildlands Engineering: \$3,565.00 (with contingency that it will not be paid until EEG reimbursement is processed and funds are available)
- The Fab Lab auto insurance bill is due but funds are only available for one month as opposed to quarterly payments the EB had opted for. A motion was made to pay for the month (\$44.70) and approve payments through the next quarter pending available funds. (M: R. Langley, 2: Green; Unanimously approved)

**IV. Updates**

- Fab Lab:** Michelle Gonzales-Green was in attendance to give the FLC update. She reported a number of successes within the project and explained the shortfalls which were due to a necessary programming refocus. She has arranged a meeting with Michael Goodman of Am. Tobacco to begin planning for the spring’s soapbox derby event. Rudy Langley will be participating on the planning committee. M. Goodman has put in a word with his foundation, A.J. Fletcher Foundation, which may act as a sponsor for the derby. Bo noted that he has a connection with AJF Foundation. Additionally, FLC plans to participate in the March STEM Conference @ RTP Sheraton. Also, we plan to submit the ZSR report early so we can try to apply for more funds as the FLC account is depleted. A motion for a not-to-exceed amount of \$170,000 was introduced for Fab Lab to apply for continued ZSR funding. (M: Hughes, 2: R. Langley; Unanimously approved)
- Accounting/Operations:** J. Michael Fargis would have the 990 completed this month, well ahead of the 2/15 deadline, and the audit would be complete by the end of January ahead of the 3/15 deadline.
- County Membership Dues:** Jacob got the last of the County member invoice sent out in December prior to the holidays.

- d. **Durham Green Roof:** Work is slightly on hold until after approval of the Durham Board of County Commissioners (March 7). Eddie had a preliminary meeting and everything looks ready to proceed – we expect cooperation from the Commissioners.
- e. **CHHS:** Work is proceeding on the CWMTF grant for Chapel Hill High School, as discussed earlier.
- f. **Dam Removals:** A modification to the FWS agreement had not been presented to PCC yet. Jacob is following up with FWS and trying to get their staff on site for a preconstruction meeting. Permits for Lassiter had been acquired and Jacob has scheduled preliminary meetings with Wildlands Engineering to discuss design for Troy No. 2.
- g. **Alamance Community College:** Jacob met with Stephanie to go over the final reporting for the CWMTF grant. The report will be turned in ASAP as everything looks in line with expectations.
- h. **Caswell Co. FPP:** A meeting for late December to review the draft with the advisory board had been postponed to January. Jacob is waiting to hear from the consultant to reschedule.
- i. **Hines Chapel Farm Incubator:** Jacob is meeting with Janet, Steve, Joanna later this month to review the business and facilities plans the Elon students developed and to plan next steps.
- j. **Pending Grants:** We are awaiting news from CNEF and Syngenta by the end of January. EEG is not expected until at least April, possibly as late as August.

**V. New Business**

- a. Alex expressed a need to speak with David Stancil, Talmage Layton, and Bill Alston about attendance to Council meetings. Gail noted that David is currently attempting to find a replacement for his spot on the Council due to too many schedule conflicts.
- b. Rudy informed the council that he is accompanying Millie to San Antonio for the NACD Annual Meeting. Mille is the recipient of a national award this year! Rudy will attend the NARCDC meeting and requests the Council to reimburse him for his \$200 registration. (M: Green, 2: Hughes; Unanimously approved)

**VI. Upcoming events/meetings**

- a. Next Executive Board meeting is February 5, 2013 at Alamance Community College 6:30-8:30pm.
- b. Next Full Council meeting is April 18, 2013 at Alamance Community College 6:00-9:00pm.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.