

Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.

FINAL Executive Board Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2012

EB Members Present: Alex Ashton (Chairman, Guilford), Eddie Culberson (Vice Chair, Durham), Norton Webster (Secretary, Chatham), Rudy Langley (Treasurer, Alamance), Hazel Puckett (Rockingham), Frank Green (Rockingham), Gail Hughes (Orange), Jacob Leech (staff)

Council Members Present: Millie Langley (Guilford), Tushar Mahale (Wake)

Guests Present: Bo Rodenbough

EB Members Absent: Bill Alston, Robin Hammond, Hester Vernon

- I. Call to Order & Chairman Comments – Alex Ashton, Chairman
 - a. Alex Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM at Alamance Community College on November 8, 2012 and confirmed the presence of a quorum.
- II. Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2012 Executive Board meeting approved (M: Hughes, 2: Culberson; unanimously approved)
- III. Discussion/ Decision Items
 - a. **USFWS Agreement Modification:** Jacob explained that USFWS had discovered a way to perform dam deconstruction using Service personnel in lieu of hired contractors at a fraction of the initial estimated cost. This would mean a withdrawal of approximately \$51,000 from the \$239,800 total Agreement to pay for their personnel expenses. Princeton Hydro is comfortable with the approach for Lassiter. Additionally, USFWS would take lead on Smitherman's Dam deconstruction and PCC would focus on design and permitting for Troy No. 2. Norton inquired about PCC's liability with USFWS personnel performing construction which Jacob will check into. Alex also asked Jacob to see if PCC can leverage more Admin funds with the cost savings. Pending outcome of these inquiries, a motion was made to proceed under the assumed modification to the agreement until the issue was resolved to all parties' satisfaction. (M: R. Langley, 2: Webster; unanimously approved)
 - b. **Financial Status of PCC:** Jacob reviewed the handout of estimated financial position for PCC in the current fiscal year. Making assumptions about the remaining year's budget as well as projected income from sponsorships, PCC would hold a balance of approximately \$37,975.73 at the year's end, not including Fab Lab's checking account. Jacob and Alex will work on a draft of Jacob's contract amendment and Alex will send it out to the Board for review so an actionable modification can be brought to the Board for decision at the next meeting.
 - c. **Council Meeting Quorums:** Based on lack of Council quorums for recent Full Council meetings, Alex opened the floor for suggestions on improving attendance and engaging Council members. Ideas generated included: EB member making calls to Council

members in their counties, sending agenda for all meetings to the Full Council with county impacted for each agenda item in parenthesis, making Council members aware of responsibilities and benefits of membership, make matrix of Council/Board duties, updating website.

- d. **Invoices:** The following were motioned for approval (M: Culberson, 2: R. Langley; approved unanimously)
- Jacob Leech: \$1,725.00
 - Wildlands Engineering: \$12,470.00
 - Integon Insurance: \$162.42

IV. Updates

- a. **Accounting:** The audit and first quarter financials are underway and both expected for review prior to the January FC meeting.
- b. **EEG:** PCC has submitted all materials necessary and is waiting for a final contract to be written for approval. Stakeholders have been engaged and we will be meeting soon with Durham County General Services and Engineering. A structural assessment has been performed and shows that the Durham County Ag building is a viable candidate for a green roof. City of Durham Engineering and Stormwater is kicking in \$30,000 toward the project in addition to the funds from EEG.
- c. **Chapel Hill High CWMTF:** Gail informed the Board that several meetings have been held and there are many interested stakeholders. The school has a series of small grants for related projects. We hope to draft the proposal in December for stakeholder review.
- d. **SWAMP:** Eddie informed the Board that Duke was understandably requesting a larger portion of the proceeds and that the project was less feasible for PCC. The project was discontinued at the last Board meeting in October due to the new outlook on return on investment.
- e. **Farm Incubator:** Jacob has toured two incubators and come up with some good insight about early mistakes to avoid in proceeding with the project. He will be attending a grant session for Creating New Economies Fund in November.
- f. **Fab Lab:** Tushar discussed an idea involving a soil moisture sensor device he was testing and the possibility of approaching new farmers with the alternative technology. He also expressed a desire to get some of the Board together for a training/informative session about Fab Lab. This was discussed as a possible weekend meeting in the upcoming months. Funds are getting low and new grants are not projected to come in for a couple months. Michelle is working on bridge-gap funding ideas as well as planning with American Tobacco for a fundraiser Derby event in the Spring.
- g. **Dam Removals:** Already covered in Decisions/Discussion items.
- h. **Caswell County Farmland Protection Plan:** Jerry contacted Jacob to let him know that they would have a draft ready in December for the advisory council to review.
- i. **Triangle Community Foundation:** Jacob circulated a list of donor-advised funds and is awaiting feedback. Bo asked that the list be forwarded to him and also mentioned that the Community Foundation in the Triad has a similar pool of funds.

- j. **Guilford County Prison Farm:** It was not discussed at the Commissioners meeting but folks from SWCD and Open Space Committee showed up to make comments. There needs to be an appraisal of the property and a conservation buyer could be sought. Bo may be able to put a couple folks in touch with PCC to conduct some planning.
 - k. **New Farmer Landlord Project:** Alex is thinking about the next steps and will come back with some ideas at the next meeting. The Durham Network for Agriculture (DNA) was mentioned as a possible resource to find potential farmers.
 - I. Pending Grants:**
 - Patagonia: \$8,000
 - Syngenta: \$8,000
 - CWMTF Alamance Community College Phase II was declined.
- V. Upcoming events/meetings
- a. Next Executive Board meeting is rescheduled for November 29, 2012 at Alamance Community College 6:30-8:30pm.
 - b. Next Full Council meeting is January 17th, 2012 at Alamance Community College 6-9pm.
- VI. Adjournment
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.