



RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Thursday, March 12, 2015

3:00 pm

Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA)

Conference Room

6 Snake Rd., Okatie, SC 29909

Phone: (843) 255-2140

Members:

Bob Bender, District 4
Selena Brown, District 10
York L. Glover, District 3
James Livingston, District 7
Michael Mathews, District 9
Ed Pappas, District 5 (Chair)
Stephen G. Riley, District 8
Norma G. Stewart, District 6
Denise Sullivan, District 2
William H. Ladson, District 1
Vacant, District 11

Staff:

Anthony Criscitiello, Planning Director
Amanda Flake, Natural Resource Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME
2. REVIEW OF AGENDA
3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 19, 2015 MEETING ([backup](#))
4. GENERAL DISCUSSION
 - A. Stormwater Update (Larson)
 - B. 2014 Financial Update (Eisenman)
5. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - A. Contractual Matters Relating to Land Acquisition:
Review of Specific Parcels (Driggers/Lord)
6. OTHER BUSINESS
 - A. Next Meeting: April 9, 2015, from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA) Conference Room, 6 Snake Road, Okatie, SC 29909
7. ADJOURNMENT

Note: If you have any questions, please contact the County Planning Office at (843) 255-2140

**BEAUFORT COUNTY
RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board Retreat (hereafter known as the Board) was held on February 19, 2015, at the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Board Room from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ed Pappas (Chairman)

Ms. Selena Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Mr. Bob Bender

Mr. York Glover

Mr. Bill Ladson

Mr. Jim Livingston

Mr. Michael Mathews

Mr. Steve Riley

Ms. Denise Sullivan

Ms. Norma Stewart

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Planning Director

Ms. Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Mr. Ken Driggers, Beaufort County Open Land Trust Attorney

Ms. Lisa Lord, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mr. Gary Kubic, Beaufort County Administrator

Mr. Eric Larson, Beaufort County Stormwater Utility Manager

Mr. Alan Eisenman, Beaufort County Finance Department

Mr. Rob Merchant, Beaufort County Planning Department

Ms. Kate Schaefer, Coastal Conservation League

Mr. Reed Armstrong, Coastal Conservation League

Mr. Garrett Budds, Lowcountry Open Land Trust

Mr. Chris Vaughn, Ducks Unlimited

Ms. Beth Lewis, Bluffton Stormwater Management

Ms. Diane Leone, USDA

Ms. Colleen Barrett, MCAS Community Plans and Liason Office

Ms. Cindy Baysden, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

Ms. Karin Skipper, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ed Pappas called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Chairman Pappas asked if there were any changes to the Agenda and there were one. Discussion about the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board Orientation Manual was added to the agenda.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chairman Pappas asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the January 8, 2015 Board meeting and there was one; add Mr. Mathews to the vote for executive session. Mr. Ladson made a motion and Mr. Riley seconded the motion to accept the Minutes with the addition from the January 8, 2015 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes with the addition from the January 8, 2015, Board meeting** (FOR: Pappas, Brown, Bender, Glover, Ladson, Livingston, Mathews, Riley, Sullivan, Stewart).

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Ms. Lisa Lord presented the Orientation manual that she, Ms. Amanda Flake, Chairman Ed Pappas, and Ms. Norma Stewart had developed since the last meeting. The manual ended up being more of a Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board Program (R&C Program) manual than an Orientation manual to be used by all Board members, not just new Board members. Ms. Lord printed five copies to be reviewed by the Board members and passed them around the table. She also said she would send an email link to a dropbox so everyone could review it on their own time. The manual includes the four referendums, the program guide, the enabling legislation, the greenprint maps, and other useful information for Board members.

Ms. Lord has been working with the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) Conservation Easement Department do to an economic study for the R&C Program. The study would look at seven different areas of economics, like stormwater funds and tourism money, to gain a better understanding of the R&C Program and if the R&C Program helps protect the environment.

Ms. Lord gave a detailed overview of the Greenprint maps that were developed late last year. She walked through each planning area and showed opportunities that came out of the mapping process. Typically there are 15 to 20 calls each month about projects interested in entering the R&C Program. Beaufort County Open Land Trust (BCOLT) and Beaufort County staff have a vetting process to find projects that are worthy of bringing forward to the Board for possible approval. Ms. Lord encouraged each Board member to become familiar with their districts so that they can be prepared when projects in their areas come forward for a vote. Mr. Reed Armstrong of Coastal Conservation League asked the Board if they partner with Stormwater Utility Board to buy lands to help with stormwater and water quality issues. The answer was yes, the R&C Program has already achieved this with some recent projects that were approved.

Mr. Alan Eisenman gave a financial update for the R&C Program. As of December 31, 2014 the R&C Program has \$12.47 million in funds with \$11.11 million in unrestricted funds and \$1.36 million in restricted funds. These total financials do not include the \$20 million dollar referendum that was passed in November 2014.

Mr. Tony Criscitiello gave an update on the status of some of the passive parks that the Beaufort County Planning Department has been trying to bring online. These parks include Fort Fremont, Crystal Lake, Widgeon Point, and Okatie Preserve.

1. At Fort Fremont plans are ready to go to bid to build an interpretive center, pavilion, and signs at an estimated cost of \$500,000.
2. Crystal Lake will be breaking ground for a new parking lot and landscape in the next few weeks. Also, bid plans for the rehab of the existing building, to include an interpretive center as well as offices for the Soil and Water Conservation District and Beaufort County Open Land Trust, are almost finished.
3. Once funds are secured to finish building Widgeon Point, Beaufort County Open Land Trust is committed to operate and maintain the passive park that will include public access.
4. Beaufort County staff members are working with Heroes on Horseback to help operate and maintain the passive park to be built at Okatie Preserve to include an equestrian facility. Beaufort County DSN is also involved with this project and engineering plans are being produced at this time.

Mr. Michael Mathews asked Mr. Gary Kubic if County Council discussed passive park development at the County Council Retreat last week and the answer was yes. Mr. Kubic said County Councilman Brian Flewelling instructed County Council that he would like to see all of these parks finished to help engage the community about the R&C Program. Mr. Kubic stated that overall County Council was happy with the progress of the R&C Program.

Ms. Karin Skipper, Savannah and Salkahatchie Watershed Manager with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Bureau of Water, was the guest speaker at the R&C Retreat. Ms. Skipper manages eight watersheds within South Carolina, including the Salkahatchie Watershed which encompasses Beaufort County. There are 245 base sites and 90 random sites that are monitored for water quality every two months. These results are compared with state water quality standards. If the results fail, the waterways where the samples were taken are put on the 303d List of Impaired Waterways. Ms. Skipper handed out some data maps that showed water samples in our area from 2003 and 2013. Overall it showed that the water quality in our area has improved. She said that the R&C Program is doing a great job of protecting not only land but water quality within Beaufort County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Pappas entertained a motion by Mr. Ladson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown, to adjourn the Open Session at 11:40 a.m. and convened Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters associated with property acquisitions. **The motion was carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session** (FOR: Pappas, Brown, Bender, Glover, Ladson, Livingston, Mathews, Riley, Sullivan, Stewart).

Chairman Pappas adjourned Executive Session and convened Open Session at 2:11 p.m.

Ms. Stewart made a motion; seconded by Mr. Ladson, to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Agreement A under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session. **The motion was carried unanimously to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Agreement A under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session.** (FOR: Pappas, Brown, Bender, Glover, Ladson, Livingston, Mathews, Riley, Sullivan, Stewart).

Mr. Riley made a motion; seconded by Ms. Sullivan, to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Parcel B under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session. **The motion was carried unanimously to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Parcel B under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session.** (FOR: Pappas, Brown, Bender, Glover, Ladson, Livingston, Mathews, Riley, Sullivan, Stewart).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Pappas entertained a motion at 2:18 p.m. from Ms. Ladson, seconded by Mr. Riley, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously** (FOR: Pappas, Brown, Bender, Glover, Ladson, Livingston, Mathews, Riley, Sullivan, Stewart).

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Approved:

Ed Pappas, Chairman,
Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board

Date: _____