



2020 Hampton St. • Room 3063A
P.O. Box 192 • Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 576-2082

Minutes

November 23, 2009

4:30 P.M.

Attendance:

Members present: Gary Atkinson, John Grego, Sam Holland, Frank Houston, Carol Kososki, Jim Lawracy, Marcia Lucius, Virginia Sanders

Members absent: Becky Bailey, Mildred Myers Glenice Pearson

Others Present: Hugh Caldwell, Richland SWCD
Riley West, Ken Driggers, LLC
Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM with a quorum present.

Minutes: The minutes of October 26, 2009 were approved.

Agenda: The agenda was approved as written.

Conservation Committee: Gary Atkinson, Chair:

The Conservation Grants Program for 2010 was approved as recommended.

Sign up period is December 1, 2009 thru January 29, 2010 with Grant approvals made on February 22, 2010.

The recommendation included establishing 2 Green Development Grants with a \$50,000 match from Community Planning Funds, \$25,000 for Community Trail Grants on priority areas for trails and water quality features, and \$5,000 committee discretionary funds for support and outreach. The total recommendation is \$80,000 with \$75,000 in the grants program. (A copy of the recommendation is attached to file minutes)

Two more conservation easements have been signed; one in the Dutch Fork area and one in Blythewood.

Historic Committee: Frank Houston, Chair

The Historic Grants sign up and approval dates will be same as Conservation Grants.

The existing grants and amounts were reviewed.

The Committee recommendation for 2010 grants is \$150,000 plus \$25,000 discretionary funds for support and outreach for a total of \$175,000.

Publicity Committee: Sam Holland, Chair

The committee is gathering all information needed to complete project profiles, photos, etc. for the website. The official launch for the website should be within the next two months. Segments will also be included on Youtube. A video is being made as public service announcements of programs.

Finance Committee: Virginia Sanders, Chair

The monthly financial report was reviewed. (A copy is attached to file minutes)

Program Manager's Report: Jim Wilson:

The Commission will not meet in December. We will have a mid-month executive committee teleconference, if needed.

The RCCC is represented on the Development Roundtable Phase II committee which is to move forward on the 22 principles approved by County Council.

We are still pursuing a wetland mitigation program.

Palmetto Conservation Foundation is developing a trails map for Richland County.

Sustainable Midlands is hosting a Sustainable Holiday Celebration with an opportunity to buy local and sustainable gifts, get tips on having a green holiday and to enjoy good food & drink at 701 Whaley Street, Columbia, on Monday, November 30th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The RCCC is a supporting member of Sustainable Midlands.

Franklin Buie, a Richland County resident, has discussed and provided his findings to many individuals and county organizations on the need for improving the design and implementation of best management practices, especially retention basins. He has done considerable research in evaluating existing BMP's. It was approved that RCCC send a letter encouraging better designs of BMP's.

Other Business:

Carol Kososki reviewed the member's attendance for the last 2 year period and commended members for their excellent attendance to meetings. Committee attendance is reviewed semi annually.

The RCCC will have a Christmas reception at the Palmetto Conservation Foundation. Jim Wilson and Nancy Stone-Collum will work out the details.

Public Input:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM

Next Meeting

January 24, 2010 – 4:00 PM – Richland County Administration Building.

Submitted by:
Hugh Caldwell
Staff Support