



**2020 Hampton Street · Room 3063A Columbia, SC 29204**  
**(803) 576-2083**  
**Minutes**  
**June 26, 2023**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Attendance**

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Present</b>
Charles Weber	1	Yes
Tim McSwain	2	No
Wayman Stover	3	Yes
Glenice Pearson	4	Yes
Kip Dillihay	5	No
John Grego	6	Yes
Robert Squirewell	7	No
Deborah DePaoli	8	Yes
Khali Gallman	9	Yes
Darrell Jackson Jr.	10	No
Gail Rodriguez	11	Yes

<b>Staff &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
John McKenzie	Conservation Division
Val Morris	Conservation Division
Quinton Epps	Conservation Division
Jim Young	Visitor

**Call to Order**

Grego welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with a quorum at 3:33pm. Members, staff, and guests met in-person or by Zoom.

**Approval of Agenda**

⇒ **Weber moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Stover. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Minutes**

⇒ **Weber moved to approve May minutes with minor modifications recommended by Grego which was seconded by Rodriguez. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Report of the Chair**

- **Land Development Code (LDC) – update:** Grego stated the Land Development Code and the Zoning Map and Text Amendments will be discussed tomorrow, June 27, 2023 during the Development and Services Committee (D&S) meeting.

- **Advocacy – discussion:** Grego mentioned a meeting he had with Councilman Don Weaver, where they engaged in a discussion regarding the Land and Development Code. In the course of their conversation, Councilman Weaver expressed curiosity about a grant that had been awarded to an organization, he referred to as a liberal group, the Progressive Network. Epps stated he would initiate correspondence with Councilman Weaver, providing him with background information regarding the grant which had been awarded to the organization in question. In the interim, Grego expressed his commitment to follow up with Weaver as well, ensuring any further inquiries or concerns related to the grant are addressed.

### **Report from Community Planning and Development**

- **Land Development Code-Remapping Restart – update:** None reported.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

- **FY22–23 General Budget status – update:** Epps reported there were no significant developments or major activities to report. The FY23-24 budget had been successfully approved by the County Council.

### **Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) Report**

- **Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan (HTMP) – update:** Gallman reported she collaborated with Destination Analysts during their planning phase on conducting surveys for the HTMP. She discussed the various surveys Destination Analysts will distribute to gather insights into the public's perceptions of both Richland County and the Columbia region. She noted they have about 20 surveys thus far.
- **Historic Preservation Plan (HPP) – update:** None reported.
- **Randolph Cemetery – discussion:** Gallman reported HPC stood in agreement and would like to move forward with the Randolph Cemetery project. McKenzie reported he spoke with Stacy Richie, the project manager of the cemetery. Richie had problems with getting quotes and contractors for the Thompson Cottage project which required her to do most of the hands-on work and was not able to complete all the projects in the RCCC grant. Richie felt the cemetery is sustainable with other monies they received from the State and she would like to propose a new package and a new request for HPC to review at a later time.

### **Natural Resources Committee (NRC) Report**

- **Scout Motor – action item:** Weber spoke about the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) Public Notice for the Scout Motors project initiated on June 1, 2023. During their last NRC meeting, they discussed preparing and sending a comment letter for the Scout Motors’ public notice to the ACE. Grego gave a brief synopsis of the letter which described the use of other compensatory mitigation areas instead of existing mitigation credits in the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank and adjacent tracts, the lack of compensation within the impacted watersheds (Crane and Beasley Creeks), the differing types of compensation proposed in the Public Notice, recommendations to use any

additional mitigation funding in the impacted watersheds, and recommendations to identify a funding mechanism for long-term maintenance of the proposed compensatory mitigation sites.

- ⇒ **Weber moved to approve the comment letter from the RCCC in response to the ACE Public Notice for the Scout Motors project which was seconded by Depoli. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Executive Session: – Potential Property Purchase – update:** Epps reported the potential property purchase is on the Administration and Finance Committee (A&F) agenda for Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

- **Mill Creek Bridge – update:** Epps reported he is in the procurement process for a vendor.
- **Columbia Rowing Club – update:** Epps stated County Council has expressed concerns regarding the 24-hour opening of the boating dock, which is necessary for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) funds, resulting in its removal from the A&F agenda. Epps is coordinating a site visit to the Broad River Road property with Administration to visually assess the area where the boating dock would be placed.
- **Bates Old River – update:** Grego reported after queries with no response from Richland County maintenance staff about maintaining the Bates Old River landing, we have learned there are no budgeted items and that it is a fix-as-needed basis with low costs.
- **Mitigation Bank Credits – update:** Epps reported no changes since the last meeting. They have three wetland sales in process for about 10.5 wetland credits, they would be sold for about \$234,000.
- **Forestry Stewardship Plan – update:** Epps reported he is still developing recommendations from NRC.

### **Conservation Program Analyst's Report**

- **FY 22-23 RCCC Grants – update:** McKenzie provided an update on the current status of the grant cycle for this year. He mentioned the majority of grant recipients have already submitted and completed their required paperwork successfully. Additionally, McKenzie noted the progress being made by Benedict College in utilizing their grant. They have projected that the project will be completed by June 30, 2023.
- **Conservation Easement – update:** McKenzie reported there has been a halt in communications with the Blythewood easement. Since Josh Fabel has finished with the Ag + Art Tour, McKenzie will resume communication regarding the possible easement.
- **Events – update:** McKenzie shared upcoming community events during the meeting. He announced "The Other Side of The Coin" event featuring Hettie Anderson is taking place at the downtown Richland Library on Thursday, June 29, 2023, 6pm to 7pm. Additionally, he informed everyone, Elmwood Historic Neighborhood organized "Elmwood Park Summer Sizzle," scheduled for Friday, June 30, 2023, 6pm to 9pm. The event would be held at the 1000 Block of

West Confederate Avenue. The event celebrates the new online neighborhood tour, developed with an RCCC grant.

### **Conservation Manager's Report**

- **FY23 – 24 Annual Budget – update:** Epps reported the budget was approved by County Council. Notably, there were minimal alterations between the previous fiscal year's budget (FY22-23) and the new fiscal year's budget (FY23-24).
- **Staff vacancies – update:** Epps reported he has successfully completed one interview and has another interview scheduled for later this week.

**New Business:** None

**Public Input:** None

⇒ **At 4:34 pm, Weber moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Stover. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Val Morris