



**2020 Hampton Street · Room 3063A**  
**Columbia, SC 29204**  
**(803) 576-2080**  
**September 16, 2024**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**

| <b>Commissioner</b> | <b>District</b> | <b>Present</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Charles Weber       | 1               | Yes            |
| James Young         | 2               | Yes            |
| Wayman Stover       | 3               | Yes            |
| Glenice Pearson     | 4               | No             |
| Kip Dillihay        | 5               | Yes            |
| John Grego          | 6               | Yes            |
| Robert Squirewell   | 7               | Yes            |
| Vacant              | 8               |                |
| Khali Gallman       | 9               | Yes            |
| Kendrick Scott      | 10              | Yes            |
| Gail Rodriguez      | 11              | Yes            |

| <b>Staff &amp; Visitors</b> | <b>Affiliation</b>    |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Quinton Epps                | Conservation Division |
| Pat Ferral                  | Conservation Division |
| Chelsea Holliday            | Conservation Division |
| Aric Jensen                 | Administration        |

**Call to Order**

Grego welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with a quorum at 3:30 pm. Members, staff, and guests met in-person and via Zoom.

**Approval of Agenda**

⇒ **Weber moved to approve the agenda and Young seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Minutes**

⇒ **Young moved to approve the August minutes and Weber seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.**

**Report of the Chair**

- **Goodwill Estates Property – update:** Gallman reported she spoke with Congressman Clyburn’s assistant and confirmed Clyburn is interested in the project, but a meeting has not been set up. Scott reported he spoke with Senator Jackson who shared his team is researching the project, as well as speaking with South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other potential stakeholders. Scott informed Jackson the Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC) is willing to invest financially in the project. Young reported he spoke with DNR and confirmed DNR is still interested in the project. DNR shared they will determine their involvement in the coming weeks. Property tours will be held in October and November and Young will pass on the dates to commissioners interested in participating in the tours. Young also reported he told DNR the RCCC is willing to invest financially in the project.

- **Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) Lower Richland Watersheds – update:** Grego reported the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) kept the targeted reductions in E. coli at the same level as before. He noted the County is responsible for implementing TMDLs. He acknowledged Stormwater director will present at the October Natural Resources Committee (NRC) meeting and can speak on the topic further.
- **Mill Creek Property Use – discussion:** Epps reported Administration likes the idea of RCCC hiring someone to develop master plans for all owned properties. Epps explained master plans outline activities, stakeholders, and potential stakeholders for the properties over the long term. Grego tasked NRC with developing a process for a Mill Creek master plan.
- **Congaree Action Now Historical Marker – discussion:** Congaree National Park will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2026. As part of the celebration proceedings, Grego plans to speak with Friends of Congaree Swamp about sponsoring an application for a historical marker and then asking for the marker through RCCC. The 1975 Congaree Action Now rally was a well-attended event and galvanized support for the park.
- **Congaree Biosphere Region – update:** Congaree Biosphere Region is almost ready to launch their website. During their September 13 meeting, the Lower Richland Tourism Plan (LRTP) was discussed with a focus on the small business development center.
- **Advocacy – update:** Stover conversed with Councilmember McBride. McBride has been instrumental in District 3’s Neighborhood Clean Sweep program. She will leave the Council in January.

### **Report from Community Planning & Development**

- **Administration – update:** Jensen reported the County has a new Community Planning & Development Director, Synithia Williams. The Community Planning & Development Department is moving forward with the Comprehensive Plan and scheduling meetings. More details will be shared during the Administrator’s Report at the September 17 Council Meeting. Jensen will follow up on Grego’s questions about a tourism development fee to promote tourism within Richland County and the details of the October 15 Transportation Penny meeting.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

- **FY24-25 General Budget Status – update:** Squirewell reported no capital expenditures to date.

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

- **Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan Implementation – update:** Gallman reported the Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan must go through committee approval during the September 24 meeting. Council will then vote on the plan on October 1. Updates on the plan can be expected in November.

- **Historic Preservation Plan – update:** Gallman reported the Historic Preservation Plan is underway and expects a report on activities within 90-120 days. Epps added Ethos Preservation is currently gathering information on Richland County.

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

- **Cabin Branch Easements – update:** Epps reported NRC is working with Jason Johnson on the easements.
- **Forestry Stewardship Plan – update:** Ferral reported the Forestry Commission is not active with timber sales. The Forestry Commission provided RCCC with sample contracts and a bid letter for RCCC’s use.
- **Rural Tourism and Community Service (RTCS) Zoning for LRTP – update:** Epps reported NRC is obtaining information for the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Mill Creek Bridge – update:** Epps reported the project is underway. The old bridge has been removed.
- **Mitigation Bank Credits – update:** Epps reported no changes on the Mitigation Bank Credits.
- **Broad River Property – update:** Epps reported no updates on the Broad River Property.
- **Bates Old River Landing – update:** Grego has a meeting with the Congaree National Park Superintendent on September 17 to discuss the annual work plan and will reassess the Superintendent’s commitment to the project. Grego has not contacted the Richland County Recreation Commission yet. He has inquired about templates for boat landing management agreements from the National Park Service Southeast Region’s Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.
- **Water Monitoring – update:** Weber reported NRC is looking at the TMDLs and the watersheds in Richland County.

### **Conservation Program Analyst’s Report**

- **Ganus Easement Negotiations – update:** Epps reported Council approved negotiations and staff are waiting to hear back from the property owner to begin negotiations.
- **Cemetery/Easement Notifications – update:** Epps reported it is too difficult and expensive for Richland County’s IT Department to create the proposed flag notification. IT is considering alternatives and will update staff.
- **Fabel Conservation Easement – update:** Epps reported John McKenzie provided the easement draft to Fabel for review.
- **Lake Elizabeth Conservation Easement – update:** Epps reported no changes on the easement.

- **FY24-25 RCCC Grants – update:** Epps reported no updates on the FY24-25 RCCC grants.
- **FY25-26 Grants funding increase:** Epps reported McKenzie recommended up to a \$50,000 increase in grant funds. Weber reported the NRC believes this amount is reasonable. Dillihay reported Councilmember Terracio encourages a millage increase and an increase in grant funding.
- **Events – update:** The Holiday Drop-In is on December 3 from 4:30-6 pm in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Atrium.

### **Conservation Manager’s Report**

- **Staff Vacancy – update:** Epps reported applicants are being interviewed and offers have been made for staff vacancies.
- **Small Business Development Center:** Epps reported staff is working with USC’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to determine how to promote small businesses in Lower Richland. Staff and SBDC are creating a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to fund programs and workshops and are considering grants for additional funding. Staff and SBDC are also working with Richland County’s Office of Small Business Opportunities for resources.

**New Business:** N/A

**Public Input:** N/A

### **Adjournment**

- ⇒ **At 4:35 pm, Squirewell moved to adjourn the meeting. Weber seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.**