



2020 Hampton Street ▪ Room 3063A
 P.O. Box 192 ▪ Columbia, SC 29202
 (803) 576-2080

**Minutes
 September 20, 2021**

Attendance

Commissioner	District	Present
Charles Weber	1	Yes
Tim McSwain	2	No
Sam Holland	3	Yes
Glenice Pearson	4	Yes
Buddy Atkins	5	Yes
John Grego	6	Yes
Robert Squirewell	7	Yes
Deborah Depaoli	8	Yes
Vacant	9	--
Darrell Jackson, Jr	10	Yes
Gail Rodriguez	11	No

Staff & Visitors	Affiliation
Quinton Epps	Conservation Division
Aric Jensen	County Administration
John McAllister	John McAllister Realty Consultant, LLC

Call to Order

Grego welcomed everyone and began the meeting at 3:38 pm with 5 members in attendance in order to begin discussing some items which would not require a quorum.

Grego briefly discussed the QuikTrip development saying he had received a site plan which included a land and tree survey which confirmed two of the three trees which are of concern are in the Atlas Road right-of-way and not the QuikTrip site. He has requested further information from the Planning Division to try and preserve which ever trees can be preserved.

Approval of Agenda

⇒ Weber moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Atkins. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of July and August Meeting minutes

⇒ Weber moved to approve the July and August meeting minutes which was seconded by Pearson. Atkins made a friendly amendment to the motion to approve the July minutes and based on the discussion, to add a little more detail and correct some of the grammatical items on the August meeting minutes before returning them in October. This was seconded by Pearson. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Chair

- **Annual Plan for County Council** – Grego explained when the draft Annual Plan had been distributed, the various modifications which had been made, how the funds are described, and asked if there was any further input.

⇒ **Weber moved to approve the draft Annual Plan which was seconded by Pearson. Atkins stated he wanted a date added to the draft and a cover letter from the RCCC Chairman. Grego agreed to prepare a cover letter. The motion passed unanimously.**

- **Introduction of the Assistant County Administrator Aric Jensen** – Grego asked Aric Jensen to introduce himself. All the Commissioners introduced themselves and provided the Council District they represent. Jensen stated he had been here 7 weeks and he is getting out and about within the county. He is very excited about working in Richland County and would be happy to present items at the Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC) meetings when necessary.

Treasurer's Report

- **FY22 General Budget status- update:** Squirewell explained there was nothing significant to report except for the rollover from last year into this year's budget in Professional Services for the \$250,000 design contract work for the Mill Creek Bridge replacement.

Conservation Committee Report

- **Potential Property Purchase – action item:**

⇒ **Atkins moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a potential property purchase contract which was seconded by Weber. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Commission entered the Executive Session and returned to Regular Session.

Atkins stated there were no actions taken during Executive Session. He explained we had completed an appraisal on 2 parcels, a 60.10 acre and an adjacent 2.2 acre parcel. This appraisal was done on the two parcels together and this created a concern regarding how this combination might affect the appraised value of the larger parcel and in an abundance of caution we believe we should postpone this as an action item.

⇒ **Atkins moved to defer this item until the information needed is provided by next month's meeting, which was seconded by Weber. The motion passed unanimously.**

Historic Committee Report

- **Historic Committee Meeting 3 Sept 2021 – update:** Pearson referenced the recording of the meeting and the written summary of the meeting. Pearson also mentioned that Holland had made a recommendation to prepare a documentary of sites in the historic report Dr. Donaldson put together for the RCCC and this could be a project for FY23. She also stated the committee talked about a number of ideas for out-reach and how we could reach out to our existing grantees and generate ideas for developing new grant applications.

Holland talked about how we could make the document created by Dr. Donaldson more available and in more current formats for consumption.

Atkins stated we could try to promote the types of grant applications we want during the grant application process and we could put together a project book which would help market our programs.

Conservation Manager's Report

- **Survey for RCCC Advocacy Plan – update:** Epps described the RCCC Advocacy Planning document available on Google for Commissioner review and asked Commissioners to respond to the questions at least a week before the next RCCC meeting on Oct 18, 2021 in order to provide information regarding how Commissioners would like to enhance and improve our advocacy to constituents and Council Members.

Pearson stated she wanted to see us figure out how to get into communities which we have not reached in the past and how we could improve on these types of efforts.

Depaoli wanted to know if we were working with Conservation Voters of South Carolina and Grego replied we do collaborate with them when they are focused on Richland County.

- **Hiring of vacant positions – (Land Program Planner, Conservation Program Analyst, and Administrative Assistant):** Epps stated interviews had been conducted and prospective applicants were being contacted for the Land Program Planner and the Conservation Program Analyst. He is still working on the applications for the Administrative Assistant position.
- Grego asked if there was any movement on getting a Council Work Session for the Lower Richland Tourism Plan (LRTP). Epps replied that Council member Newton stated she would add a motion to the next Council meeting for a Council Work Session on the LRTP. Grego and Jackson discussed an upcoming meeting with Council member English regarding the LRTP.
- Weber reported he had attended the annual meeting of the Friends of Harbison and had a chance to discuss the activities of the RCCC. He reported the Friends of Harbison is financially sound, vibrant, and working on various projects.

⇒ Weber moved to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes which was seconded by Grego. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Atkins stated he was going to resign from the RCCC because since his accident he has a lot of trouble with tasks requiring extended periods of time and concentration. He stated this will be his last formal RCCC meeting and he is hopeful he will be back to normal in about a year. He has spoken with Council member Terracio and provided potential candidates for his replacement.

Public Input

- Grego mentioned SwampFest is occurring in the beginning of October. The National Association of African American RVers attends this as an event and frequents the Harriet Barber House and grounds. If you have a chance you can see the potential of the LRTP when they pull in 60 or 70 RVs for their festival and barbecue.

Adjournment

⇒ Weber moved to adjourn which was seconded by Pearson. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully, Quinton Epps