

***Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.***

***FINAL Full Council Meeting Minutes***

***April 19, 2012***

Members Present: Alex Ashton (Chairman, Guilford), Eddie Culberson, Vice-Chair (Chatham), Frank Green (Rockingham), Hazel Puckett (Secretary, Rockingham), Norton Webster (Chatham, acting), Hester Vernon (Caswell), Janet McFall (Alamance), Tushar Mahale (Wake), Robin Hammond (Wake), Stephanie Grant (staff), Jacob Leech (potential staff)

Members Absent: Rudy Langley, Bill Alston, Gail Hughes, Talmage Layton, Larry Baker, Herb Hendrickson, Millie Langley, Rick McVey, David Stancil, Brenda Williams

- I. Call to Order & Chairman Comments – Alex Ashton, Chairman
  - a. Alex Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. on April 19th, 2012 at Alamance Community College in Graham, NC and confirmed the presence of a quorum.
- II. Approval of Minutes from August 11, 2011 Full Council meeting unanimously approved
- III. Discussion/ Decision Items
  - a. Bylaws change – changes previously presented (deleting Section 16, and allowing members who live OR work in a county to represent it), as well as two additional changes brought up at the meeting (deleting Section 14 which refers to NRCS coordinator, and adding Wake to the list of member counties since it has already been added to the Council). M: McFall, 2: Green. Unanimously approved.
  - b. Officer Elections – Frank Green, head of the nominating committee, nominated Alex Ashton as Chairman, Eddie Culberson as Vice Chairman, Rudy Langley as Treasurer, and Norton Webster as Secretary. Other EB posts will remain unchanged. M: Vernon, 2: McFall. Unanimously approved.
  - c. Addition of Robin Hammond to Council – Robin Hammond is currently Assistant Supervisor on the Wake County Soil & Water Board. She is former in-house counsel for the CWMTF working mostly in natural resource and real estate law. She started the first ever “Friends of Soil & Water” in the country for Wake Co. M: Puckett, 2: McFall. Unanimously approved.
  - d. Articles of Amendment – staff requested the Council approve submitting updated Articles of Amendment to the NC Secretary of State to reflect changes in number of council members, organization operating address, and other admin info. Staff presented draft amendment to be signed by chairman. M:Puckett, 2: Culberson. Unanimously approved with correction of typo “principle”.
  - e. Circle of Diamonds reauthorization – required to continue recognition in the program. There is no fee. Reauthorization consists of a form, to be signed by Chairman. M: Green, 2: McFall. Unanimously approved.
  - f. Extension of Fluvial Solutions contract for CW Stanford Middle School – to extend contract date from April 15, 2012 to May 20, 2012 due to subcontractor issues resulting

in need for contingency money from CWMTF and long equipment order lag times. M: Vernon, 2: Puckett. Unanimously approved.

- g. Fish America Foundation grant opportunity – NOAA funds administered through Fish America, intended for use for Lassiter Mill Dam deconstruction. Due April 30, 2012. Disbursement schedule “to be discussed” during contract phase according to RFP. M: Puckett, 2: McFall. Unanimously approved.
- h. Farmer’s Market Promotion Program grant opportunity – due May 21<sup>st</sup>, board will decide whether or not to submit at May EB meeting. Staff will further research eligibility of farm incubator for this fund.
- i. Elderberry Project in partnership with Southwestern RC&D – Board and staff were approached about partnering with Southwestern RC&D on a statewide project to inventory and plant native Elderberry plants. Their budget includes \$20/hr for staff oversight time. In return, they would need a letter of support by tomorrow for their application. M: McFall, 2: Webster. Unanimously approved.
- j. Renew Drew Nelson contract – staff presented comments from Drew Nelson and Michelle Gonzales in addition to draft contract sent for renewal. Edit requested by the council – remove “real” from “real property” phrase in scope. M: Culberson, 2: Puckett. Unanimously approved.
- k. Approval of project budget, corporate sponsorship MOU, and purchase requests will be considered by the FLC subcommittee. M: McFall, 2: Mahale. Unanimously approved.
- l. New project manager selection – Jacob Leech introduced himself and provided a brief professional background. Council members asked follow-up questions.
- m. Project priorities status – top-ranked project from planning retreat, land trust and easement stewardship, has yet to be acted on. Board members will contact Cherry Smith at CWMTF to identify if there is a need.
- n. Invoices – the following invoices were approved unanimously as presented (M: Puckett, 2: Vernon)
  - i. SJ Grant Consulting, LLC - \$3,096.00
  - ii. Princeton Hydro LLC - \$4,090.04
  - iii. J. Michael Fargis - \$1,500.00
  - iv. Fluvial Solutions - \$96,092.50

#### IV. Updates

- a. Finances - Staff will be working on drafting 2012 Annual Report and 2013 budget over the next couple of months. Will be approved before next FC meeting and presented to Full Council in July. Q3 financial reports are being worked on by bookkeeper (Amy Parker Cook), and 990 IRS forms were submitted in February (FY11 year).
- b. CW Stanford – project is behind schedule, but will be complete before final report is due at end of May.
- c. Piedmont Local Food – remaining grant funds were used for advertisement in Our State Magazine and brochures.
- d. Caswell County FPP – consultant has held one advisory board meeting. Staff will check in on other progress next week.

- e. Lassiter Mill Dam Removal – engineer working on plans, awaiting funding from USFWS for construction
  - f. Smitherman’s – awaiting USFWS funding for engineering phase
  - g. Notification for EEG grant is still late.
  - h. EPA Urban Waters application for High Point project was not selected for award. Notified April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- V. Board Member Comments, New Business
- a. Janet McFall suggested PCC attend and sponsor the Elon fall Ag/Environmental conference for PR.
  - b. Eddie Culberson suggested a project to give tours/classes of the Duke “S.W.A.M.P.” project treating 1,300 acres of Duke campus with innovative stormwater BMPs. Staff will coordinate with Eddie to set up meeting with Duke partners.
- VI. Upcoming events/meetings
- a. Next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2012.
  - b. Next Full Council meeting is July 19th, 2012 at Alamance Community College 6-9pm. No July EB meeting.
- VII. Adjournment
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.