

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2023**

Members present: Greg Hutchins Jacob Wiseman Joel Mazelis Bob Turner Nancy Nehls Nelson Slater Solomon Sarah Fraser (quorum = 6/11)	Non-members present: Ariel Zijp - BCSWCD Avni Naik – BCSWCD Jess Laggis - SAHC Angelica Tyler – Buncombe County
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There was a quorum, as there were at least 6 members present. The following discussion occurred between members present:

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 am

- Chair Greg Hutchins called the meeting to order

Approval of Agenda

- No changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

- Joel Mazelis made a motion to approve the March 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Bob Turner, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Lake Eden Preserve Vote

Staff presented the Lake Eden Preserve evaluation score. The project scored well and higher than the previous two projects brought to the Board.

While discussing the vote, the Board also brought up considering a different evaluation process for farmland as many of the evaluation criteria in the current system don't relate to farmland (ex. wildlife habitat, ecological value, recreational value, etc.). It was discussed that those projects would generally get a higher score in a different section of the evaluation (ex. "Value Added") to make up for characteristics that don't fit in one category, but a different ranking system for that project category could be something to consider.

Ms. Laggis stated that the Lake Eden property is beloved in the region and the SAHC staff is excited to work on this project and protect it's natural and cultural value.

- Mr. Mazelis made a motion to recommend the Lake Eden Preserve project for approval by the Commissioners, seconded by Mr. Turner, and the motion passed unanimously.

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies:

- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

Jess Laggis

No new closings in the County, but staff is excited to work on the Deaverview project. Some members of the public have been calling the project Spivey Mtn. but owners of the actual Spivey Mtn. request that the project is referred to as Deaverview to prevent confusion about the property location. Staff is working on ag easements that the LCAB approved for funding that they hope to close by the end of the year.

- Conserving Carolina

No staff representative present for this meeting.

- RiverLink

No staff representative present for this meeting. Ms. Zijp informed the Board that Aweed Nyoko – the previous RiverLink representative – is no longer with the organization and they are currently in the process of hiring a new land representative.

Ag Advisory Board (AAB) Update - Ms. Zijp

- Staff hosted the Friends of Ag breakfast the previous day at the Weaverville Community Center, there was a good turn out and Ms. Zijp, Ms. Wells, and Ms. Carter (Open Space Bond Manager) informed the attendees about the bond.
- Ms. Zijp presented the land conservation criteria at the BOC meeting last month and got comments and request for revision that they will be taking back to the Ag AB. Once the criteria are revised, they will be taken back to the BOC for approval, after which funding can be allocated and used for projects.
- Staff has a site visit for a SAHC property that will be brought to the May meeting (April 26th). Mr. Turner and Ms. Fraser have volunteered to be at the site visit.
- Conservation Donor Dinner – sent out invites, booked caterers and location, working with staff to get everything else in order. Ms. Zijp thanked the LCAB for their cash donations that were used for the plaques. Ms. Nehls Nelson suggested putting together a document or letter for award recipients with a brief description about what the award is for. Greg and Nancy agreed to try to put together the criteria for the conservancy legacy award that could then be used to write a letter for the families.
- Staff will be presenting at the March 21st Commissioners meeting about the Conservation Easement criteria of the bond. The Greenways and Passive Rec Lands will be presented in the upcoming months.

Board Discussion/Questions

With no further announcements and discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38am.