

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

Members present: Greg Hutchins Joel Mazelis Robert Turner Nancy Nehls Nelson Jacob Wiesman Bob Gale Sarah Fraser Matt Fusco (quorum = 6/11)	Non-members present: Ariel Zijp - BCSWCD Avni Naik - BCSWCD Jess Laggis - SAHC Aweed Nyoko - RiverLink
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There was a quorum, as there were 6 members present. The following discussion occurred between members present:

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 am

- Chair Greg Hutchins called the meeting to order

Approval of Agenda

- No changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

- Mr. Gale made a motion to approve the November 2022, meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Turner, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

LCAB By-Laws Update

- Ms. Zijp talked through an update to the by-laws that County Legal incorporated to ensure there was language that allowed the Board to stay virtual. The language requires three viewing options for the meetings if they continue to be virtual:
 1. Call-in number
 2. Zoom link
 3. In-person viewing location. This will be held at the BC Soil & Water office (49 Mount Carmel Rd) where Ms. Zijp and/or Ms. Naik will have the meeting projected in a conference room for any public that wishes to attend in-person or if they don't have access to the internet.

- The Board discussed enjoying the ability to meet other members in-person, but the virtual option allows for better attendance and meeting quorum, so they will continue virtually.
 - Joel Mazelis made a motion to approve the updated by-laws language, seconded by Bob Gale, and the motion passed unanimously.

Passive Recreation Subcommittee Vote

- A Passive Recreation Subcommittee is being put together by the County to oversee one category of the bond funds. Three members from LCAB (Mr. Turner, Mr. Gale, and Mr. Fusco) volunteered to be part of that subcommittee, and a motion to create the subcommittee is required, as well as a motion to approve the three members that are volunteering to serve on the subcommittee.
 - Mr. Turner made a motion to establish the Passive Recreation Subcommittee of the LCAB with a minimum of three members, seconded by Mr. Gale, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Mr. Wiseman made a motion to approve Mr. Turner, Mr. Gale, and Mr. Fusco as LCAB members for the Passive Recreation Subcommittee, seconded by Mr. Nehls Nelson, and the motion passed unanimously.

2023 Annual Meeting Calendar

- Ms. Fraser noted a discrepancy in the September meeting date that was sent out to board members (9/2/2023 listed instead of 9/20/2023). The calendar was amended to reflect the correct date (9/20/2023). The board generally doesn't meet during July and December and agreed to keep those months out of the meeting list but agreed that a special meeting will be held if anything urgent were to come up during those months.
 - Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Calendar with the amendments, seconded by Ms. Nehls Nelson, and the motion passed unanimously.

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies:

- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Jess Laggis
No new closings in Buncombe County since Pisgah View State Park last August. Ms. Pugliese is working on the Covington CE that was approved for transaction costs by the Board. They are also working on estimating budget needs from LCAB for upcoming projects in the next fiscal year.
- Conserving Carolina
No staff representative present for this meeting.
- RiverLink
Aweed Nyoko
Mr. Henderson recently left RiverLink for another opportunity and Mr. Nyoko has replaced him as the Land Resources Manager. They recently closed a 16.6-acre CE in the Olivette neighborhood. There are other easements they hope to work on over the course of the upcoming year.

Ag Advisory Board (AAB) Update - Ms. Zipp

- Three donation easements were recently approved in the Sandy Mush region of the County. Evaluation criteria for both LCAB and AAB were presented to Commissioners recently,

there were no questions or comments from them. Staff will begin a public input process in the next month with discussion and information about the three categories of the bond. This will be held so that members of the public can comment and/or participate in discussions surrounding the bond. Any comments will then be taken by staff to the Commissioners, after which they will vote on approving the criteria. Once this has occurred, the Boards will be able to use the bond funds. The greenways and passive recreation lands discussions will occur a little later.

- There is enough money in this year's budget to host the LCAB Conservation Dinner Awards that had been put on hold the past 2-3 years due to the pandemic. Ms. Zijp stated she has been talking with Ms. Nehls Nelson about organizing and hosting the event this spring.

Project Evaluation Form

- Staff went over the new format of the project evaluation form. The questions remain the same, but some scoring options with short descriptions were added as a guide for Board Members to refer to when evaluating projects' conservation values. The Board found the descriptions to be helpful and had suggestions on language and other conservation values that would be useful to add to the form. Staff agreed to add the edits and send out to evaluation form for review again.

Board Discussion/Questions

With no further announcements and discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10am.