

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

Members present: Greg Hutchins Kimberly DeChant Robert Turner Nancy Nehls Nelson Slater Solomon Matt Fusco Jacob Wiesman (quorum = 6/11)	Non-members present: Ariel Zijp - BCSWCD Avni Naik - BCSWCD Jess Laggis - SAHC Aweed Nyoko – RiverLink Angelica Tyler – Buncombe County
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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 8:05 am

- Chair Greg Hutchins called the meeting to order

Ms. Zijp introduced Ms. Angelica Tyler from the Buncombe County CAPE Dept. She will be livestreaming and uploading the LCAB meetings online henceforth in an effort to make them more accessible and transparent to the public.

Approval of Agenda

- No changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

- Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the January 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Nehls Nelson, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies:

- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Jess Laggis
No new closings in Buncombe County but working on due diligence on projects funded by LCAB. Also talking with landowners about projects and strategizing for the new fiscal year on how to apply for and use bond funds as they become available.
- Conserving Carolina
No staff representative present for this meeting.

- RiverLink
Aweed Nyoko
Staff has been planning for FY24 projects and talking with landowners interested in easements.

Ag Advisory Board (AAB) Update - Ms. Zijp

- Staff has been working with land trusts to allocate upcoming fiscal year funds. There are a few projects coming from SHAC during the March and April meeting. The County recently hired a new open space bond manager who will be helping to coordinate the bond funds and the public space criteria. Staff will be hosting a Friends of Ag breakfast on April 18th at the Weaverville community center at 8:30am; they hope to have the new open space manager talk about the bond.
- The LCAB Conservation Awards Dinner is planned for May 18th. There are about 30 easements that have closed since the last dinner in 2017, and the Board has also given Conservationist of the Year and Legacy Awards in the past. Mr. Hutchins stated the latter two awards were not always given out annually and typically only given out if somebody stood out in that category. The Board discussed potential candidates for the two awards.
- Ms. Zijp stated that there is enough in the conservation dinner budget for catering but not enough for 30 plaques, so there would most likely be need for some fundraising. The board discussed giving out signs instead of plaques as that would be more easily displayable outside. The Board suggested that Staff confirm the number of plaques/signs that will need to be handed out and approximate costs, and they would be willing to donate some funds for any remaining costs that aren't covered by the County.

Board Discussion/Questions

With no further announcements and discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42am.