

## **BEAUFORT COUNTY RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board meeting (hereafter known as the Board) was held on May 12, 2016, at the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Board Room at 3:00 p.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Mike Mathews (Chairman)  
Mr. Bob Bender  
Ms. Susie Fripp-Gordon  
Ms. Gail O'Kane  
Mr. Ed Riley

Ms. Dorothy Scanlin  
Ms. Norma Stewart  
Mr. Richard Walls

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Mark Baker (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr. York Glover  
Ms. Denise Sullivan

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Planning Director  
Ms. Amanda Flake, Beaufort County Natural Resources Planner  
Ms. Lisa Lord, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Mr. Eric Larson, Beaufort County Director of Environmental Engineering  
Ms. Alice Howard, County Councilwoman  
Ms. Allison Coppage, Beaufort County Assistant Attorney  
Ms. Colleen Barrett, Marine Corps Air Station  
Ms. Peggy Allard, Friends of Crystal Lake  
Ms. Trish Irwin, Beaufort County Open Land Trust Board Chair  
Ms. Kate Schaeffer, Coastal Conservation League

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mike Mathews called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

### **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any changes to the Agenda and there were none.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the March 10, 2016 Board meeting and there was one. With this amendment, Mr. Walls made a motion and Ms. O'Kane seconded the motion to accept the Minutes as amended from the March 10, 2016 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes as amended from the**

**March 10, 2016, Board meeting** (FOR: Mathews, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, O’Kane, Riley, Scanlin, Walls. ABSTAIN: Stewart).

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

### **Financial Update**

Ms. Amanda Flake gave a financial update of the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program (R&C Program). As of January 31, 2016 there was a total amount of \$6.18 million in funds. These numbers do not include the \$20 million referendum that was approved in November 2014.

### **Board Information**

Chairman Mike Mathews would like to remind all the Board members to sign into the dropbox and review the information provided about the R&C Program. The dropbox is constantly being updated by Ms. Lisa Lord.

### **Passive Park Update**

Mr. Tony Criscitiello stated that building permit was issued for Crystal Lake this week and that work would begin soon. Fort Fremont is in the last stages of the archeological investigation. The next step would be to apply for permits and then send the project to bid. Okatie Preserve is involved in meetings with the architect and engineer and will soon go to the Town of Bluffton for approval.

### **Friends of Crystal Lake**

Ms. Peggy Allard showed a presentation about the Friends of Crystal Lake group. Crystal Lake Park is located on Lady’s Island and consists of 26 acres of property purchased over time through the R&C Program. It also includes a six acre lake that used to be a borrow pit. The lake is a unique mixture of salt and fresh water. During the process of creating the park, a boardwalk and pier were built out to the lake. Unfortunately the pier was burned which reinforces the issue that security is needed on site. There have been collaborations with other non-profits organizations and agencies to enhance the value of the Crystal Lake property. The South Carolina Forestry Commission gave Crystal Lake a grant to remove invasive tallow trees and create a forestry management plan. A bioblitz with Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners was conducted to determine what kinds of flora and fauna exist on site. The next focus of the Friends group is to work on signage for the park. Board members of the Friends group include Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Beaufort County staff, and Beaufort County School District staff.

### **Project Updates**

Ms. Lord gave an update on the Boundary Street project. She stated that the Huddle House is closing the first week of June. The City of Beaufort will be closing on Sea Eagle Market soon and the Beaufort County Open Land Trust has already closed on the United Way building. Ms. Lord stated that County Council approved funds to purchase the Jeter and Mobley tracts off of Hwy 170 and there will be an article in the paper tomorrow.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Mathews entertained a motion by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Walls, to adjourn the Open Session at 3:20 p.m. and convened Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters associated with property acquisitions. **The motion was carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session** (FOR: Mathews, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, O'Kane, Riley, Scanlin, Stewart, Walls).


**Chairman Mathews adjourned Executive Session and convened Open Session at 4:00 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chairman Mathews entertained a motion at 4:11 p.m. from Mr. Walls, seconded by Ms. Stewart, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously** (FOR: Mathews, Bender, Fripp-Gordon, O'Kane, Riley, Scanlin, Stewart, Walls).

**Submitted by:** Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

**Approved:**

  
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Mike Mathews, Chairman,  
Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board

Date: 8/11/16