

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
8:00 AM, MARCH 20, 2024. ZOOM**

Members present: Nancy Nehls Nelson – Vice-Chair Jacob Wiseman Sarah Fraser Bob Gale Matt Fusco (quorum = 5/9)	Non-members present: Ariel Zipp, BCSWCD Avni Naik – BCSWCD Tom Fanslow – Conserving Carolina Jess Laggis – SAHC Hannah Coats – River Link Angelica Tyler – BC Staff
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There was a quorum, as there were at least 5 members present. The following discussion occurred between members present:

The meeting was called to order at 8:07am

- Vice-Chair Nancy Nehls Nelson called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

- Jacob Wiseman made a motion to approve the March 20, 2024, agenda, seconded by Bob Gale, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- Jacob Wiseman made a motion to approve the February 21, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Sarah Fraser, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Board Positions Discussion

The Board passed an update to the Resolution in 2022 that cleared up language around term positions. Mr. Hutchins has resigned from the Board due to illness and for the time being, Vice-Chair Nancy Nehls-Nelson will continue running meetings. Ms. Nehls Nelson stated that Stag Newman was referred to her by Terri Wells as a potential board member. He is planning on applying. Mr. Fusco reached out to Derek Allen who indicated that there may be someone from his firm interested in joining. Ms. Nelson suggested that the Board acknowledge Mr. Hutchins at the Donor Dinner for his work and contributions to the Board.

Sand Branch EP Proposal, Conserving Carolina – Tom Fanslow

- This project was brought to the Board for transaction costs (TC) in 2023 and Mr. Fanslow is returning to the Board to request \$40,000 for easement acquisition.

- 64.9 acres of forest manage for passive recreation, forestry, and water quality protection. Designated as a Natural Heritage Area for the forest condition.
- Mr. Gale visited the property and spoke in favor of the project, particularly the biological values. The Board agreed to complete a new evaluation.

The Light Center (United Research, Inc.), TC and EP, Conserving Carolina, Tom Fanslow

- 36.5 acres total
- Owned by 501c3 – not eligible for tax benefits from donation because of non-profit status
- Contains scenic viewsheds and working forest 23.5 acres and hayfield 13 acres, and water quality. Young farmer on the property currently producing hay on the field. Easement will allow public access along the part of the hayfield and other portions of the property.
- Applying to the Land and Water Fund for another portion of the property and ADFP for the agricultural pieces of property
- Requesting \$46,000 for transaction costs and \$25,000 for EP to match request from ADFP Trust Fund and NRCS-RCPP Forever Farms II

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies:

- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Jess Laggis
Closed on the Young Homeplace easement that adjoins an easement that SAHC holds and one that the BCSWCD holds. Working with County Staff to submit upcoming proposals.
- Conserving Carolina
Tom Fanslow
Hope to have a few other easement proposals that they bring to the LCAB.
- RiverLink
Hannah Coates
Has been working on grant applications last winter to fund park properties in the area.

Ag Advisory Board (AAB) Update - Ms. Zijp

- Staff have been conducting site visits to prep easements for the upcoming fall and working with the land trusts to allocate program funds for this fiscal year.
- They hope to raise \$1,000 for the conservation dinner and asked the Board to think about who to honor for the two awards.

Passive Recreation Lands – Bob Gale

There are a few active requests for this category of the Bond that the subcommittee will be reviewing in the upcoming weeks.

Announcements and Discussions

No other announcements or discussions at this time.

With no other announcements or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 am.