

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
8:00 AM, AUGUST 21, 2024. ZOOM**

Members present: Nancy Nehls Nelson –Chair Robert Turner, Vice-Chair Bob Gale David Tuch Nancy Edgerton Stagg Newman Lang Hornthal Matt Fusco (quorum = 5/9)	Non-members present: Ariel Zijp - BCSWCD Avni Naik – BCSWCD Jess Laggis – SAHC Tom Fanslow - CC Angelica Tyler – BC Staff Stu Rohrbaugh – Public Jacob Wiseman
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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 8:03 am

- Chair Nancy Nehls Nelson called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

- Stagg Newman made a motion to approve the August 21, 2024, agenda, seconded by Bob Gale, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- Stagg Newman made a motion to approve the June 26, 2024, minutes, seconded by Matt Fusco, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies and BC Agriculture & Land Resources

- Jess Laggis, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
 - Lake Eden is going through due diligence, \$8K shortfall in transaction costs so possible that Michelle will return to the Board for those funds. Preparing agency applications for the Warren Wilson College easement and they hope to engage the students in some way in the process.
- Tom Fanslow, Conserving Carolina
 - Just submitted their upcoming asks to BC Staff that they hope to bring in the upcoming months.
- Ariel Zijp, BC Ag & Land Resources

- Recently created a new member handbook that they hope to share with the Board. Staff also spent time onboarding the new members and hope to present the same information to the Board in the future as a refresher. Staff shared the upcoming projects from both land trust agencies and the County.
- Staff has been working with other Departments on a draft of the next Strategic Plan.
- Passive Land Subcommittee Update – Mr. Bob Gale
 - Members are waiting on answers from staff and applicants for certain information around the applications and processes. They voted to approve 7 of the 11 projects presented - some would be fully funded and some partially. Next meeting is on Sept. 20th where they hope to push recommendations to Commissioner. Ms. Jill Carter is no longer with the County so Rachel Sawyer has been running the meetings.

Announcements and Discussions

The Board is hoping to meet in-person in September as there are many new board members that have joined. Mr. Newman stated he would be interested in seeing talks around conversation easements in different corners around the County where landowners aren't as aware of this work. Ms. Zijp stated that Staff presented on easements in Reems Creek after members of that community expressed interest and asked for a presentation. Ms. Nehls Nelson agreed that it would be helpful to have a meeting like that in the southwestern region of the County.

With no other announcements or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.