

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY
 LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
 8:00 AM, JUNE 26, 2024. ZOOM**

<p>Members present:</p> <p>Nancy Nehls Nelson –Chair Robert Turner, Vice-Chair Joel Mazelis Matt Fusco Bob Gale Stagg Newman Lang Hornthal Sarah Fraser Stagg Newman</p> <p>(quorum = 5/9)</p>	<p>Non-members present:</p> <p>Ariel Zijp - BCSWCD Avni Naik – BCSWCD Jess Laggis – SAHC Angelica Tyler – BC Staff Jill Carter – BC Stuff</p>
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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 8:06 am

- Chair Nancy Nehls Nelson called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

- Joel Mazelis made a motion to approve the June 26, 2024, agenda, seconded by Bob Gale, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- Bob Gale made a motion to approve the May 22, 2024, minutes, seconded by Bob Turner, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Bob Turner made a motion to approve the May 15, 2024, minutes, seconded by Sarah Fraser, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Open Space Bond Update – Jill Carter, Open Space Bond Manager

Ms. Carter provided an update to the Board on the Bond allocations thus far. Currently, \$12.5M has been approved and committed by the BOC and \$6.7M is anticipated to be allocated, bringing the total to \$19.6M and leaving \$10.4M. The Passive Rec Lands Subcommittee is reviewing applications that may use money from the remaining funds. Ms. Carter stated that many of the projects on the list are leveraging funding from other sources as well and are using the Bond to get the projects to the finish line.

Mr. Fusco, Mr. Gale, and Mr. Turner served on the Passive Rec Lands Subcommittee expressed surprise over a few projects that were approved and had funding committed from the Open Space despite not having reviewed those applications. Ms. Carter and Ms. Zipp stated that the boards and subcommittees exist to evaluate projects and make recommendations to the Commission, but it is ultimately within the Commissioner's jurisdiction to adopt projects that they feel best suite the County's needs.

New Board Application

County Staff received a new application for a board position from David Tuch. Mr. Tuch is a Landscape Architect and President of Equinox Environmental, Inc. Ms. Zipp stated that the county and other organizations have worked with Equinox – they have a good track record in this field. Mr. Gale and Mr. Fusco also stated that they are familiar with Mr. Tuch and his work.

- Mr. Fusco made a motion to approve Mr. Tuch's application and position as a board member, seconded by Mr. Gale, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Nehls Nelson stated that her only concern was to ensure that there is no conflict of interest seeing as Mr. Tuch has and still works with the County. Ms. Zipp stated that Mr. Tuch's work is tied to the Ag Advisory Board through the Farmland Preservation Program, which is separate from the LCAB's work, so there should not be a conflict of interest. Mr. Gale stated that Mr. Tuch could recuse from any votes/work where there could be a potential conflict.

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy – Jess Laggis

No updates to report at this time.

RiverLink

Representative not present this meeting.

Conserving Carolina

Representative not present this meeting.

Ag Advisory Board Update

- Staff have three new projects approved by the Ag Advisory Board that they're hoping to bring forward for Bond funds.
- The BOC approved the Okoboji Farm easement for Bond funding.

Announcements and Discussions

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