

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 2022**

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| Members present: Joel Mazelis Robert Turner Nancy Nehls Nelson Jacob Wiesman Sarah Fraser Bob Gale Slater Solomon (quorum = 6/11) | Non-members present: Ariel Zijp – BCSWCD Avni Naik – BCSWCD Jess Lagis – SAHC Jack Henderson - RiverLink |
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There was a quorum, as there were 6 members present. The following discussion occurred between members present:

The meeting was called to order at am

- Vice-Chair Nancy Nehls Nelson

Approval of Agenda

- Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the October 19, 2022, agenda, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the September 21, 2022, meeting minutes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies:

- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Jess Laggis
 - SAHC Garrett Cove in Sandy Mush was approved by the Ag Advisory Board meeting yesterday. The project is a donation easement that will be held by the Farmland Preservation Program.
 - Working on the Community Farm Expansion project with Buncombe staff members, the hope is to close on the easement in November
 - Staff has been budgeting for next year’s projects with the Ag Advisory Board staff
- Conserving Carolina
Kieran Roe
 - Land trust representative unavailable
- RiverLink

Jack Henderson

- Staff is currently working on a park project in Buncombe County and will have an update on the TDA grant funding soon. If the grant is approved and the project moves forward, work on the ground will begin in February 2023.

Ag Advisory Board (AAB) Update- Ariel Zijp

- Land and Ag Resources Director Jennifer Harrison updated commissioners on progress on the Strategic Plan goals of preserving farmland and environmental sensitive tracts. Staff has been working to collect data from land trusts and our programs
 - There are two goals with similar outcomes: Strategic Plan in was set in Spring 2020, and the 20% of land protected by 2030 goal was set by Commissioners earlier this year. Staff is working on finding a way to track the two goals together efficiently instead of working on similar goals separately. The hope is to track progress by tracking the total acres initiated each year.
- Ag Advisory Board approved three donation easements yesterday at their meeting and approved five projects in September, so almost all the money budgeted for AAB is now allocated towards projects, but \$28,000 remains that could be allocated towards LCAB if projects are available.
- County Management requested staff to create a story map with the GIS department to show the programs conservation boards, the land protection goals, our focus areas, and information about why conservation is important. Staff is working with the GIS department currently and hopes to have the project complete by November.
- Mr. Turner asked if staff or land trust representatives have been hearing more interest from land trusts about easements because of the bond. Ms. Zijp and Ms. Laggis stated they have had many inquiries and interest in easements but are unable to tell if its due to the bond or just a general increase in interest.

Easement Purchase Criteria Discussion/LCAB Priority Map

- Presented by Ms. Zijp. Staff made a few small edits to the flowchart based on input from the Board during the last meeting. They added a general timeline but stated they could remove that from the flowchart if the Board doesn't feel it important/necessary to show – particularly because easement timelines can vary from project to project due to a variety of factors. The Board stated that not having a timeline due to the variables in each project would be better.

Board Discussion/Questions

With no further announcements and discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08am.