

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2022**

Members present: Greg Hutchins Joel Mazelis Jacob Wiesman Nancy Nehls Nelson Bob Gale Slater Solomon Matt Fusco Sarah Fraser (quorum = 6/11)	Non-members present: Ariel Zijp - BCSWCD Avni Naik - BCSWCD Jess Laggis - 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 8:05 am

- Chairperson Hutchins

Approval of Agenda

- Ms. Gale made a motion to approve the April 20, 2022, meeting agenda, seconded by Mr. Turner, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- Mr. Mazelis made a motion to approve the March 16, 2022, meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Gale, and the motion passed unanimously.

LCAB Member Terms

- Mr. Turner voiced concern about potentially losing valuable expertise from board members as their terms complete and he wondered whether board members would be able to serve second terms if they were interested. Mr. Hutchins mentioned that members would be able to rotate off for a year and reapply if they so desired, and with the staggered terms, at least one new slot would be open each year for those interested in joining the board. Mr. Gale stated they have typically been able to find members with a variety of experience and backgrounds without much trouble.
- Ms. Zijp reviewed the members terms with the board and informed them it would be presented to the BOC if no one had any edits or additional comments.
- Mr. Gale made a motion to approve the LCAB Resolution with the listed member terms, seconded by Mr. Nehls Nelson, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Nehls Nelson thanked county staff for organizing the resolution and by-laws for the LCAB.

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies:

- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
 - **Jess Laggis**
 - No new closings to report. Staff is working determining projects for the upcoming year and are waiting to hear back from the BOC about the Young Homeplace and Full Sun Farm Ph II projects.
- Conserving Carolina
 - Land trust representative unable to attend, no report for this meeting.
- RiverLink
 - **Jack Henderson**
 - Mr. Henderson stated they are exploring potential projects as well as working with partners on the Woodfin Greenway project. They are also working on monitoring their easements.

Ag Advisory Board (AAB) Update- Ariel Zijp

- Ms. Zijp stated the BOC approved the SAHC Full Sun Farm Ph II and Young Homeplace projects with LCAB, as well as two projects through the AAB the previous evening. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) also shared their findings surrounding the potential conservation bond with the BOC – polling seems favorable for the bond. The TPL will be holding a meeting with stakeholders to share more information about the bond and next steps. County staff is unable to advocate or promote the bond, they are only able to educate the public on it.
- There are two easement closings planned for the following week totaling ~90 acres. Staff has also been working with the Environmental and Energy Stewardship Committee to work on a conservation goal. The committee voted on setting a 20% by 2030 conservation goal, they will be bringing that to the BOC to potentially adopt it as a county goal.

Priority Mapping Presentation – Avni Naik

- Ms. Naik presented her capstone project on mapping conservation priority regions in Buncombe County. Mr. Henderson asked staff members if/where the resulting map would fit into grant applications that are brought to the board. Ms. Zijp stated that county management has been considering working on a similar prioritization model or ranking for projects that are brought to LCAB. Ms. Naik emphasized that while this project helps with long-term conservation planning and provides a bird’s eye view of conservation in the county, projects will still be evaluated at the parcel-level and go through all the necessary due diligence that has been done in the past. A project will still be considered for an easement if it has the right conservation value even if it doesn’t fall into a priority region. Board members requested that staff send out the priority map that Mr. Fusco created a few years ago for LCAB.

Board Discussion/Questions

With no further announcements and discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 am.