

Sustainable Sandhills (SS) FY2009-2010

Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Minutes, October 20, 2009

Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Multi-Purpose Room, Fayetteville

Board Members Present:

Harold Haywood (By Phone)

Joey Raczkowski

Rodney Tart

Walter White

David Heins*

James Rose

Assad Tavakoli

James Wilson

Ray Ogden (Proxy)

Maureen Sutton

Theresa Thompson

Paul Wirt*

Board Members Absent:

Gregory Bean*

Ethel Clark

David Dycus*

John Portman

Frank Stump

Deborah Branson

Monty Crump

Sara Harrington

Chris Russo*

Roberto Canales*

Bob Doberstein

Harry Huberth

COL Sicinski*

Others Present:

Jon Parsons, SS Executive Director (ED)

Jackie Bradley, SS Office Manager

**ex officio or non-voting*

Chair Rose called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Chair Report:

Rose introduced our new board member, James Wilson. Rose also noted that Sustainable Sandhills received an award from the NCSEA as the Community Nonprofit Business of the Year because of our work with the Green Business Program, our participation in the weatherization program and assistance to the City of Fayetteville in developing their Sustainability Master Plan. He also noted that Lumbee River EMC, Walter White's organization, was recognized as the Smart Grid Program Business of the Year.

Rose asked for a motion to approve the September minutes since there was no discussion or changes. **A motion was made by Walter White to approve the September 8, 2009, minutes as written. Assad Tavakoli seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.**

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Rodney Tart said that three questions are always asked regarding our financial status. Are we financially solvent? Yes. Are we on target with net income and expenses? Yes. Is there future income for expenses? Yes. He said the 2009-2010 income looks solid at this time and directed members to the financial statement. ED Parsons interjected that for the September Board meeting an end-of-month report for August was unavailable so that is included along with the end-of-month September report today. He then referred the BOD to the summary sheets for each of the months. Chair Rose asked for questions. **Since there were no questions or changes a motion was made by Rodney Tart to approve the financial report as given. Theresa Thompson seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.**

Grantseeking & Earned Income Report:

- ED Parsons noted that the **Wildlife Conservation Society Grant** that was mentioned at the September board meeting has been awarded (\$50,000 over 2 years). It has not been announced publicly yet, and we must wait until the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (the grantee and our partner) makes the announcement before publicizing it locally ourselves. The award will support ½ of a full-time Planner position for 2 years. We are required to match award 1:1. We do not have that planner/conservation expertise on staff currently, so a new staff position will be created. Parsons will ask for assistance in drafting a job description from the planning professionals on the Board. Parsons estimated that the position would be filled in December – in response to a question from Walter White.
- **Department of the Army Operational Support for SS:** Parsons thanked Fort Bragg, and particularly Paul Wirt and TL Griffin, for their help in obtaining another year of funding to support operations at SS. He noted that this will support Heather Brown’s position for another year. It also includes SS revenue from a subcontract between SS and CTC for \$99,750. The subcontract has very specific deliverables for SS that are designed to benefit both the Army and SS.
- A **Healthy Kids, Healthy Community Grant** was awarded to FirstHealth in Moore County by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. SS is one of 5 partners on the grant project with FirstHealth. Five communities in Moore and Montgomery counties will be the focus of the grant. The three-year project focuses on reducing childhood obesity by advocating policy changes to improve the built environment. This award must be announced by FirstHealth before SS can publicize it.
- The **PWC funding request** remains in abeyance. Terri Union is the new chair of the Commission, and she is a donor of SS’s. If the request cannot be funded this year, our approach will be to focus on our request being included in PWC’s 2010-11 budget.
- **Strengthening Communities Fund:** The CC Partnership for Children made the application, and is still waiting on a response from US DHHS. We are on CCPFC’s list to receive support to build “organizational capacity.”
- The **Booze Allen Hamilton (BAH) proposal** remains in limbo, and BRACRTF has not officially released the RFP’s for the solid waste and renewable energy tasks that SS would share with BAH.
- Parsons is working with a professional grant writing (volunteer) to complete a “logic model” for our organization. The logic model is a required document in application packages to large private foundations (Kresge, Robert Wood Johnson, etc.). It will also be a valuable tool in strategic planning.

Fundraising Report:

Parsons reported the great work by all SS staff in organizing and executing the Pickin’ on the Porch fundraiser. Preliminary estimates show a net profit of \$1200 from the event, not counting a \$5000 donation received prior to the event that was generated by the invitation. Positive comments/feedback about the event from Board members who were present came from Dave Heins and Paul Wirt. Rose and Parsons noted that there is interest from two other

sources in other counties to host a fundraiser for SS. Because of the staff workload and holidays, Parsons recommends that the next fundraising event be scheduled in early 2010.

Strategic Plan Update:

Parsons said that the tracking tool had not been completed for this Board meeting but that it would be sent out with the meeting minutes and posted on the website. He also noted that the Strategic Plan would be updated for 2010 at the December 1 Board Retreat.

Program Update:

- **Green Growth Program:** the key current project is our suitability maps. Parsons pointed out the two large posters on display that show the new "Release 2" results. A regional workshop planned for 10/22/09 has been rescheduled 3-4 more local meetings to make it easier for local planners, developers and elected officials to participate. Joey Raczkowski, Theresa Thompson and Harry Huberth have agreed to assist with planning the first two meetings in December in Moore and Cumberland counties. This program also includes our Green Growth Toolbox work in partnership with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. That 2 year project will require SS to create a new position, which will become the lead staff person on this Green Growth Program. Parsons is currently the SS lead on this program.
- **Green Business Program:** We have businesses certified in 4 counties – same 4 where we have CAT's (Cumberland, Moore, Harnett, Lee). This SS program area also includes our pilot project with the CC Schools "Go Green" initiative. Heidi Johnson is responsible for certifying green businesses outside of CC. Jodi Hajosy is focused inside CC and on the CCS Initiative.
- **Local Food & Culture Program:** We have received nearly 600 responses to our CSA survey. Those results will be released in conjunction with a CSA training for farmers that is a joint project of the Moore, Richmond and Lee County Extension offices on 11/18/09. Our Cultural Resources Inventory is another project in this program. A contractor is supporting this effort, supervised by Parsons. Heather Brown is the SS staff lead on this program.
- **Recycling Program:** The big news in this program area is the statewide plastic bottle ban that went into effect on October 1. Parsons noted that a number of smaller towns are now considering curbside recycling programs in response to the law (he mentioned Hope Mills and Lumberton). Theresa Thompson said that Lillington is contracting with a local pick-up service to provide recycling bins, although they have not had a lot of people use them yet. The recycling station has been located on town hall property for the past couple of weeks. Parsons noted that the City of Fayetteville has asked for assistance in designing a multi-family and commercial recycling program. Parsons also noted that SS will be assisting Moore and Lee Counties with the promotion of their annual hazardous household waste collection events this fall. Jodi Hajosy is the SS staff lead on this program.
- **Air Quality Program:** Parsons briefly described several projects. A no-idle study is underway at 10 Cumberland County school. The no-idle study is work by a UNC-CH intern is being supervised by Parsons and Heidi Johnson. The study will be complete in December 2009. We will also meet again with the USEPA about their Sustainable Skylines program on 11/17/09. Their national kick-off event is in January 2010, and if we do partner with EPA on this we'll want to reap as much public relations benefit as possible. Heidi Johnson is the SS staff lead on this program.

- **Green Living & Design Program:** The GLD Tour is set for 11/17/09 from 10am to 4pm. It includes sites in Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke and Moore Counties along with a guided tour of Fort Bragg. Some sites will feature exhibits by green vendors. Several board member and staff homes or businesses are on the tour – Sutton, Stump, Portman and Parsons. Parsons noted that the next 2-3 weeks of SS staff time will be focused on the planning and execution of this four county event, which is very ambitious for SS. The Rain Barrel Art Show continues to progress. This is a partnership between SS and the Lee County Arts Council. A total of 14 barrels have been painted by Lee County artists and are for sale for \$125 each. The Barrel Bash and auction is set for Saturday November 14 at Tramway Stone & Mulch in Sanford. Amanda Blue is the SS staff lead on this program.

New Business:

- Parsons encouraged board members to attend or help with the November 7th tour and asked them to also pass the word along to family and friends.
- Paul Wirt asked about the Strategic Sustainability Assessment (SSA) status and Parsons stated that he would have to check the status of that project and respond later.
- Chair Rose thanked BOD members for their vote regarding the move to the new office location. The final tally was 15 aye votes from the 18 voting members. Three members did not respond. The move-in date is estimated to be December 7. Moore Exposure is planning a large open house event on December 3, and all SS Board members are invited. Parsons noted a major challenge will be finding affordable (or donated) modular furniture to support a 5-7 member staff in the open floor plan of the new office.
- Parsons reminded members that the next meeting is our annual retreat on 12/1/09 which will be longer than a regular meeting. He encouraged all board members to attend.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Maureen Sutton. The motion was seconded by Walter White and passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Bradley
Office Manager