

**Oconee River Greenway Authority**  
**MINUTES**  
**29 May 2012**

**Members Present:** Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley, Bo Edwards, Eric Mosley, Marion Nelson, Indiren Pillay, Daniel Schay

**Others Present:** Heather Langston - ORGA Executive Director  
Jeff Gray – GMC  
Eric Wilkinson - GDOT  
Colin Moore – ORGF  
Chris Faulkner, GDNR  
Sherrill Jones - Recorder

**Not Present:** Dennis Holder

**Location:** President's Conference Room in the Old Capital Building

- I. Call to Order** – At approximately 1:30 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 29 May 2012 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority to order. He announced that Sammy Hall will be replacing Bubba Williams as the County Commission’s representative on the board. Mr. Nelson commented that Mr. Hall, a Baldwin County native, would be an asset to the board, having spent many hours on the river while raising two sons.
- II. Introduction of Chris Faulkner, Georgia Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources** – Mr. Mosley introduced Chris Faulkner of the GDNR.
- III. Approval of 24 April 2012 Minutes** – After a review of the 24 April 2012 minutes, Mr. Bentley made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Nelson, to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report** – Mr. Mosley reported a total income of \$95,353.37, with a net income of \$31,274.01 for the current fiscal year. At present there is a checking/savings balance of \$128,831.15 and a total liabilities & equity balance of \$1,726,107.02. Mr. Nelson made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bentley and unanimously approved.
- V. Old Business**
  - A. Phase II Status – SPLOST Update** – Chairman Boylan reported that all county commissioners have agreed to support the acceleration of SPLOST funds for ORGA to total \$150,000 by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Director Langston announced that the first legal notice to let bids will be advertised in Friday’s (1 June 2012) paper.
  - B. Greene Street Extension Status** – Mr. Bentley reported the Greene Street extension is set to commence as scheduled.

**C. 2009 DNR RTP Grant - Lower Fishing Creek Trail – Acquisition of ROW –** Mr. Gray reported that Mr. Jarrett (City Manager) has indicated the paperwork for the acquisition of the right-of-way for the lower fishing creek trail project is forthcoming. Mr. Bentley volunteered to check with the city’s attorney in an effort to expedite the required paperwork as the City Council has approved the ROW request. Director Langston reported that she has not received a response from DNR regarding the request for an extension of the grant.

**D. Selma Erwin Property –** Mr. Edwards reported that he, Dr. Langston, and Mr. Mosley completed the draft for a letter to be sent to Mr. Robert Farris, Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission, requesting acquisition of the Selma Erwin property. Dr. Langston subsequently shared the letter, dated 17 May 2012, with all board members. Mr. Mosley reported that Mr. Strenkowski has indicated the transfer of the property to ORGA seems highly promising. He also noted that he has communicated with personnel at the Riverbend Correctional Facility regarding free maintenance of the property near the pond area and the entrance.

**E. Forest Stewardship Plan –** Director Langston reported that following the April meeting she secured from Mr. Mosley a list of potential foresters to draft a plan for ORGA; however, she has not contacted any of them as Mr. Mosley determined the cost (\$1,000) would be greater than anticipated. He also discovered the plan might possibly be drafted through a grant from the Forest Stewardship Program. Both he and Dr. Langston have attempted to communicate with the FSP Coordinator who oversees the grant program; however, they have not been successful. Mr. Mosley once again stressed the potential benefits of having a Forest Stewardship Plan in that it would provide a roadmap to manage land owned by ORGA and open doors to future grant funding. He asked the board to give him until Friday to communicate with the Coordinator. Mr. Nelson made a motion to appropriate \$1,000 for a consultant to draft a FSP, if Mr. Mosley cannot get a grant commitment from the Coordinator. Mr. Mosley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Mosley also volunteered to determine whether or not DNR already has a plan for the land in question.

**VI. New Business**

**A. EPD 319 Grant Program –** Mr. Faulkner, who manages the Section 319(h) Grant Program, shared a handout explaining the grant application process, timeline, match requirements, eligible applicants and eligible projects. The grant requires a 60/40 match. The match can be achieved through local funds, in-kind services, or other non-federal sources. This grant funds projects in support of Georgia’s Nonpoint Source Management Program. Mr. Faulkner volunteered his time to brainstorm potential projects and to discuss other possible grant sources if the EPD 319(h) grant is not a fit for ORGA.

Mr. Edwards asked if in-kind service could be considered as a match for federal highway grants. Mr. Wilkinson will secure an answer to this question.

**B. ORGF Update** – On behalf of ORGF Mr. Moore reported that the May yard sale and concert yielded approximately \$800. He shared a flyer announcing future concert and yard sale dates.

Concert Dates: June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8

Yard Sale Dates: June 16, July 21, August 13, September 15

He also announced:

- The Milledgeville Kiwanis Club provided funds for installing numbered posts throughout the Greenway and printing History Brochures that coordinate with the posts. The history brochures were produced through a cooperative effort of the Kiwanis Club, ORGA and Digital Bridges, with assistance from Dr. Bob Wilson of the GCSU History Department.
- A new, single, website for both ORGA & ORGF has been created. The old websites will be eliminated. The new URL is: [oconeerivergreenway.org](http://oconeerivergreenway.org)
- There will be a river cleanup, sponsored by Covenant Presbyterian Church, on the morning of June 9<sup>th</sup>. The Church is coordinating with Oconee Outfitters to provide assistance.

Chairman Boylan asked if the city wireless plan might be an option for wireless access at the greenway. Mr. Bentley will investigate.

On behalf of the Board, Dr. Langston will draft a letter of appreciation to the Kiwanis Club.

**C. Schedule Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority is scheduled for 1:30 PM on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 in the President's Conference Room of the Old Capital Building. President Boylan asked that the agenda include a review of the Phase II Architectural Plan. He also asked members to go by Director Langston's office to examine this plan within the next week.

**VII. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 2:28 P.M.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Sherrill Jones, Recorder**