

Oconee River Greenway Authority

MINUTES

29 September 2009

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley, Bo Edwards, Marion Nelson, Bubba Williams, Joe Yeager

Others Present: Jeff Gray – GMC
Kraig Collins - GDOT
Heather Langston – ORGA Executive Director
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Eric Mosley, Dennis Holder

Location: President's Conference room in the Old State Capital building.

I. Call to Order – At approximately 1:32 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 29 September 2009 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order.

II. Approval of 28 July 2009 Minutes - After a review of the 28 July 2009 Minutes, Mr. Edwards made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Bentley, to approve. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.

III. Treasurer's Report – In the absence of Mr. Mosley, Dr. Langston reported a current net income balance of \$35,592.62 and a total liabilities & equity balance of \$1,560,822.74

IV. Old Business:

A. Phase II Status

1. PE – Dr. Langston reported meeting yesterday with GDOT officials and representatives from the history, archeology, and environmental divisions as well as the district engineer, TRC consultants and Jim Hardin to review the site of the old power plant. The two and a half-hour site visit resulted in a mutual understanding of the site and the ironing out of details relative to the required studies/reports. Also of note was the identification of an old culvert that may be part of the MacMillan brick works. The ecology department still wants more background work and both the ecology and archeology reports must be approved, which will incur a change in the Phase II timeline. Chairman Boylan commended Dr. Langston for successfully interfacing with both GDOT and TRC. Dr. Langston anticipates completion of the required reports by the end of the week.

2. ROW – Dr. Langston reported that ORGA cannot proceed with ROW until both the ecology and archeology reports are approved.

3. Construction Plans - There was no report.

B. Greene Street Extension Update – Mr. Bentley reported there has been no change since the July meeting. He will continue to follow-up with Congressman Barrow's office regarding funding.

C. 2004 DNR Grant Modification – Dr. Langston reported modified plans have been submitted. Once approved, bids may be let.

D. Financial Disclosure Statements – Chairman Boylan reminded board members of the requirement that each member submit a financial disclosure statement. Dr. Langston will email the necessary form. Board members were asked to complete and return the forms at the next board meeting.

E. Financial Spreadsheet Update – Dr. Langston presented a financial update for September 2009 (see below), noting reimbursements from both GDOT and SPLOST. She also indicated another request for SPLOST funding has been submitted and reimbursement should be forthcoming. Funding for Phase II is secure.

September 2009					Total Budgeted	Total Expended	Remaining
Source	Available Funds	Greene St.	Phase II, PE	Phase II, CST			
SPLOST (FY09)	415,358.52	94,747.63	42,637.33	276,000.00	413,385.96		
			32,356.05			32,356.05	383,002.47
GDOT (7629)	2,000,000.00		170,549.34	1,104,000.00	1,274,549.34		
			129,424.19			129,242.19	1,145,125.15
Woodruff 2004	65,580.70	5,252.37			5,252.37		
		5,252.37				5,252.37	63,328.33
Total Budgeted		100,000.00	213,186.67	1,380,000.00			
Total Expended		5,252.37	161,780.24				
Remaining		94,747.63	51,406.43	1,380,000.00			

- 1 – Amounts highlighted in blue are budgeted amounts.
- 2 – Remaining Woodruff funds (red) will be spent on educational signage.

F. Wilkinson County Property– Dr. Langston shared a memorandum from Keilani Kimes-Parker of the Georgia Attorney General's office outlining needed changes regarding the lease agreement for the Lockerly property in Wilkinson County. She has forwarded the memorandum to Joe Mangum for modification of the agreement.

G. Places of Interest Map of Oconee River – Dr. Langston shared the recently updated draft for the "Places of Interest" map created by RDC. She asked board members to examine minor changes noted in pencil. To insure accuracy, Mr. Edwards suggested sending a copy to Bud Merritt for review.

H. Request to Woodruff Foundation for another Grant – Chairman Boylan inquired whether or not this would be a good time to make another request for grant funding from the Woodruff Foundation. After a brief discussion, Chairman Boylan

suggested making a joint application with the city of Milledgeville for funding to adequately complete the Greene Street extension project. Board members agreed to endorse this proposal. Mr. Edwards pointed out that Woodruff generally does not award grants to municipalities, after which Dr. Langston indicated the Foundation (ORGF) would serve as the applicant. Dr. Langston was asked to coordinate with Russell Thompson and a member of ORGF to draft an application to present to the ORGA Board at its next meeting.

V. New Business

A. Maintenance

1. Fence for Old Access Road – Dr. Langston reported there continues to be problems with individuals removing stakes at the entrance to the old access road. Mr. Nelson and GDOT representatives have met and agree a short section of fence needs to be built as the number of people using the old access road as an entrance to the greenway is increasing. Mr. Gray suggested using large concrete ballasts (available through GMC surplus) to inhibit motorized traffic. He and Mr. Nelson will explore this possibility.

2. Pedestrian Bridge and Oxbow Reinforcement – Dr. Langston reminded the board that a repair to the pedestrian bridge was made when one post washed out during rain in July. A second post is now exposed and the bridge is again sagging. In light of continual erosion, Jim Hardin has suggested modifications that include a temporary solution using cables. Mr. Gray suggested using posts to prevent vehicle traffic on the bridge. He, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Nelson will examine and determine the best means for blocking the area within the week. Dr. Langston also commented that the middle overlook is beginning to lean into the river.

3. Budget Modification – Dr. Langston questioned whether or not the fiscal budget needed modification as the line item for cleanup will most likely exceed the amount budgeted. Chairman Boylan noted this is not necessary. Money will simply be moved, as needed, from other line item(s).

B. 2009 DNR Recreational Trails Grant – Dr. Langston anticipates writing a DNR Recreational Trails grant to be matched by the Robert Wood Johnson Grant (a four year grant) received by GCSU. She asked Mr. Collins or a GDOT representative to walk the area with Jim Hardin and her on October 7th at 9:00 AM to determine GDOT requirements. The anticipated trail would begin at the Greenway and continue along Fishing Creek to West Campus.

C. Green ExStream – Mr. Bentley reported that Chuck Claxton, an Oak Hill Middle School teacher, has a group of sixth graders (the Green ExStream) who would like to adopt the Greenway to assist with cleanup. Last year Mr. Claxton's students participated with cleanup; however, this year, the group wants to be more involved and on regular basis. Mr. Nelson noted weekly assistance is needed in removing small limbs and debris from the open field area at the park entrance. There was consensus to allow this group request. The group will need to sign a volunteer waiver drafted by the Attorney General's office.

D. Department of Forestry Kudzu Eradication Grant – Dr. Langston reported a new Department of Forestry grant is available for kudzu eradication.

E. ARF Pet Walk – In light of recent rains, the ARF Pet Walk has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 3rd.

F. City Crew Recognition – Mr. Nelson reminded the board of the need to do something special for the city maintenance crew responsible for cutting grass, blowing trails, etc. every Friday. Mr. Edwards suggested a tentative date of early/mid November.

VI. The next ORGA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 27 October 2009 at 1:30 PM in the President's Conference Room of the Old State Capital.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:47 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder