



Approved BEAT Board Minutes 4-5-21

Introduction

President Pete Key called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:06 pm with the following Board members in attendance: Linda Eastman, Dan George, Bob Jakus, Pete Key, Marilyn Priddy, and Sybil Murray Burgess. Ted Janes and Dwight Willis were absent. Guest Beth Hansen also attended.

Pete introduced Beth to the Board members. Beth is the Environmental Action Team Leader, League of Women Voters Lower Cape Fear (EnvAT, LWVLCF). She described activities of EnvAT noting many common concerns, including offshore drilling, PFAS, and farm factory run-off. Beth described EnvAT's participation in Wilmington's Clean Energy Task Force, which included 35 citizens and provided recommendations. Beth also said EnvAT prepared testimony against Duke Energy for not including enough renewable energy in their plans. She said her team sends out action alerts to LWVLCF members and, like BEAT, partners with the NC Coastal Federation and Cape Fear River Watch. Beth expressed interest in finding out more about issues in Brunswick County (BC) in addition to the Gullah Geechee Cultural Corridor, which they also support.

Pete explained that one of the BC issues BEAT has been involved with this last year was CPI, a power plant in Southport that was burning tires and treated lumber as fuel. The plant recently shut down following the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) shut down of their sister plant in Roxboro. He also reported that Charlie Miller, newly elected House of Representatives for NC District 19, which includes parts of BC and New Hanover County (NHC) signed on to Deb Butler's bill (to hold Chemours accountable for polluting the water with PFAS). Pete also noted Representative Mike Lee's initial lack of knowledge about the requirement to move hog waste lagoons out of the flood plains. He briefly described the recent letters BEAT signed regarding right whale protection, ship strikes and provided an update on dredging Jinks Creek.

Following this discussion, Jennifer suggested extending Beth a standing invitation to BEAT meetings and the Board agreed. Pete thanked Beth for attending, and she left the meeting.

Pete then asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes for the March Board meeting. Dan made a motion to accept the minutes and the motion carried with no objections following a second by Bob.

Old Business

Members discussed plans for the April 29th annual meeting. Dan, Pete and Marilyn agreed to meet by Zoom on 6:00 pm on April 7th for a Zoom practice session. Jennifer discussed inviting members from the email list, and Pete said he would spend \$50 to create an event on Facebook (business account). Jennifer said she thought the Facebook list would be good to use. Attendees also discussed inviting members of partners, including Cape Fear Riverkeeper members and LWVLCF. Marilyn said she would put notices in the local newspapers.

Members briefly discussed holding a May business meeting to elect officers and agreed to hold the virtual meeting on May 20th. The Board agreed not to charge dues for the upcoming year. Pete



suggested BEAT purchase a Zoom subscription; Marilyn made a motion to do so and it carried following a second by Dan.

New Business

Pete and Bob discussed plans the Oak Island (OKI) Parks and Recreation Departments virtual Earth Day celebration, which will include interviews or videos from interested groups. Bob agreed to meet Erik, OKI Parks and Rec Director for an interview and/or create a video. Locations (52nd Street pier. Davis canal) and interview ideas (mission statement, review of BEAT activities) were discussed; Pete said he had video equipment. Bob also mentioned the upcoming meeting regarding sand assessments in OKI. Marilyn suggested posting the recorded interview on the BEAT website.

Dan and Pete briefly discussed Dr. Hilderman's information to be provided to Charlie Miller regarding Jinks Creek dredging issue. Pete also mentioned Beth Kline-Markesino's effort to raise money for water filters.

Announcements & Adjournment

Dan had no updates for the Superfund site. Pete adjourned the meeting at 7:04 pm.