



## Approved BEAT Board Minutes 3-1-22

### Introduction

President Pete Key called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:06 pm with the following Board members in attendance: Dan George, Bob Jakus, Pete Key, Marilyn Priddy, and Linda Eastman. Sybil Murray Burgess joined Zoom after the meeting was underway; Ted Janes and Dwight Willis were absent. Guests Rene and Michael Russell also attended.

1. Bob's motion to approve the draft agenda passed following a second by Marilyn.
2. No changes were suggested to the draft minutes from the February board meeting. Bob's motion to approve the draft minutes passed following Bob's second. There was a brief discussion about an amendment made to the January minutes, which later proved unnecessary. Marilyn said she changed the minutes to show Brayton Willis attended Northeastern University, rather than Northwestern.
3. Pete welcomed guests Rene and Michael Russell. (Bob noted he had talked to Pete and Dan about inviting guests at the very end of the January board meeting, perhaps after the meeting adjourned. Pete asked Rene and Michael to introduce themselves.
4. Pete provided a brief update of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor that BEAT is supporting and of the Superfund site in Navassa that will become part of the greenway/blueway project and the BC NAACP proposal to the National Park Service. Marilyn offered to send them the proposal, and Rene provided an email address.

### Old Business

1. Board members discussed plans for the April membership meeting.
  - a) Pete reported that Emily Donovan has accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker and he had ordered two awards.
  - b) Members also discussed the logistics of the Zoom meeting and decided to ask Emily to join 15 minutes early to make sure she can share her screen, which will require Dan to make her a co-host. Board members agreed to record the meeting.
  - c) Pete read the meeting invitation he drafted: *We aren't waiting for COVID to pass our doors. We have work to do and we're ready to get to it. Join us to hear our Environmental Friend Emily Donovan share how PFAS impacts us and how we can synergize BEAT to help Clean Cape Fear achieve our shared goal of clean water for everyone. We will meet Virtually on ZOOM on April 29th, 7:00 pm. Just share your information below and we will send you a link.*
  - d) Pete also talked about how the registration process might work with a Google doc, and then using MailChimp to send registrants a link about a week before the meeting. He said he could also use Facebook for registration. Marilyn noted problems with her Google account.
  - e) Marilyn confirmed a business meeting with elections would be held in May and asked about online dues payments. Pete and Dan talked about allowing BEAT members to make dues payments via the Facebook fundraising donation feature.
  - f) Members discussed current and upcoming Board vacancies.
    - i. The Treasurer position has been vacant for more than a year. Pete said the checking account is still located at the Sunset Beach bank branch and he needs a co-signer



(Treasurer) to move the account to another branch. He also mentioned the website membership form directs people to contact the former Treasurer Tom Goodwin who resigned and moved out of NC.

- ii. Marilyn said she would resign her position as Secretary, and Pete said all Board positions were two-year terms, so they would all be up for election.
2. The Board briefly reviewed water quality issues.
- a) Pete said he will send a letter to the BC Board of Commissioners about the 30% water rate increase proposed to go into effect in January 2022. Marilyn asked him to include a request to aggressively pursue the current litigation against Chemours so customers can be compensated for their increased water costs.
  - b) Pete also said he plans to continue his efforts to talk to Mike Lee (NC Senate, District 9) about hog waste.
  - c) Regarding partnerships with other groups concerning water quality, Marilyn asked permission to invite Beth Hansen to the next Board meeting. She said Beth is the League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear's Environmental Action Team (LWVLCF EnvAT) Leader. She said the League's environmental values align well with BEAT's values and noted the League is also a non-partisan organization.
    - i. Pete made a motion to invite Beth to the April board meeting, and the motion passed after a second by Dan.
    - ii. Marilyn said she would contact Beth and said she would send board members registration link for the Zoom EnvAT meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Business**

1. Pete reviewed recent requests for letters of support from the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), which were summarized in the agenda. Marilyn emphasized the importance of a quorum (currently five Board members) and of keeping an accurate record of the vote, which she said can be difficult when it is all done by email. She referenced the email trail on the agenda for two recent issues (New England Clam and Lobster rules and Right Whale Issue) and said it was not clear there was a quorum on the request related to the former.
  - a) Dan and Pete talked about the marine life entanglement issue. Dan described the effort to stop long lining in the Gulf. He also noted that BEAT could support requests from the SELC given their expertise and professional staff. Marilyn noted she had initially thought the lobster rules were a regional issue. She noted reports of a dead right whale off the Myrtle Beach coast this week. Dan also mentioned other efforts to protect the whales including slower shipping lanes and changes in Navy sonar testing.
  - b) Pete read the letter BEAT's letter supporting the SELC effort to protect the right whales. Bob described how whales and other mammals use sound to communicate and referenced a video to show at a future BEAT meeting. Pete asked if the producer's permission would be needed to show the video. Rene, an intellectual property attorney, said a 501(c)(3) organization would probably not need permission (even with a ticket charge) since there is a carve out for educational purposes. She offered to find out and Pete thanked her for her offer of assistance Bob suggested BEAT sponsor a movie night (with popcorn) later this year at the park in Oak Island.