**Final BEAT Board Minutes 9/10/19**

The following Board members met at BEMC on 9/10/19: Dwight Willis, Jennifer Swift, Linda Eastman, Bob Jakus, Dan George, and Marilyn Priddy. After it was determined that enough members were present to establish a quorum, Vice President Dan George called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm. Ted Janes joined the meeting remotely during the planning discussion.

**Old Business**

1. Attendees approved the draft agenda that Marilyn distributed after a motion by Dwight and second by Linda.
2. Bob suggested the August minutes include the title of the video he recommended during the meeting with Chance Lambert. Dan moved to accept the revised minutes, and the motion passed with no objections after a second by Bob.
3. No Treasurer’s report was presented; Dan said no expenses had occurred.
4. Bob updated members on his activities as Webmaster. He noted additions made to the website calendar including the 9/24/19 Superfund meeting in Navassa. Dwight recommended members attend some of these meetings. Bob said he also added an event sponsored by the Beach Preservation Society of Oak Island to the calendar. This organization, which meets monthly and had recently obtained non-profit status, invited BEAT to participate in International Beach Sweep Day on 9/21/19. Participants will meet at the cabana on Oak Island at 9:30 am. Jennifer said she liked the idea of putting events sponsored by other like-mined organizations on the BEAT calendar.

Bob noted previous member Neil Gilbert was still an administrator on the BEAT Facebook page and offered to contact Neil. This led to a discussion about how an individual who created a Facebook page could be removed from the role as an administrator. Dan moved that Bob investigate this process and Dwight seconded the motion, which passed with no objections.

Bob asked Marilyn and Linda to provide photos and biographical information for the website. Bob agreed to look into a possible glitch on the website under the category *members only Information*. Marilyn said she could not get to this section without a password.

Bob said he was interested in BEAT’s educational aspects and suggested using the website to recommend environmental videos, movies, books, and activities for families, for example turtle talks. Dan suggested the website could have a “Use your Mind” and “Use your Feet” sections. Bob thought he could add links and asked if BEAT had purchased the movie *Straw*s so it could be streamed on the site. Linda said she thought BEAT would have to pay for it. Another movie suggested was *End of the Line*, which is about overfishing. Jennifer said she would look into events sponsored by other groups. Dan suggested BEAT could recommend a movie of the month and perhaps sponsor a contest for kids to create environmental videos and noted the Education Committee would need to be involved.

Marilyn asked if the issue of paying for the calendar on the website had been resolved. Bob said it had been resolved.

Linda said she had reached out to a manufacturer of paper straws (Edward Nickerson of OK Straws in San Diego, CA) and that he wanted to profile BEAT on his Facebook page. Dan said it would be okay, but agreed to look at his page first to ensure this would be appropriate. Jennifer noted that some members had posted information about candidates being in the area. Members agreed this type posting was not relevant to BEAT’s mission, and Dan said he would look into it. Dwight noted that if a candidate were giving an environmental speech it might be okay. Members agreed the BEAT Facebook page should not be used to promote or bash candidates.

1. Marilyn asked for comments on the draft Non-partisan and Social Media policies. Jennifer suggested editing the second item of the draft Beat Non-partisan policy by adding *while representing BEAT* to the end of the first sentence. The sentence would read *The BEAT President and Vice President should not participate in partisan politics during their terms of office while representing BEAT*. Dwight made a motion to approve the policies, and Dan seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objections. Marilyn said she had received an email from Ted and he said he could try to incorporate the adopted policies into the bylaws.
2. Dwight noted he had emailed members regarding his communication with Chance Lambert, following the August meeting. This led to a discussion of hog farming. Dwight suggested Board members should educate themselves about legislation related to hog waste lagoons and suggested Cape Fear River Watch could help. Dan noted a recent massive loss of hogs in China; Linda mentioned resistant staph infections. Jennifer noted expense of targeted antibiotics, and Bob suggested using evidence based information.

**New Business**

1. **Planning:** Jennifer introduced the discussion of planning for remainder of 2019 and for 2020 by stating she thought BEAT should hold a general membership meeting. Dates suggested were October 22nd and 23rd with

Oct 21st and 24th as back-up dates. Dan agreed to invite Kemp Burdette, Cape Fear Riverkeeper, to speak about legislation, regulation, and responsibilities surrounding hog farming.

Members agreed the meeting should run from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm, and that a Board member will try to reserve the BEMC meeting room once the date is confirmed. Dan said he will let Jennifer know after he reaches Kemp. The agenda will include a short business meeting. Topics may include:

* Updates on committee activities (Committee Chairs)
* Information regarding the meeting with Chance Lambert (Dwight)
* Letter BEAT sent regarding CPI (Pete)
* Letter BEAT sent regarding methyl bromide (Sybil) and
* An invitation to form an Events Committee (Pete or Ted).

Discussion of topics for future meetings included recycling and Keep Brunswick Beautiful (Micki Bozeman, BC Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator) and flooding issues (Kirstie Dixon, BC Planner). The latter topic led to a discussion about development in BC. Jennifer suggested the county planner present “build out” maps for BC, which show hot zones. Dan noted the State had purchased land adjacent to Bird Island. Bob noted the Duke School of Marine Planning has online courses (https://www.nicholas.duke.edu), and Jennifer noted NC Coastal Planning may also be a good contact. Dan noted that a client’s experience with moisture intrusion into her home was directly related to the clearing of a 100-acre woodlot behind the property. He also updated members on activities of the Land Use Committee, chaired by Wynn Wagenseil. Dan said currently he, George Yu and sometimes Marilyn attend the Superfund meetings in Navassa, but that the committee had not gotten involved yet with development issues.

Ted joined the discussion remotely with Dwight’s help. Marilyn suggested BEAT start planning for Earth Day 2020 since it will be the 50th anniversary. Ideas included seminar with break-out sessions to for more in-depth information on topics such as rain gardens, composting, recycling, etc. Jennifer suggested involving the BC Extension Office. Dan suggested providing food would attract more attendees, and members discussed the pros and cons of a a half or full day event. Linda felt a half day might allow more families who already have busy Saturdays to participate and that providing pastries and coffee would be less work and expense than providing lunch.

Bob noted that many local organizations, including the Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, already celebrate Earth Day, and perhaps BEAT could have a booth at their event. He said their event is held at 46th Street and Ocean Drive in Oak Island and includes activities for children and food. Dwight said he thought BEAT should not compete with other organizations, but would need to find out who is doing what. Dan suggested if the event were near the water he could cast a net and help kids learn about the estuary life. Bob agreed to ask the OKI Beach Preservation Society how BEAT can help with the event.

Marilyn suggested additional Facebook or website posts around Earth Day, including BEAT’s list of accomplishments that was presented to Chance Lambert. She recalled working with an environmental group who gave away tree seedlings on Earth Day and the opportunity to give away long needle pine seedlings was discussed. Marilyn agreed to investigate this.

Regarding an Events Committee, Dwight noted that Ted had been advocating for such a committee for quite awhile. Ted offered to send Marilyn information he had compiled. Members briefly discussed Dwight’s previous suggestion that BEAT sponsor a summer camp for children to teach environmental stewardship. Dwight suggested that the Education Committee should take the lead if this idea is pursued. Linda suggested Marty Mentzer might have some good ideas, and Bob suggested involving Megan (intern). Members suggested various activities for children including beach clean-up, recycling, and composting. Marilyn suggested BEAT work with an existing summer camp to limit liability issues.

1. **Committee Reports**

As Chair of the Plastics Committee, Linda updated members on BC’s new recycling program, which will be accepting plastics 1-5 & 7. BC is also considering a contract for electronics and clothing recycling and investigating monetary awards for the most successful community(s). She also described progress on BEAT’s entry into the Coastal Carolina Museum’s Festival of Trees fundraiser. BEAT’s entry will be entitled “Our Ocean / Our Future”. Spring Harkins has been making decorations, including a marine bird tree topper. The tree will also be decorated with LED white lights (required), sand-filled glass balls, a marine rope garland, and ornaments made of paper straws. Linda said the tree and its decorations will go to the highest bidder.

Dan summarized the activities of the Land Use Committee. Dwight suggested Veronica Carter and George Yu might be able to give a presentation on the Superfund site. Marilyn said Veronica has an Environmental Justice program that she has presented to local churches. The discussion of hog waste lagoons continued, including a description of aerial views. Dan noted that 48 had flooded during Hurricane Florence, but none had flooded during the recent Hurricane Dorian.

Teddy Altreuder, Chair of the Education Committee, was unable to attend. Bob suggested BEAT might want to participate in some of the local Christmas parades.

1. Dan adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.