

Natural Beauty & Resources Meeting Notes January 14, 2015

- **Information Hub (OurUpstateSC.info)** – With the help of volunteer, Dan Garvin, we will begin work on checking the accuracy of the Information Hub Resource links. We also want to review the resource links to ensure we have all resources listed. We are looking for a couple of task force members to assist in the process of adding additional resources to ensure we have the most robust resource listing possible for the NB&R section. This will likely consist of a meeting with Dan to review the site and then helping provide our intern with direction on where to find additional resources. You will not be expected to research specific resources. Please contact me via email (ttate@tenatthetop.org) if you are interested in helping.
- **Air Quality Update** – The EPA released new air quality standards shortly before Thanksgiving in 2014. The Upstate's air quality has consistently been improving due to efforts to shut down coal plants, reduce factory emissions, and reduce car emissions through initiatives such as the B2 campaign. Please join us on Tuesday, January 27th at 10:00AM for an Upstate Air Quality Advisory Committee Meeting. We will hear more about the EPA ruling and what it means for the Upstate from SCDHEC, as well as what DHEC is working on at a state level. You can register for that meeting by clicking [here](#).
- **Comprehensive Plan Review Update** – The Clemson University Masters in City & Regional Planning graduate students reviewed comprehensive plans for 9 of the 10 Upstate counties to provide a general regional analysis and identify future hot spots, plan gaps, etc. Please join the Upstate Professional Planners Group for the review of their findings on February 25th at 10:00AM. You can register for that meeting by clicking [here](#). The Sustainable Growth Task Force has been following this project and will receive an update during their meeting on Thursday, January 29th at 10:00AM. If you would like to attend, you can register for that meeting by clicking [here](#).
- **Upstate Forever: "Reconnecting People to Rivers"** – Heather Nix, Director of the Clean Air & Water Program, explained their blueway project which has four components: mapping of family friendly blueways resulting in a water proof map, an interactive online river map through a partnership with Palmetto Conservation Foundation, an Adopt-a-Stream program to monitor water quality, and promoting events and festivals focused on rivers. We will continue to monitor and provide updates on this project as it progresses.
- **Creation of an Outdoor Activity Database** – The task force is discussing creating a database of all outdoor activities, including public recreation areas, walking trails, plantations, waterfalls, rivers, etc. Before the database is created, it was determined that a poll should be administered to the public to determine how they currently find material, if there is a definite gap/need and what types of activities and recreation areas they would want included. We would also want to find out how they access this type of information (i.e. website, app, etc.) and what they might utilize if it were available. A small group is forming to create the poll that will be administered. If you would like to be part of that small group please contact me via email (ttate@tenatthetop.org).

Next Steps:

- Form a small group to create poll to collect information prior to creation of the Outdoor Activity Database . The poll will then be sent out to task force members for them to send to their contacts.
- Please plan to attend the Upstate Air Quality Advisory Committee meeting, Upstate Professional Planners meeting, or the Sustainable Growth Task Force Meeting if you are interested in what the groups are doing and would like to find out more about any of their subjects and goals.