

**Land, Water & Conservation Division
Advisory Committee Minutes
Dennis Building, Room 149
Columbia, South Carolina
Tuesday, August 18, 2015**

Present

Bill Simpson
Larry Nates
Jim McLeod

Tom Garrison
Marvin Davant
Charles Broadwell

Staff:

Ken Rentiers
Hope Mizzell
Sean Taylor
Bill Clendenin

Marc Cribb
Joe Gellici
Meg Gaillard
Andy Wachob

Call to Order/Welcome: The **August 18, 2015** meeting was called to order by Chairman William Simpson at 10:30 a.m. In compliance with the provisions of Section 30-4-80(e) (Freedom of Information Act), notification of this meeting was posted in public places. Absent from the meeting was Dean Moss, Trish Hartung and Webb Smathers

Approval of February 17, 2015 Minutes: Jim McLeod made a motion to approve the February 17, 2015 Minutes and seconded by Larry Nates, all were in favor and the motion Passed.

Surface Water Assessment Update:

Joe Gellici updated the Committee on the Surface Water Assessment program related to the development of quantity models. He informed the committee that public meetings were being held to introduce the SWAM model to stakeholders and answer questions from the public about the models. SWAT (Surface Water Assessment Team) participated in the first meeting of the SC Water Quantity Assessment Technical Advisory Committee. The Committee was informed about four new monitoring wells that were drilled and that the wells will be used to help evaluate saltwater intrusion of shallow aquifers in the coastal region. Joe made a presentation about the groundwater model to various water utilities.

Climate Report:

Hope Mizzell gave the Committee a brief review of the SC Drought Response Committee Conference Call Meeting from July. A letter and copy of the press release were mailed to over 300 Water Systems as designated by the Drought Response Act once the drought stage reaches Moderate. Hope also reviewed rainfall totals, precipitation percentiles, lake levels and ground-water monitoring wells. She reinitiated a study to determine the influence of ENSO cold and warm event cycles on inter-annual variations of South Carolina's seasonal precipitation. Results from the study will be published in the SC Water Resources Journal.

Conservation Districts Report:

Marc Cribb reported that Dorothy Phillips distributed the Application for State Funds package to the 46 district offices. The Committee was informed that a new staff person, Drew Williams, was hired and was working out of the Greenville District office. Drew would be providing technical assistance on Farm Bill Programs throughout the Upstate area. Marc also informed the Committee about staff's participation in the organizational meeting of the SC Grazing Lands Coalition. DNR staff demonstrated the Rainfall Simulator unit for the group. The Simulator was obtained through a grant from the National Grazing Lands Coalition and the USDA-NRCS.

Marc informed the Committee that a large number of district commissioners, district employees, NRCS and DNR staff, represented South Carolina at the Southeast Region meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts in Tupelo, MS. During a luncheon ceremony, Lancaster Commissioner William Ardrey was inducted into the Southeast Hall of Fame, for his many years of contributions to conservation.

Heritage Trust Report:

Sean Taylor and Meg Gaillard updated the Committee about cultural resources work that took place at Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve in Beaufort County. He explained the archaeological investigations and the tabby restoration has been completed, and the artifacts found are currently being analyzed at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Sean said an underwater archaeological investigation is planned for this fiscal year to determine the extent of the fort ruins in the Beaufort River. Public screenings of four short documentary films are scheduled for August in Lexington, Beaufort and Spartanburg Counties. A public screening of the films took place at the DNR Columbia office on Friday, July 24, which coincided with the International Day of Archaeology. Plans for a future boat landing on adjoining Beaufort County property were also discussed. Sean reported Beaufort County has made a formal request for access to Fort Frederick and staff are working on a response.

Deputy Director's Report: Ken Rentiers

The Savannah River Basin study continues in cooperation with the US Army Corp of Engineers. Staff have been working on six FERC projects.

We are monitoring the state budget discussions and are hopeful for additional funds for the Division.

Executive Session: At 12:05 p.m. Larry Nates made a motion to go into Executive Session and was seconded by Marvin Davant for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. All were in favor.

At 12:15 p.m. Larry Nates made a motion to return from Executive Session and was seconded by Marvin Davant, all were in favor.

Chairman Simpson asked for a motion that the Conservation District Commissioner re-appointments be approved and Jim McLeod made the motion and was seconded by Tom Garrison, all were in favor. The Conservation District Commissioner re-appointments were approved as follows: Ms. Yvonne Kling, Aiken; Mr. Troy M. Diel, Berkeley and Mr. F. Michael Seymour, Laurens.

Jim McLeod made a motion to approve the new appointments and was seconded by Tom Garrison. The new appointments were approved and are as follows: Mr. Dennis T. Smith, Hampton and Mr. Neal R. Murdaugh, Hampton.

Next Meeting Date: TBD

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Simpson at 12:15, all were in favor

Dorothy L. Phillips