

Minutes
Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Teleconference Meeting
July 11, 2025 2:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was held at 2:00 p.m., July 11, 2025 via teleconference. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted and mailed to the news media. Chairman Mark Hartley presided at the meeting. Board members present included Hope Blackley, Davy Hite, Mike Hutchins, Jerry Lee, Carlisle Oxner, and Duane Swygert. Director Mullikin and staff members of the Department of Natural Resources were present at the meeting.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Hartley called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Item(s) for Board Action

A. Distribution of Migratory Bird Permit Funds to Canada

Billy Dukes, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, reviewed the request to distribute \$61,284.00 to Ducks Unlimited Canada, as included in the meeting packet. *Mr. Swygert made a motion that the SCDNR Board approve the distribution of Waterfowl Permit Revenue in the amount of \$61,284.00 to be distributed to Ducks Unlimited Canada in support of the AFWA Fall Flights Program as specified in the SC Code of Laws section 50-9-920(B)(14)(a)(ii). Mr. Oxner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

B. Use of Wildlife Endowment Fund

Scott Speares, Chief Finance and Budget Officer, reviewed the request to authorize the expenditure of up to \$275,000.00 from existing income funds that will support Hunting and Fishing License Section and Marine Resources Operations Office, as included in the meeting packet. *Mr. Hutchins made a motion that the SCDNR Board, as Trustees for the Wildlife Endowment Fund, accept the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, and authorize the expenditure of income derived from the fund to further the conservation of wildlife resources and the efficient operation of the department in accomplishing the purposes of the Department as set forth in Title 50. Mr. Swygert seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

C. Request to Release Funds from Mitigation Trust Fund for the Hartwell Fish Habitat Project

Ross Self, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, reviewed the request for the expenditure of \$302,000.00 from the Mitigation Trust Fund, as included in the meeting packet. *Mr. Hite made a motion that the SCDNR Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, approve the budget of the Lake Hartwell Fish Habitat Enhancement Project for FY 2026 and the expenditure of \$302,000.00 from the South Carolina Recreational Fishing Compensation Plan Funds, a sub-account of the Mitigation Trust Fund of South Carolina. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

D. Request for Approval of a License to Duke Energy in Oconee and Pickens Counties

Lorianne Riffin, Director, Office of Environmental Programs, reviewed the Request for Use – Jocassee Gorges WMA – License for Maintenance of the Foothills Trail in Oconee and Pickens Counties, as included in the meeting packet. *Ms. Blackley made a motion that the SCDNR Board grant approval to Duke Energy for the continued maintenance of the Foothills Trail on Jocassee Gorges in Oconee and*

Pickens Counties subject to any external approvals required from the Department of Administration. Mr. Swygert seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Proposed License Agreement to the Mathison Family Trust for Ingress and Egress over Frank P. Henderson Heritage Preserve in Aiken County

Ken Prosser, Assistant Deputy Director for Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, reviewed the Proposed License Agreement to the Mathison Family Trust for Ingress and Egress over Frank P. Henderson Heritage Preserve in Aiken County, as included in the meeting packet. *Mr. Oxner made a motion that the SCDNR Board, upon the recommendation of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, SCDNR staff and the Director approve the license agreement granting the Mathison Family Trust legal access to the Mathison Family Property over Henderson Heritage Preserve in Aiken County for a five-year term with the option to extend the license an additional five years. Ms. Blackley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

3. Executive Session

Ms. Blackley made a motion that the SCDNR Board go into executive session pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70(A)(2) to discuss contractual matters related to Item for Board Action F. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Open Session

Mr. Hutchins made a motion that the SCDNR Board return to open session, noting that no action was taken during executive session. Ms. Blackley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Item(s) for Board Action

F. Final Approval of Property Purchase in Florence County

Mr. Swygert made a motion that the SCDNR Board, upon the recommendation of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, SCDNR staff and the Director, grant final approval to acquire approximately 2,584 acres in Florence County to be dedicated as part of the Woodbury HP-WMA and placed in the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Hite seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held August 21, 2025 in West Columbia.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Hutchins made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Oxner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.