

Minutes
SC Department of Natural Resources Board Workshop
SC DNR Law Enforcement Training Classroom
2765 Wildlife Lane
West Columbia, SC 29172
July 14, 2022 10:00 am

The Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources held a workshop at 10:00 am, July 14, 2022 at the SC DNR Law Enforcement Training Classroom, West Columbia SC. Notice of the date, time and place of the workshop was posted and mailed to the news media. Members present included Chairman Norman Pulliam, Jerry Lee, Carlisle Oxner, Jake Rasor, Jr. and Duane Swygert. Dr. Mark Hartley's absence was excused. Director Boyles and staff members of the Department of Natural Resources were present at the workshop.

The Board participated in a legal discussion with outside counsel regarding Charlotte's Pearl v SC DNR. *Mr. Lee made a motion that the DNR Board pass the updated Resolution as read to clarify the March 18, 2021 resolution regarding Dewees Island. Mr. Rasor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

The Board received presentations, updates or reports on the following items: SC Ethics Act Training, discussion of FY 2024 state budget request, alligator management and Board meeting and packet format.

Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on August 18, 2022 in Columbia.

SCDNR Board Resolution
July 14, 2022

WHEREAS:

The primary mission of the Department of Natural Resources (“Department”) is to protect the State’s natural resources. The Department is charged with enforcing the protections and safeguards set forth in the Dewees Island (“Island”) 1975 Conservation Easement (“Conservation Easement”); and

WHEREAS:

By letter of April 25, 2019, the Department directed the Dewees Island Property Owners Association (“POA”) and other concerned individuals and stakeholders to meet to formulate an appropriate and reasonable framework for restricting short-term rental activity under the Conservation Easement; and

WHEREAS:

The Department attempted to work with the POA and other concerned individuals and stakeholders through March 2021 in the hopes of establishing such a framework, culminating in a resolution dated March 18, 2021, which resolution the Department desires to amend and clarify as stated hereinafter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

This Resolution amends and clarifies the March 18, 2021 Resolution of the Department.

Rentals of a dwelling unit for any duration, do not, standing alone, violate the Conservation Easement’s prohibition of “commercial activity,” provided, however, that short-term rentals, being rentals for periods of less than thirty (30) consecutive days, are conducted either on an owner to owner basis or, if by an owner to a third-party, non-owner guest, then through a POA-approved advertising platform. Nothing herein precludes the POA from lawfully adopting reasonable regulations of rentals through its recorded covenants and architectural and environmental design guidelines.

The Department urges the POA to continue to supervise rental activities on the Island and to address any violations consistent with the Conservation Easement.

The Department will continue to monitor Dewees Island under the Conservation Easement and will enforce the Conservation Easement as necessary to preserve the Island’s conservation values and natural resources. As set forth in the Conservation Easement, the Department cautions that no “act or use” that is “incompatible with the preservation and maintenance of the Island in its natural state” will be allowed.