

Minutes
Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Seawell's
1125 Rosewood Drive
Columbia, SC
March 23, 2018 10:00 AM

The regular meeting of the Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was held at 10:00 am, March 23, 2018, at Seawell's, 1125 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted and mailed to the news media. Chairman Norman Pulliam presided at the meeting. Board members present included Keith Hinson, Michael Hutchins, Duane Swygert and Elizabeth Willis. Board member Larry Yonce's absence was excused. Director Taylor and staff members of the Department of Natural Resources were present at the meeting.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Norman Pulliam called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Invocation

Robert Boyles, Deputy Director for Marine Resources, offered the invocation.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mike Hutchins led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Introduction of Guests

Mr. Boyles introduced Dean Davis, Pam Davis, Lou Tocci, and Buford Mabry.

V. Constituent Comments

Mr. Boyles reported that Mr. Davis requested to make comments to the Board. Mr. Davis' comments were concerning current stand-off requirements for boats traveling above idle speed.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Pulliam asked if there were any amendments, additions, deletions or corrections to the February 20, 2018 meeting minutes. *Mr. Hutchins made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the February 20, 2018 meeting as submitted. Mr. Hinson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

VII. Presentations/Commendations

Commendations

Director Taylor commended CPT Billy Downer and staff on the SC DNR Youth Shooting Clay Open event held March 3.

Director Taylor commended Breck Carmichael and Michael Hook on the SC Bobwhite Funding Partnership reception held March 16.

Deidre Menefee, Chairman, Hampton Wildlife Fund; Jim Goller, Executive Director, Hampton Wildlife Fund and other Hampton Wildlife Fund Board members presented the 2018 check for \$150,000 from the Hampton Wildlife Fund to DNR. This makes the total to date \$3,652,605.

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

A. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Mr. Hutchins reported that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee met February 22 in Columbia. The Advisory Committee received a report of a visit to Samworth WMA, harvest numbers for waterfowl on public lands, migratory bird seasons, Lower Saluda trout regulations and legislation.

B. Marine

Mr. Boyles reported that the Marine Advisory Committee met March 2 in Bluffton. The Advisory Committee received an update on the cold weather effects on marine resources, the “Let Them Spawn, Let Them Live” campaign, the mariculture sighting tool, the recently held fishing summit and red drum legislation.

C. Migratory Waterfowl

Mr. Hutchins reported that the Migratory Waterfowl Advisory Committee met March 7 in Columbia. Mr. Hutchins informed the Advisory Committee that Mr. Hinson will be serving as the Board Representative at future meetings. The Advisory Committee has commissioned artist Jim Killian for the 2019-2020 stamp. The Advisory Committee received a presentation from Ducks Unlimited. The Advisory Committee received a financial update and decided to donate \$10,000 from print sales and \$16,000 from non-resident license sales to Ducks Unlimited Canada.

D. Land, Water and Conservation

Ken Rentiers, Deputy Director for Land, Water and Conservation, was unable to attend the meeting due to family illness. Hope Mizzell, Land, Water and Conservation, gave the Board a brief presentation on the Geologic Guide to the Foothills Trail.

IX. Item for Board Information

Climate Update

Dr. Mizzell briefly described the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network and the annual March contest to see which state can recruit the most volunteers to measure precipitation. Dr. Mizzell reported that the Climatology Office’s South Carolina Solar Eclipse document was recognized as one of the 2017 Notable State Documents by the South Carolina State Library. Dr. Mizzell then gave the Board a brief report on the recent cold temperatures. Dr. Mizzell then reported on the drought conditions, rainfall totals, precipitation percentiles, streamflows, lake levels and ground-water monitoring wells around the state.

X. Director’s Briefings

Director Taylor and staff have spent a great deal of time participating in legislative meetings.

Director Taylor reported that the House budget is complete and the Senate will begin deliberations next week.

Director Taylor and Vice Chairman Hutchins participated in the dedication of the J. B. Barker Boat Ramp on Lake Murray.

Director Taylor mentioned to the Board that the SC Archery in the Schools Tournament

is scheduled for March 28 in Sumter.

Director Taylor reminded the Board that the Youth Bass Fishing Championship weigh in will be held at the Classic on Saturday afternoon.

XI. Legislative Report

Mike Sabaka, Director of Legislative Services, reported on youth hunting day and exemption for tags and license; cobia; red drum; turkey sunset dates; Lower Saluda River trout regulations; removal of DNR's authority to regulate genetically modified shellfish; and the Conservation Bank. CPT Sabaka noted that the cross over date is April 10.

XII. Environmental Report

Lorianne Riggan, Director of Environmental Programs, reported on the Catawba-Wateree Hydroelectric Project and the approval of the SC DNR General Permit Application.

XIII. Deputy Directors' Reports

A. Law Enforcement

COL Chisolm Frampton, Deputy Director for Law Enforcement, distributed the Law Enforcement Investigations and Education statistics document.

B. Marine

Mr. Boyles gave the Board a brief update on oyster mariculture.

C. Office of Support Services

Carole Collins, Deputy Director for the Office of Support Services, commended the Engineering Section for the transition in moving to OSS. Ms. Collins reported that IT has recently developed a new boating and licensing production report.

D. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Emily Cope, Deputy Director for Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, informed the Board that there are 94 boats with two youth per boat fishing participating in the Youth Bass Fishing Championship.

E. Land, Water and Conservation

Nothing further to report.

XIV. Items for Board Action

A. Approval of Board Policy – Acceptance of Gifts of Tangible Personal Property

Vah Whitehead, Assistant Chief Counsel, reviewed the draft policy as included in the meeting packet. *Mr. Hutchins made a motion that the Board approve the Board Policy – Acceptance of Gifts of Tangible Personal Property as presented. Mrs. Willis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

B. Approval of 2018-2019 Migratory Bird Seasons

Mrs. Cope reviewed both the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee recommendations and the staff recommendations for the 2018-2019 migratory bird seasons, noting that the only difference is the opening and closing dates for early teal season. *Mr. Hinson made a motion that the Board approve the 2018-2019 Migratory Bird Seasons as recommended by staff. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

C. Approval of Resolution to Support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Mrs. Cope introduced Anna Smith, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, and asked her to give the Board an overview of the Support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Mrs. Smith distributed copies and gave the Board a brief presentation on the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources and their recommendations for funding that will conserve all fish and wildlife. Mrs. Smith reviewed the highlights of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and what its benefits will be to South Carolina. *Mrs. Willis made a motion that the Board approve the Resolution to Support the Recovering America's Wildlife as presented. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

D. Governor's Cup Series 2017 Annual Report

Mrs. Willis made a motion that the Board approve the Governor's Cup Series 2017 Annual Report as presented. Mr. Hinson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

XV. Executive Session

Mr. Hutchins made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70(A)(1) to discuss appointments to advisory boards related to items (E, F and G), and SC Code Section 30-4-70(A)(2) to discuss legal advice, and contractual matters related to real property in items (Environmental Report, H, I, J and K). Mr. Hinson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

XVI. Open Session

Mrs. Willis made a motion that the Board return to open session, noting that no action was taken during executive session. Mr. Hinson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Governor's Cup Advisory Board Nominations

Mrs. Willis made a motion that the Board approve the appointments to the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board of Directors for a three-year term of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021, of the following individuals: Robert McClam of Little Mountain and Justin Kohl of Georgetown. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Law Enforcement Advisory Committee Reappointments

Mr. Hutchins made a motion that the Board approve the reappointments to the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee for a four-year term of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2022 of the following individuals: Terry LeCroy of Bradley, J. Eugene Adams of Spartanburg, Dr. G. B. Ingraham, III of Johns Island and James B. Schwiers of Greenville. Mrs. Willis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

G. Conservation District Commissioner Appointments/Reappointments

Mr. Hinson made a motion that the Board approve the Conservation District Commissioner Appointments/Reappointments of the following:

Appointments: Toni Warren of Newberry – term of 03/23/18 to 01/31/19
Reappointments: Michael P. Shirer of Calhoun – term of 03/23/18 to 03/03/22
Henry Gettys of Cherokee - term of 03/23/18 to 04/08/22
James Shealy of Newberry - term of 03/23/18 to 03/03/22

Betty L. Hughes of Orangeburg - term of 03/23/18 to 01/04/22
H. Heath Hill of Richland - term of 03/23/18 to 06/17/22
David L. Padgett, Sr. of Saluda - term of 03/23/18 to 02/27/22
Jack Turner of Spartanburg - term of 03/23/18 to 04/07/22
John T. Rivers of Sumter - term of 03/23/18 to 01/04/22
Henry Sprouse of Union - term of 03/23/18 to 02/28/22
Bennie Copeland of York - term of 03/23/18 to 02/28/22
Clarence Senn of York - term of 03/23/18 to 02/28/22

Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

H. Proposed Board Resolution

Mrs. Willis made a motion that the Board approve the Proposed Board Resolution as presented. Mr. Hinson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

I. Extension of Lease on NOAA Lab

Mr. Hutchins made a motion that the Board approve the modified Extension of Lease on the NOAA Lab as presented. Mrs. Willis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

J. Potential Property Acquisition in northern Greenville County

Mr. Hinson made a motion that the Board grant preliminary approval to investigate a potential land acquisition near SC DNR's Blackwell Heritage Preserve in northern Greenville County. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

K. Potential Property Acquisition in northwestern Greenville County

Mr. Hutchins made a motion that the Board grant preliminary approval to investigate a potential land acquisition south of US Highway 276 between the South Saluda and Middle Saluda rivers in northwestern Greenville County. Mr. Hinson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

XVII. Time and Location of the Next Meetings

The next meeting of the Board will be April 19 in Columbia.

XVIII. Adjournment

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