

MINUTES
BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

Marine Resources Center
Charleston, South Carolina
Friday, December 1, 1995
10:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 1, 1995, at the Marine Resources Center, Charleston, South Carolina. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Chairman George Graham presided at the meeting and other Board members present included: Joe Edens, Mary Pope Waring, Campbell Coxe, Marion Burnside, Tom Miller and Phillip Lowe. Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr., and staff members of the Department of Natural Resources were present at the meeting as well as various guests.

I. Call to Order

Chairman George Graham called the Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and welcomed all guests to the meeting. Mary Pope Waring invited everyone to Charleston and noted that various activities were being held later in the day.

II. Meditation

The Board held a moment of silent meditation and an opening prayer by Captain Van McCarty prior to the beginning of the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The Board adopted a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 1995, Board Meeting as submitted.

IV. Presentations/Commendations

There were no presentations or commendations at this time.

V. Constituent Comments

There were no constituent comments at this time.

VI. Director's Briefing

A. Executive Office

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman informed the Board that the Deputy Directors and the Strategic Planning Committee are working on the development of program priorities within the Department. Dr. Bill Clendenin provided an in-depth up-date on the activities and programs of the SC Geological Survey



to the Board. Dr. Timmerman went over some background information on the Governor's Cup Bill Fishing Series and the Carolina's Shootout, and he noted that \$50,000 to \$75,000 will be raised in 1996 by the staff for the Governor's Cup program. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Governor is concerned about families and has asked agencies to adopt a family for Christmas. He distributed information on this program and asked the Board members to also get involved. Dr. Timmerman noted that an agreement has been executed with Duke Power Company to enable the State to purchase some of their property through December, 1999. He noted that he had met with individuals in Greenville County to set up a Steering Committee for this project. Dr. Timmerman noted that he and Larry Cartee are working on a Responsive Management Survey and he asked the Board for their input regarding asking survey questions on creating a cabinet agency for the Department as well as putting law enforcement into a super agency.

2. Legal - Jim Quinn reported that he will be in the Supreme Court next Thursday to defend the case on Sunday hunting and to ask the Supreme Court to dissolve the injunction regarding this case.
3. Legislative Affairs - There was no report to the Board this month.
4. Human Resources - Caroline Agardy reported that we are working with DHEC, SLED and the Department of Public Safety on the revamping of the State Classification system. She noted that we have focus groups in the Department and have received \$26,000 in funding from the Budget and Control Board for training. Ms. Agardy also noted that the Law Enforcement Parity Committee and the Law Enforcement Ad Hoc Committee will present reports they have to the new Deputy Director as it relates to concerns from law enforcement officers. She also noted that a TQM team in Boat Titling and Registration is currently underway.
5. Environmental - Ed Duncan reported on the sunken barge in Charleston Harbor, noting that the contents of the barge are currently being analyzed for chemical content and the barge is being held in the Charleston Harbor by the Coast Guard at this time.



B. Deputy Directors

1. Administrative Services - There was no further report to the Board at this time.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries - Brock Conrad distributed information to the Board on the Summer Brood Turkey Survey and he informed the Board that good reports had been received statewide on the duck season.
3. Natural Resources Enforcement - Alvin Wright reported that interviews have been held for the positions in the coastal counties, and the law enforcement policy manual has been reviewed for presentation to the new Deputy Director. He went over cases made by the officers and reported that Wildlife I had recently settled a trawling case resulting in \$15,000 in fines. Alvin Taylor noted that the personal watercraft hearings have received a lot of media coverage and the final hearing will be held in Georgetown on Tuesday night. He noted that hunting accidents have created a lot of public interest and Van McCarty gave an up-date on hunting accidents during this year. Dr. Graham asked about the two so-called hunting accidents that were recently in the newspaper and how they were so classified and this was discussed. Mary Pope Waring asked about the conditions regarding Wildlife I running aground, and Alvin Wright reported that this had occurred resulting in \$7,000 to \$8,000 in damage. The Board also requested that the staff coordinate with the CEC Division to distribute information on the Board's decision to stop the top sowing of wheat.
4. Conservation Education & Communication - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
5. Marine Resources - Paul Sandifer reported that Donna Florio is leaving the Department to go to work with Southern Living. David Wicker and Larry DeLancy gave an in-depth discussion on the by-catch reduction project. Paul Sandifer went over the structure of the task forces that have been organized and how this structure has been implemented in the agency. Dr. Timmerman reported that he has concerns on computer needs in the Department and he wants to be sure that we address all of our computer needs to see how to be functional and to be sure that our computers can talk to each other. Dr. Graham noted that this process needed to be organized similar to that as the Publications Review Committee.
6. Water Resources - Margaret Davidson gave the Board a copy of the recommendations that had been sent to them on the Blue Ribbon Committee Report. She noted there are 47 recommendations in this report and Freddy



Vang noted that these recommendations will be implemented. Mr. Vang introduced Ben Grambling who was in attendance at the meeting and he handed out several brochures and other information to the Board.

7. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee reported that the SCMAPS Project has won the S.C. Wildlife Federation's education award.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he has been working with Bob Royall on the Economic Development Council and a meeting will be held on December 18, 1995, to develop ways to coordinate better with this Council.

VII. Items for Board Action

- A. Casual Dress Day Policy - Chairman Graham asked Dr. Timmerman to handle this policy as an Administrative Policy in the Department.
- B. Discussion of User Fees on Heritage Trust Lands - Tom Kohlsaas distributed some options on user fees and went over these with the Board. Dr. Timmerman stated that we need to look at developing a volunteer program and Chairman Graham noted that input from other states is needed to see how they have implemented similar user fees. Dr. Timmerman also noted that we need a wildlife viewing guide and the Board noted that options 2, 3 and 4 should be reviewed closely to secure more information and to run the Department more like a business. Mr. Burnside noted that everyone should pay their fair share or we should quit buying property in the Department. Ms. Waring noted that we need to charge user fees on Heritage Trust properties in order to protect the resource and the revenue developed will be used to manage the resource. Following other discussion, the Board asked the staff to continue to work to develop information on this subject and report back to the Board.
- C. Proposed Management Plan - Gropher Branch Heritage Preserve - Brock Conrad noted that this plan had been sent out to the Board and he went over this plan briefly. Following discussion, the Board approved the plan as submitted.
- D. Proposed Property Acquisition in Darlington County - This item was delayed for discussion until executive session.

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. Heritage Trust - Tom Kohlsaas noted the Heritage Trust Advisory Board met the first week in November, and there was nothing further to report.
- B. Marine Resources - Mary Pope Waring noted that the Marine Resources Advisory Committee met November 3, 1995, and she went over the items discussed at the meeting as well as passing out the minutes. Ms. Waring noted that the Committee recommends the establishment of a policy for the annual shrimp baiting season to



begin on 12 noon on the last Friday between September 1 and September 15 and close sixty days later at 12 noon. Following discussion, the Board adopted the policy as presented by the Marine Resources Advisory Committee.

- C. Natural Resources Enforcement - Tom Miller noted the Natural Resources Enforcement Advisory Committee met on November 15, 1995 in Florence and the minutes will be mailed out to the Board at a later time. Mr. Miller noted that the road hunting bills as passed by the Board had been significantly changed and Alvin Wright went over the changes that were made in these bills. Following discussion of the changes, the Board asked the staff to meet prior to the executive session in order to discuss these changes and develop a motion for the Board's consideration. Mr. Miller noted that the terms of Coy Johnston and Yancy McLeod had expired and he recommended that they be reappointed. The Board adopted a motion to reappoint both these individuals to the Natural Resources Enforcement Advisory Committee.
- D. Water Resources - Freddy Vang stated that the minutes of the this Advisory Committee meeting will be sent out to the Board.

IX. Missions, Goals, & Strategic Planning

There was no report to the Board this month.

X. Policy Review

There was no report to the Board this month.

XI. Comments

There were no further comments to the Board at this time.

XII. Executive Session

Mr. Miller moved for the Board to hold an executive session to discuss legal, personnel and contractual matters. Mr. Edens seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Board. Chairman Graham announced that, at this time, the Board would hold an executive session to discuss legal, personnel and contractual matters.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

The regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting.



The Board adopted a motion to approve the appointment of Larry Nates to a four year term and Glen C. Alexander to fill an unexpired term on the Land Resources and Conservation Districts Advisory Committee.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the appointment of Conservation District Commissioners as follows: (1) John O. Wings, subject to legal staff addressing a dual office holding question; (2) Debra Stone; and (3) Marvin Prater.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the Heritage Trust staff recommendations to purchase four tracts to add to the Segars Heritage Preserve in Darlington County.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the changes in the road hunting bill as rewritten to read in Section A.1 instead of "...any federal highways and right-of-ways", that it read "...any paved public road in South Carolina", and under Section B.1, under the definitions to change federal highway and state primary to read "...any paved public road in South Carolina." These proposed changes are in a Bill that apply to Game Zones 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the changes in the road hunting Bill for Game Zone 1, 2, and 4 to include the changes as amended from the Natural Resources Advisory Committee to include the correction of grammatical errors.

XIII. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting on January 19, 1996, at 10:00 am in Columbia, SC. It further agreed to hold its February meeting on February 15, 1996, at 2:00 pm in Georgetown.

XIV. Adjournment

There being no further business to present before the regular Board meeting, a motion was adopted to adjourn.

