

MINUTES
BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center
Georgetown, SC
Thursday, February 15, 1996
2:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 15, 1996, at the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center, Georgetown, 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: Tom Miller, Ted Oxner, Mary Pope Waring, and Campbell Coxe. 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 2:00 p.m., and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that Marion Burnside had recently had surgery and was doing well, and Joe Edens was ill and could not attend the meeting. Chairman Graham introduced Calvin Dawson, Bo Stokes, and Stone Miller as guests at the meeting.

II. Meditation

The Board held a moment of silent meditation as noted by Chairman Graham 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 January 19, 1996, Board meeting as submitted.

IV. Presentations/Commendations

Sonny Baines noted that a slogan contest had been held in the Department to develop a slogan for the DNR and Billy Dukes was the winner with the slogan of "Working For You Naturally". Mr. Baines noted that the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund provided a \$50.00 savings bond as part of the award for this contest.

V. Constituent Comments

There were no constituency comments to be presented to the Board at this time.

VI. Director's Briefing

A. Executive Office

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department's budget is in the Ways and Means Committee which is working on the budget this week and David Hagler is working on the budget for the Department.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a listing of a Summary of Significant Accomplishments in 1995 and a list of 1996 Objectives and Areas of Concentration. Dr. Timmerman asked the Board for their input on these objectives and asked that this be an agenda item at the March Board meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we are looking at the overall funding base and program priorities in the agency. He noted that the Strategic Planning Committee is working on a process for establishing program priorities and the Deputy Directors have developed a list of programs in the agency. He noted that both groups will meet to set up a process for program priorities.

Dr. Timmerman asked that the March Board meeting agenda include a DNR Mitigation Policy and the staff will be working on this proposed policy for input at the March Board meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that hog farms are progressing in the state and a permit is now under review in the Pee Dee area which will process 32,000 hogs per day. Chairman Graham noted that we need to come up with a coordinated plan with DHEC and the Department of Commerce as it relates to the process for reviewing permits.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he would like to establish a Board Retreat later on in the year and discuss ways to promote the Department as it relates to the General Assembly and how to promote awareness for constituents and all citizens of the state. He noted that we needed a game plan on how to handle these matters and a good example is our Chapter 9 proposals where we have sought fees on Department properties and the House has not looked favorably upon these proposed fees.

Dr. Timmerman recognized Val Nash for the excellent job he did recently on the transfer of the Walhalla Fish Hatchery to the Department.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Drew Robb was recognized in the agency as the DNR "Employee of the Year", and he was provided a plaque and a \$750 bonus.

Dr. Timmerman reminded the Board members that the Ethics Commission Statement of Economic Interest is due to be turned in by April 15, 1996.

2. Legal - Jim Quinn reported that the Department has filed suit against the Town of McClellanville in regard to a recent ordinance they have passed.
3. Legislative Affairs - Dr. Timmerman went over the status of various Bills noting that Senator Drummond will push for the statewide hiring legislation for law enforcement. Chairman Graham noted that the Department will continue to enforce the current opposition to the Sunday hunting legislation but will not mount a major campaign on this matter pro or con. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department has too much legislation being filed and we need to limit our legislation to ten (10) Bills or so. He noted that we will look at ways to prioritize legislative recommendations and rethink the number of regulations that are filed in the Department.
4. Human Resources - There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.
5. Environmental - There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.

B. Deputy Directors

1. Administrative Services - There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries - Brock Conrad asked Tommy Strange to give a report on the past duck season and the mid-winter duck survey. Mr. Strange presented an in-depth report and distributed various pieces of information to the Board members as it related to these matters.
3. Natural Resources Enforcement - Mark Huguley went over the monthly report sent out in the packet noting that work is continuing on getting officers involved in fitness programs and a boating uniform will be completed this year. He noted that the 800MHz system will make changes on point-to-point operations to save funds and we will be doing training on enforcement officers being involved on archaeological sites for the Department. He also noted that at SLED he had coordinated a Chaplin's program and this is being implemented in the Department at this time. He further noted that a

volunteer nurse will come to the Department to work on Project Readiness and health related matters. Ms. Waring asked about the status of a proposed boat operator's license and Alvin Taylor gave an update on legislation that is being proposed concerning a boat operator's license and related items at this time.

4. Conservation Education & Communication - Don Winslow gave a report on the Junior Duck Stamp Contest noting that there were three top winners in the K-12 area and these winners as well as entries will be on display at the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition.
5. Marine Resources - Paul Sandifer reported that the 1995 commercial shrimp catch was the highest on record since 1972 and he provided an update on the 1996 shrimp crop. He noted that a \$25,000 award for minority students was recently approved the National Science Foundation.
6. Water Resources - Freddy Vang passed out the Savannah River Plant Study and the Edisto River Basin Study document. Mr. Vang noted that we will have higher than average hurricanes this year and a total of ten is predicted. He further noted that David Smith is leaving the agency to attend seminary and a state climatologist is being recruited at this time.
7. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee noted that he had gained approval of a EPA grant for the Winyah Bay Focus Area as well as \$200,000 grant from NASA for remote sensing.

VII. Items for Board Action

- A. Proposed State Lake Regulations - Ross Self noted that the proposed rules and regulations for state lakes had been sent to the Board in their packet (copy attached to original Board minutes). Following discussion of these proposed regulations, the Board adopted a motion to approve the regulations as submitted.
- B. Status Report User Fees and Habitat Stamp - Brock Conrad distributed a memo from Tom Kohlsaas with some information regarding this matter and noted that this is still being worked on. Mr. Conrad stated that we may want to set up a committee of conservation organizations to further discuss this matter and that \$150,000 is needed for the development of a Wildlife Viewing Guide. Ms. Waring noted that we needed to continue to work on this with other groups and we need to look at a way to make this work so that we can charge a fee on Heritage Trust properties.

- C. Approval for Radio Frequencies - John Watford noted that approval for radio frequencies for Ed Boyles and Craig Patrick is being proposed for the Board's consideration. Following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve these as submitted and the Board further agreed that this should be turned over for administrative handling and he asked for an amendment to the policy at the next Board meeting to accomplish this task.

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Campbell Coxe went over the items discussed at the meeting and noted that an appointment would be proposed for discussion in Executive Session.
- B. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee noted that appointments would be proposed for consideration by the Board in Executive Session.

IX. Missions, Goals, & Strategic Planning

There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.

X. Policy Review

There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.

XI. Comments

Chairman Graham noted that Jackie Black had been appointed to the Natural Resources Enforcement Advisory Committee. Ms. Waring noted that the Ad Hoc Blue Crab Committee had met recently and the minutes of the meeting were distributed to the Board members and she went over the purpose and concerns of the blue crab industry. Brock Conrad noted that the Bill on the top sowing of wheat is being considered by the Legislature and that they have asked the Board for a compromise on this matter. Mr. Oxner noted that he had recently visited some of the Department's facilities that are in disrepair and he asked for a report on the progress of repairs to Department facilities.

XII. Executive Session

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

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 Joseph Stogsdill to fill an unexpired term as a conservation district commissioner.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Tom Eleazer to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee to fill the unexpired term of Kenny Williams.

XIII. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The Board agreed to hold its next Board meeting at 10:00 a.m., March 22, 1996, in the Columbia Office.

XIV. Adjournment

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