

**MINUTES
BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES**

**Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, South Carolina
Friday, February 24, 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, February 24, 1995, in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, South Carolina. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Chairman Marion Burnside presided at the meeting and other Board members present included: J. M. Pendarvis, George Vickery, Dr. Howard Poston, Tom Miller, Knox Haynsworth, and Jake Rasor. 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 Marion Burnside called the Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Meditation

The Board held a moment of silent meditation prior to the beginning of the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The Board adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the January 27, 1995, Board meeting and approve them as submitted.

IV. Presentations/Commendations

There were no presentations/commendations to be presented at this meeting.

V. Constituent Comments

Chairman Burnside noted that a proposed boat ramp at Bundrick Island at Lake Murray has been discussed and several people have asked to address the Board on this proposed project. Robbie Wilkins noted that he represented the Save the Sandy Beach Committee and he asked the Board to stop the process for this boat ramp. He noted that this proposal has not been done in the public light and he expressed the group's opposition to this proposed project at Bundrick Island. Charles Dooley noted that access is needed for everyone in the area and James Duke discussed the plans for this proposed project and the cost estimates with the Board. Melissa Bartlett noted that she represented Concerned Parents of the Lexington and Irmo Area and that they are concerned with the



safety of children as it relates to the proposed boat ramp. She noted that there are no provisions for fences or gates to protect children and she asked that the proposed project be redesigned to meet the safety needs for children. Randy Mahan, attorney for SCANA, noted that his company has dedicated this area for public use and they were continuing to work with the Department on this proposed project. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department will consider all aspects of this proposed project and will address the concerns raised by the people at this meeting and others.

VI. Director's Briefing

A. Executive Office

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman informed the Board that he attended the annual meeting of the National Wild Turkey Federation last week in Nashville and several speeches were given in support of hunting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he met in Washington this week with the Congressional Delegation and their staff to discuss a number of items. He noted that a freeze on new regulations is being proposed and efforts are being made to exempt migratory birds. Brock Conrad distributed some information regarding this matter. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Endangered Species Act is up for reauthorization and proposed revisions will be looked at based on science. He noted that serious cuts in the federal budget are being proposed and the Department is evaluating the budgets of the various federal agencies with which we work. He noted that there is concern on the proposed closure of the Walhalla Fish Hatchery and he asked Val Nash to go over the importance of this hatchery. Val Nash distributed some information on the Walhalla Fish Hatchery and presented a video on this facility. Dr. Timmerman recommended to the Board that the state make plans to take over the Walhalla Fish Hatchery under certain conditions as follows: the federal government totally funding this hatchery for three more years, with 80% funding from the federal government for the fourth year, and 40% funding from the federal government for the fifth year.

Jean Cureton discussed the legal requirements relating to the hatchery and the Cherokee Indians as presented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She noted that she did not find any legal standing for this to be a requirement in South Carolina and also the questions about ownership of the land when the hatchery closes were further discussed by Ms. Cureton. Following other discussion, the Board agreed to take this matter up for further discussion in Executive Session.



2. Legal - There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.
3. Legislative Affairs - Michael Thompson passed out a listing of the Congressional Staff to the Board for their information and noted that the budget will be debated in the House in two weeks.
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 - Benny Reeves noted that he had worked with the State Auditor's Office and staff to develop data on fish hatchery production and this information was distributed to the Board and discussed. Following discussion, Mr. Pendarvis asked the staff to include saltwater fish in this cost analysis so as to develop a cost for these fish that are produced at our Department's hatchery and production facilities.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries - John Frampton distributed some information on the regulation process and went over some background regarding this process with the Board. Brock Conrad distributed some proposed changes in the Wildlife Management Area Regulations and Tim Ivey discussed these briefly with the Board. Mr. Conrad noted that if the Board has any questions on these proposed changes to please let the staff know of any questions or concerns. Mr. Conrad noted that an update on the deer harvest will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.
3. Natural Resources Law Enforcement - Bill Chastain noted that the graduation for the new recruits will be on March 3, 1995.
4. Conservation Education & Communication - Don Winslow gave the Board an overview on the Junior Duck Stamp competition held recently and Beth Mason provided an update on the Women In Wildlife Program.
5. Marine Resources - John Miglarese informed the Board that the Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting had been changed from March 3 to March 10, 1995.



6. Water Resources - Freddy Vang discussed the climate forecast and went over the outlook for the weather from the input provided by the State Climatologist Office for the next few months.
7. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee distributed some information that is being recommended to the Board on the Stewardship Development Certification Program which he went over briefly. He noted that this item would be included on the agenda for action at the next Board meeting.

VII. Items for Board Action

- A. Proposed Heritage Trust Property Acquisitions - The Board delayed discussion of this matter until Executive Session.
- B. Proposed Management Plan For Otter Island - Tom Kohlsaas noted the proposed management plan for Otter Island had been mailed to the Board in their packets (copy attached to original Board minutes). Mr. Kohlsaas discussed this management plan and went over several questions on the plan with the Board. Mr. Miller noted that there were some questions on the impacts of hunting and that further review of this matter by the Board would be needed. Following other discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve the plan in concept pending the outcome of the further review of this plan and a poll taken by the Chairman to give final approval to the plan.

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Mr. Haynsworth noted the Committee had met recently and will recommend at the next Board meeting that dove season be left the same as last year, and also a recommendation on a Hardwood Management Policy will be presented to the Board. Mr. Haynsworth noted the Committee discussed deer hunting with dogs and this matter is currently being reviewed.
- B. Natural Resources Enforcement - Mr. Miller went over the minutes of the Committee meeting and noted the Committee had recommended some changes in H.3448 and Dr. Timmerman noted that these changes have been implemented. Mr. Miller noted the Committee had discussed the Deputy Enforcement Officers Program and changes approved by the Committee have been introduced in the Legislature.
- C. Heritage Trust - Tom Kohlsaas noted that there was nothing further to report to the Board from this recent meeting.
- D. Water Resources - Freddy Vang noted the Committee met on February 8, 1995 and he went over the minutes of the meeting.



IX. Missions, Goals, & Strategic Planning

There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

X. Policy Review

Caroline Agardy reported she is working on proposed changes in policies and this process continues to be developed.

XI. Comments

Mr. Vickery asked that on acquisitions in the future that maps be provided to the Board for them to look at so as to have better information regarding this matter. Dr. Poston noted that he has heard of various problems with the Boat Titling Program and that he gets a lot of complaints on this matter. Dr. Poston noted that we need to look at how to handle this and Chairman Burnside noted that some improvements could be made with changes in the law. Dr. Timmerman noted that he and staff will further review this matter to insure that we are meeting the needs of the public and the law.

XII. Executive Session

Mr. Pendarvis moved for the Board to hold an executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Board. Chairman Burnside announced that, at this time, the Board would hold an Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel 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 Conservation District Commissioners being appointed as recommended by the staff of the Land Resources and Conservation Districts Division (copy attached to original Board minutes).

The Board adopted a motion to approve the recommendations for Heritage Trust property acquisitions as recommended by staff (copy attached to original Board minutes). Mr. Pendarvis voted in the negative on this motion as he stated he did not agree with the attorney fees for these acquisitions and he felt that the Department should use its own staff for these acquisitions.

The Board adopted a motion to accept the staff recommendations on requesting a 5-year transition to state management due to the proposed closure of the Walhalla Fish Hatchery by working in conjunction with the South Carolina Congressional Delegation.



Mr. Miller read the following statement on behalf of the Board: "The South Carolina DNR Board supports the existing structure and mission of the South Carolina Migratory Waterfowl Committee and commends the Committee for its accomplishments in selecting art work and its selection of projects within the Dominion of Canada. The South Carolina Migratory Waterfowl Print and Stamp Programs are nationally recognized as among the best in the nation. The South Carolina DNR Board believes that these programs should be continued under the framework of existing legislation."

XIII. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

Chairman Burnside stated that the next Board meeting in Columbia at 10:00 on March 24, 1995.

XIV. Adjournment

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

