

MINUTES
BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, South Carolina
Thursday, May 16, 1996
11:00 am

The regular meeting of the Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was held at 11:00 a.m, Thursday, May 16, 1996 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 George Graham presided at the meeting and other Board members present included: Tom Miller, Ted Oxner, Mary Pope Waring, Marion Burnside, Joe Edens, 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 11:00 am, and welcomed everyone to 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

Chairman Graham noted that there would not be a written proposal at this meeting to the Board on the Harvest Information Program as discussed at the last Board meeting and the information on the Santee Coastal Reserve would be an item for discussion at the June Board meeting. Following this discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 1996, Board meeting as submitted.

IV. Presentations/Commendations

Chairman Graham read a Concurrent Resolution from the General Assembly congratulating Marion Burnside upon receipt of the Jefferson Award and presented this Concurrent Resolution to Mr. Burnside.

V. Constituency Comments

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

VI. Items for Board Action

- A. Proposed Exchange of Easements - Beaufort County - Steve Bennett went over a proposed easement swap at Victoria Bluff in the vicinity of the Victoria



Bluff Heritage Preserve. He noted that this information had been sent to the Board (copy attached to original Board minutes) and he went over this proposal with the Board. Following discussion, the Board approved the easement swap as submitted.

VI. Director's Briefings

A. Executive Office

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman commended Buford Mabry on his recent court case which was won regarding false arrest charges made against our Conservation Officers.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a memo on the accident history of an employee with a vehicle that was discussed at the last Board meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the budget is being considered in the General Assembly and the House version of the budget is more favorable to the Department. He distributed and went over a memo regarding the budget and noted that we will begin work on our budget request for the next year in the near future. Dr. Timmerman noted that Mr. Oxner has been named as the Chairman of the Board's Finance Committee and will serve on that Committee with Joe Edens and Marion Burnside.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the minutes from the recent staff meeting to the Board for their information and Billy McTeer discussed the proposed change in the law regarding the deer season.

Brock Conrad noted that he recently attended the Spring Director's Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He took a survey of the states as it relates to the top sowing of wheat and noted that 7 of the 16 states allow hunting on top sown wheat and 9 of the 16 states do not allow hunting on top sown wheat. He noted that the Department will be making comments on proposed regulations regarding this matter by June 20th. He further noted that only two states, Missouri and Kentucky, currently charge for their harvest information program, and that we will have a detailed report on this at the next meeting.

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



3. Legislative Affairs - Michael Thompson noted that we have had a successful legislative year and that the 1997 Legislative Proposal is being developed for the Board's consideration.
4. Human Resources - Caroline Agardy noted the Compensation and Disciplinary Policies have been sent out to the Board for their consideration. Following discussion on these policies, the Board approved the Disciplinary Policy as submitted and held over the Compensation Policy until the next Board meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he would like to add to the agenda a procedure for terminating employees as an item for policy discussion at the next Board meeting.

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

B. Deputy Directors

1. Administrative Services - Benny Reeves noted the Conference Committee is meeting on the budget and may finish this job in the near future. He stated that the 1997/98 budget request is being developed and will be presented to the Board for action in July. He further noted the State Audit for FY 95/96 is currently being conducted by the State Auditor's office.
2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
3. Natural Resources Enforcement - Mark Huguley reported that June 6th will begin the campaign for the Boating Safety Act. Dr. Timmerman noted the Boating Safety Act has passed with no funding mechanism and goes into effect in May of 1997. He noted that we will talk with the Department of Public Safety to see if the test can be administered at the same locations as driver's tests. Mr. Miller commented on the recent meeting with House members regarding comments made on some staff having their agenda and not emphasizing the Natural Resources Enforcement work. Discussion was also held regarding the personnel cost for the Division of Natural Resources Enforcement as it relates to the Olympics.
4. Conservation Education and Communications - Mike Willis went over the plans for the media ads that will be distributed in a CD format and other media related items and training being held in each division.



Ms. Waring asked about the possibility of having a space on our license to enable license purchasers to subscribe to the magazine. John Davis noted that this has been pursued internally in the past and Dr. Timmerman stated that he would get Linda Amick to respond on this matter at the next meeting.

5. Marine Resources - John Miglarese noted that shrimp season did not open on May 15 and sampling will continue and the season will probably open the first part of June. He noted that the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Tournament news coverage has gone well so far this year for this event. Mr. Miglarese further noted that the Harry Hampton Marine Conservation Banquet will be held on August 9, 1996.
6. Water Resources - Freddy Vang discussed the background of the two candidates for the State Climatologist position, noted that funds for the Pee Dee Water Study had been approved, and distributed a copy of the South Carolina River News.
7. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee noted that he is following the Farm Bill closely and will be working on this in the Department. Ms. Waring commended the Land Resources' staff work in Berkeley County and would like to present this information to the Board at some time in the future.

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. Marine Recreational Fisheries - Ms. Waring noted this Committee met on May 9, 1996, and she went over the items discussed at this meeting. She noted that the Committee expressed an interest in increasing the license fees for saltwater fishing and also reducing the number of exemptions for this license.
- B. Marine Resource - Ms. Waring noted this Committee met on May 10, 1996. She commended the staff who worked on the Marine Recreational Fishing Fair which was attended by approximately 5,000 people. She went over the other items discussed at the meeting and noted that a public hearing on TED's will be held by the National Marine Fisheries Service on May 23, 1996.
- C. Natural Resources Enforcement - Mr. Miller noted the Committee met on May 8, 1996, and he went over the items discussed at this meeting. Mr. Miller noted that the canine and equestrian programs for the law enforcement area were discussed with the Committee. Mr. Miller further noted that the Committee adopted a motion to oppose proposed legislation regarding the sale of venison.



IX. Missions, Goals, & Strategic Planning

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

X. Policy Review

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

XI. Comments

Chairman Graham noted that the Chairmen of the Land Resources and Water Resources Committees are encouraged to attend the Board meetings and present their reports in the future.

Ms. Waring noted that the Department's Strategic Plan is due to be completed by the end of June and she noted if priorities in the budget can be tied to the Strategic Plan. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will meet on June 19th to go the Strategic Plan and that further information on program priorities will be developed in the Department. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Strategic Plan would be presented to the Board for their consideration at the July Board meeting. Ms. Waring noted that we need to make sure that all funds that are requested meet the Mission and the Strategic Plan.

XII. Executive Session

Mr. Miller moved for the Board to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Mr. Cox 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 personnel and legal matters.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Chairman Graham noted that there were no items for action that needed to be considered at this time.

XIII. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting at 10:00 am on Friday, June 21, 1996 in Columbia and to hold the July meeting on Friday, July 19, 1996 at Edisto Island Town Hall.



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IV. Adjournment

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

