

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

1201 Main Street, Suite 1100
Water Resources Division Conference Room
Columbia, SC
Friday, November 15, 1996
10:00 am

The regular meeting of the Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was held at 10:00 a.m, Friday, November 15, 1996, at 1201 Main Street, Suite 1100, Water Resources Division Conference Room, 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: Mary Pope Waring, Marion Burnside, Campbell Coxe and Corky Lee. 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 everyone to the meeting. Dr. Graham introduced Edward C. "Corky" Lee to everyone as the new DNR Board member and welcomed Mr. Lee to the Board.

II. Meditation

The Board held a moment of silent meditation prior to the beginning of the meeting and Dr. Graham asked everyone to remember Mr. Oxner in their prayers because of his recent surgery.

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The Board adopted a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 1996, Board meeting as submitted.

IV. Presentations/Commendations

Dr. Graham called on Val Nash to present several plaques for the Sportfishing Loaner Program. Mr. Nash introduced Mike Nussman, Vice President of Governmental Affairs of the American Sportfishing Association; Mark Davis, Director of Public Relations for Shakespeare; and Mike Bale, Vice President and General Manager of Silstar Corporation. Mr. Nash gave a brief description of the Sportfishing Loaner Program and thanked these corporations for their support. Mr. Nash, along with Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Graham and Grace Young of PRT, presented a plaque to these organizations as a way of saying thank you for their support in this program.

V. Constituency Comments

Paul Sandifer discussed a partnership that has developed between the SCDNR, US Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He introduced Mr. Glen Stapleton, District Manager for Francis Marion National Forest, and Larry Klimek, Assistant Refuge Manager of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, James Duke and Ed Duncan of SCDNR. Dr. Sandifer stated the partnership will focus on enhancing existing boating access facilities in the Awendaw/Bulls Bay area. He stated the DNR will provide technical guidance and enforcement assistance and some funding to aid in improving boating access in this area. Improvements for the Buck Hall facility, Moore's Landing and McConnell's Boat Landing on the Santee River in the Francis Marion National Forest were discussed. Mr. Stapleton stated that the proposed improvements will help resolve the boating access issues in the Francis Marion and Cape Romain areas and they were looking forward to working on these projects. Mr. Klimek stated they were also looking forward to working with the SCDNR on these improvements.

VI. Items for Board Action

- A. Lake Long Committee Report and Recommendations - Mac Watson gave a presentation of the seven recommendations (copy attached to the original Board minutes) reported out of the committee set up to study ways of improving the agency's operations of the Lake John D. Long project in Union County. After a thorough discussion, the DNR Board approved the report and adopted the recommendations in concept but agreed to continue to explore more options of places to move the monuments that are on Lake Long. Brock Conrad stated that Board action was needed on the time change recommendation because it would be necessary to make this change by regulation and this action would need Board approval as well as the County Delegation approval. The recommended times of operation would be:

April 1- October 31 - 6:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

November 1 - May 30 - 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Burnside made the motion that the Board accept the recommended time change, Mr. Coxe seconded, and the motion was approved.

- B. 1997 Turkey Survey & Proposed Addition to Spring Turkey Season - Dave Baumann gave a report on the 1996 Turkey Survey and the proposed additions to the 1997 Spring turkey season. The recommendations included opening remaining portions of Cherokee, Spartanburg and Darlington counties for the 1997 Spring turkey season and allowing wild turkey hunting on Dillon County WMA lands in the portion of the county already open (copy attached to original Board minutes). After a brief discussion, a motion was made and approved to accept the recommendations as presented.

Plant Management section; and Jim Scurry discussed the GIS system. A draft copy of the State Water Plan was distributed for the Board's information.

Executive Session

Mr. Miller moved for the Board to hold an Executive Session to discuss a property matter for Heritage Trust at this time. Ms. Waring 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 a property matter for Heritage Trust.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. **Marine Resources** - Ms. Waring reported that the Marine Resources Advisory Committee had met and that Wayne Waltz gave a presentation on the Spotted Sea Trout fishery with three recommendations: (1) to develop a winter kill strategy to protect surviving spawners by closing the season and reducing the bag limit to 0; (2) to reduce the bag limit from 15 to 10 and increase the size limit from 12 inches to 13 inches; and (3) to provide that the DNR, by legislation, receive rule making authority to adjust bag and size limits within certain priority species. She stated the Committee would move forward to take up these recommendations in January. Secondly, David Cupka reported on the Chapter 5 rewrite, and this will be discussed further at the January meeting. The SC Shrimpers Association attended the meeting and voiced interest in pursuing a moratorium on shrimp trawling in South Carolina and, after discussions, has agreed to work with staff on taking a deliberate approach. She also stated that Sgt. Knight reported that the marine patrol was under the supervision of Maj. Taylor.
- B. **Marine Recreational Fisheries** - Paul Sandifer reported that Peter Dodds was elected as Chairman and Marion "Spike" Simmons was elected as Vice Chairman. Ms. Waring reported that the Committee had voted to fund \$5,000 to Dr. Webb Smathers for his study of the fin fish values, and \$12,000 will be placed in a contingency reserve fund. She reported that print sales have gone down and they are looking at ways to increase these sales. John Miglarese reported that the shrimp baiting season ended and channel net season opened.

- C. Proposed Changes in Chapter 11, Title 50 - Brock Conrad stated some members of the General Assembly had requested that the Department investigate the possibility of reducing the number of games zones and stated that several staff members have been working on this project. Derrell Shipes and Charles Ruth gave an in-depth report on the recommendations. Mr. Shipes stated that this report reduced the number of game zones from 11 to 4. Dr. Timmerman stated that it appeared the General Assembly is going to reduce the number of game zones and is giving the DNR an opportunity to make recommendations on this matter. (Copy of report and recommendations attached to original Board minutes). First, staff recommended a new deer season for new game zones 3 and 4 of September 1 through January 1. Next, Mr. Ruth stated the most controversial recommendation would probably be amending Section 50-11-390 to state the DNR would have authority to set antlerless deer harvest between September 15 to January 1. This recommendation is based on biological reasons as well as a study done throughout the southeastern states. He stated they also recommended the repeal of Section 50-11-310 and to set deer season for new game zones 1 and 2 in statute as included in Board information. Also, they were recommending the adoption of using paper/vinyl type tags for doe tags instead of metal for a large cost and storage space savings. The paper/vinyl tags would be environmentally sound. Ms. Waring questioned whether input from the public had been received. Mr. Shipes stated that since the General Assembly had requested this project, they felt it proper to come before the Board to obtain their approval in concept before presenting the recommendations to the General Assembly and holding public hearings.

After a thorough discussion, Dr. Graham requested that they take each point in the recommendation and decide on approval or not. On the proposed game zone configuration recommendation, there were no changes or objections. On the statewide seasons, there were no changes or objections except there was a question concerning having to have a license for hunting coyote. In reference to the seasons within the game zones for deer, raccoon/possum, turkey and ruffed grouse, Ms. Waring disagreed with the September 1 date and requested that the DNR get public input in this matter. The Board approved in concept the recommendations as presented to them.

VII. Information on State Water Plan

Freddy Vang thanked the Board for holding their meeting at the Water Resources Division and introduced four staff members who would be making presentations to the Board. Rod Cherry discussed the State Water Plan; Dr. Mike Helfert, State Climatologist, discussed the functions of the State Climatologist office; Steve deKozlowski discussed the Aquatic

- C. Natural Resources Enforcement - Col. Mark Huguley stated that the Committee had met at Hobcaw Plantation. He reported that the Committee had received a report on restitution and had taken a vote on this matter, and would be providing the Board with a report at their next meeting.
- D. Heritage Trust - Tom Kohlsaas reported that the Board had approved funding for three projects, an island in Beaufort County, an archaeological site in Richland County and the Woodbury Tract in Marion County. Mr. Kohlsaas noted that Dr. Timmerman would give a report on the Duke Power press conference later in the meeting. Dr. Graham appointed Mr. Corky Lee to serve as the Board's representative on the Heritage Trust Advisory Board.

IX. Director's Briefings

A. Executive Office

- 1. Director - Dr. Timmerman welcomed Corky Lee to the Board and stated he was looking forward to working with him, and stated that he and Mr. Reeves would be happy to go over the budget adopted by the Board and presented to the Governor's Office for our agency.

Dr. Timmerman reported on the press conference held on November 13, 1996, at Lake Jocassee to announce the purchase of the first 1,000 acres of property in the Duke Power/Crescent Resources project. He stated that acquiring this property is a real legacy for the DNR and he is working diligently to secure the monies to purchase the remaining acres of this property.

Dr. Timmerman stated that the Governor's Office is again encouraging agencies to participate in the "Families Helping Families" Program and that Carole Collins would be coordinating this project. Ms. Collins noted the SCDNR would receive nine families to help this year and she would be providing detailed information at a later date.

Dr. Timmerman passed out information on ballot initiatives from across the country and the action taken on these initiatives in various states.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Board had received a copy of the various vacancies on the agency's advisory boards and committees and encouraged getting these filled before the first of the year.

2. Deputy Director's Committee - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
3. Legal - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
4. Legislative Affairs - Michael Thompson reported that he was working with the deputy directors to obtain sponsors for our legislative bills for the coming year.
5. Human Resources - Caroline Agardy reported that the SCDNR Human Resources Office had received the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' "Diversity in Natural Resources Award" at their meeting last month. She gave a presentation of the meaning of diversity within our agency.
6. Environmental - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

B. Deputy Directors

1. Conservation Education and Communications - John Davis noted that he had distributed a copy of the November/December *SC Wildlife Magazine* to the Board along with a flyer on the items in the gift shop for the magazine.
2. Marine Resources - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
3. Water Resources - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
4. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee noted that they had held a very fruitful meeting with DHEC to discuss water quality issues. He reported that the State Conference of the Soil Conservation Districts would be held in Charleston on January 2-4, 1997 and invited the Board members to attend.
5. Administrative Services - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
6. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Brock Conrad introduced Sam Chappellear, Wildlife Biologist at the Dennis Center, who gave a presentation on the CAWS Basin Focus Area (formerly known as the Cooper River Focus Area)
7. Natural Resources Enforcement - Col. Mark Huguley discussed a proposal for the legislative package that would allow DNR officers to take a photograph of fish and wildlife to use as evidence instead of trying to preserve the actual game. He requested permission to substitute this proposal for one of the Natural Resources Enforcement Division's proposals in the legislative package as approved by the Board. Dr. Timmerman stated that if there were no adverse comments, we would make this substitution.

Col. Huguley gave a brief report on the Boating Safety Act, and stated that he was working with the Department of Public Safety to seek their cooperation in administering the test for the Home Study Course. He stated that seven positions have been filled and gave a profile of the selected individuals. Col. Huguley stated that District 9 is now referred to as the "Marine Patrol District" to emphasize that they focus on saltwater and marine violations.

X. Missions, Goals, & Strategic Planning

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

XI. Policy Review

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

XII. Comments

There were no further comments from the Board members at this time.

XIII. Executive Session

Mr. Burnside moved for the Board to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel, legal and property matters. Mr. Coxe 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, legal and property matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Mr. Burnside made the motion that Ms. Nancy Gentry McConnon be appointed as a Conservation District Commissioner. Mr. Coxe seconded and the motion passed.

Mr. Burnside made the motion that the Department grant SCE&G a right-of-way for a power line on Nipper Creek and that staff is directed to work with SCE&G on the details of the easement to protect the interests of the state. Mr. Coxe seconded and the motion passed.

Mr. Burnside made the motion that pursuant to the provisions of Section 50-17-630, the areas described in Section 50-17-618, subsections (1) and (4) be permanently closed to trawling at all times. Ms. Waring seconded and the motion passed.

Dr. Graham made the following statement of policy relative to the Santee Coastal Reserve on behalf of the SCDNR Board and the Department:

SANTEE COASTAL RESERVE STATEMENT

The SCDNR is legally bound by the terms and conditions of the deed from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) which transferred the Santee Coastal Reserve property to State ownership in 1974. That deed required that the SCDNR maintain the Santee Coastal Reserve as a Waterfowl Management Area. That deed also required that the SCDNR honor a commitment made by TNC to the Collins Creek Gun Club for exclusive use of the property under a lease and license for a term of twenty-five years ending in July 1999. **When the current lease and license agreement ends, there will be no extension or renewal of that agreement.** Existing public use of the Santee Coastal Reserve will continue and be expanded, specifically to include public hunting of waterfowl.

As with any major operation, funding is always a serious question. The previously mentioned lease and license agreement has provided a significant source of revenue for the management and maintenance of the property. Recently, members of the South Carolina Sportsmen's Coalition, Ducks Unlimited, South Carolina Waterfowl Association, and the Five Rivers Coalition have volunteered to help the SCDNR seek sources of funding to continue operation of the Santee Coastal Reserve. Because the Board anticipates broader utilization of the property beginning in 1999, it must also anticipate an increase in operating costs. This Board will work closely with constituency groups, the Governor's office, the General Assembly, and other government agencies to explore all possible sources of funding so that the SCDNR can continue its legal obligation to protect and maintain the natural resources of the Santee Coastal Reserve.

Dr. Graham noted that this was the Board's current position and that a news release will be forthcoming on this matter.

XIV. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

Dr. Graham noted that there would no regular meeting in December. He stated that Chairman David Cline of the Hampton Board had invited the DNR Board to meet in Myrtle Beach in conjunction with the Myrtle Beach Wildlife Exposition in January. It was noted

that the DNR Board would meet in the morning of January 17, 1997, in Myrtle Beach; on February 13th in the afternoon in Charleston in conjunction with the Southeastern Expo, and on March 21st in Columbia at the Land Resources Division in conjunction with the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic.

XV. Adjournment

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