

## MINUTES

### SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building  
Columbia, S. C.  
September 20, 1991  
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., on Friday, September 20, 1991, in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., with Chairman Burnside presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Burnside, Compton, Pendarvis, Owen, Miller, Poston, Graham and Snow. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain, Sonny Baines, Paul Sandifer and various other staff members and guests.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the August 9, 1991 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

#### ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman discussed the Department's budget, noting that if we continue like we have been, it looks like we can get through the year without any reduction in force in personnel. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have made major cuts in our equipment budget and this concern is being expressed to everyone involved. He also noted that he is currently concerned over the revenue being down at this time, but this will be watched very closely to see whether or not this trend continues.

Dr. Timmerman discussed the Governor's Reorganization Committee Report, noting that the draft report had placed the Law Enforcement Program under the Department of Public Safety. Dr. Timmerman noted that with the help of Senator Drummond, Law Enforcement has been placed back into the Department in the final report and a copy of the final report was distributed to the Commission for their information. Dr. Timmerman noted that he recently was in Washington for a meeting with the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and \$2.2-million has been approved for the Cheehaw-Combahee Project.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that at 6:00 p.m. on October 10, 1991, there would be a dedication of the educational facility at the Webb Wildlife Center and he invited the Commissioners to attend this event.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the General Assembly has been called back by the Governor next week and the Department is seeking passage of the bond bill and he went over the various items which are being sought by the Department in the Bond Bill.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had some contractual and personnel matters which need to be discussed in Executive Session.

ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins went over the material that has been sent to the Commission on the bond bill and noted that some major efforts are under way to seek the passage of this legislation. Mr. Dobbins noted that the Draft 1991 Legislative Proposal has been sent to the Commission and that he would ask the Commission for their action on this proposal at the October Commission Meeting.

ITEM VI - APPEARANCE - Bob Bailey (S. C. Sportsmen's Coalition):

Mr. Bob Bailey of the S. C. Sportsmen's Coalition was introduced and he went over the organization of this group and its purpose. Mr. Bailey noted the goals of the group have been sent out and he gave a detailed status report of their efforts in getting organized to date. He noted that there are forty (40) corporate sponsors and over 300 members that have joined as of this time. Mr. Bailey discussed the various activities of their organization and noted the various plans they will undertake as it relates to the anti-hunting movement in this state. Dr. Timmerman noted that we need to look at ways to tie the efforts of this organization into the Sportsmen's Alliance which is a national organization with similar purposes and goals. John Frampton and Tim Ivey went over the dove protest held recently at the Columbia Office and at one of the adult-child dove hunts. Tapes were shown of these protests and newspaper articles relating to these protests were distributed to the Commission for their information.

ITEM V - NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of 1991 Fall Turkey Season: John Frampton noted that a proposal was sent to the Commission with the background data regarding the 1991 Fall Turkey Season. He noted that based on the data, that a Fall Turkey Season is not recommended in South Carolina during 1991 (copy of data attached to original

Commission Minutes). This matter was discussed with the Commission and following discussion, the Commission approved a motion to adopt the staff recommendation that a Fall Turkey Season not be held in South Carolina during 1991.

**B. Fish Kill Reports - Fishing Creek & Coneross Creek:** Joe Logan noted that these fish kill reports are being prepared and reported to the Commission in accordance with our Memorandum of Agreement with the S. C. Department of Health & Environmental Control. The Commission deferred action on these fish kill reports until Executive Session.

**C. Proposed Property Acquisitions:** Since these involve contractual matters, the Commission deferred action on these proposed property acquisitions until Executive Session.

**D. Division Reports:**

**1. Administrative Services:** Benny Reeves noted that the final audit report has been completed and sent to the Commissioners.

**2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries:** There was nothing further to report.

**3. Law Enforcement & Boating:** Bill Chastain reminded the Commissioners of the Awards Luncheon at 1:00 p.m. this afternoon. Bill Chastain noted that officers have assisted on illegal importation cases in Montana and Ohio and an article was recently in National Geographic concerning Operation Fox Trot.

**4. Conservation Education & Communications:** Commissioner George Graham noted that the Board which he chairs, is working with the staff on the Education Committee and Publications Committee Reports which are being headed up by Larry Cartee.

**5. Marine Resources:** Paul Sandifer introduced Fred Holland to the Commission as the new Director of the Marine Resources Research Institute.

Dr. Sandifer also informed the Commission of a recent problem with phosphorous in the Ashley River as it related to shrimp baiting.

**E. Advisory Board Reports:**

**1. Law Enforcement & Boating:** Commissioner Miller noted that the Board met on September 13, 1991 and went on a tour to get a firsthand view of shrimp baiting activities. Commissioner Miller went over the various items discussed at the Board Meeting.

Commissioner Miller noted that the officers in District 9 had done a commendable job with shrimp baiting and the Commission adopted a motion to commend the District 9 officers for their efforts on shrimp baiting.

2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the federal government has changed the regulations on TEDs and the state has followed to make the same changes as previously approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board approved a motion to recommend that the Commission send a letter to the Corps of Engineers that asked for the discontinued use of hopper dredges until winter time. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation as submitted.

3. Conservation Education & Communications: This report was previously given during the meeting.

F. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside announced that at this time, the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and contractual matters.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting.

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the report and appraisal for the loss of fisheries in Wildcat Creek and Fishing Creek in York County (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the eight (8) tracts as presented by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board for purchase (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the new position of Major in Law Enforcement at Grade Level 46.

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The Commission adopted a motion to approve the Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer appointments to include Douglas Bracken with DWCO authority in Districts 1 and 2 and Van B. Yonce for statewide authority which is a change.

G. Appointments: This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia at 10:00 a.m., on October 18, 1991.

ITEM VI - ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was adopted to adjourn the meeting.



Equal Opportunity Agency

*South Carolina  
Wildlife & Marine  
Resources Department*

James A. Timmerman, Jr., Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
W. Brock Conrad, Jr.  
Director of  
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 12, 1991  
TO: S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
FROM: BROCK CONRAD  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS

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The Heritage Trust Advisory Board has approved funding for eight different property acquisitions that are expected to be completed soon. Approval from the Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission is required before these properties can be purchased. The acquisitions include two additions to existing heritage preserves and six new heritage preserves.

The proposed purchases include:

1. A 3700-acre tract along the Little Pee Dee River in Marion County
2. A 2800-acre tract of land bordering the Great Pee Dee River in Darlington County
3. Four coastal islands at the southern end of Colleton County
4. A 475-acre tract bordering Black Creek in Darlington County
5. A 3.5-acre parcel adjacent to Savage Bay Heritage Preserve in Kershaw County
6. A 2.3-acre addition to Savage Bay Heritage Preserve in Kershaw County
7. A 269-acre tract along the Little Pee Dee River in Marion County
8. A 300-acre Carolina bay tract adjacent to Little Pee Dee River State Park.

A brief description of each of these purchases, with budget information, is attached.

These proposals will be discussed in greater detail at the September Commission meeting. Maps showing the exact location of these properties will be presented at that time. Since these proposals involve future purchases of property, it is recommended

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that they be discussed in Executive Session. Also I ask that you please keep this information confidential. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Thank you.

cc/Tom Kohlsaas  
Stuart Greeter

## PROJECT PROPOSAL

### LITTLE PEE DEE RIVER ADDITION II (VAUGHN)

#### I. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to purchase approximately 3700 acres of property along the Little Pee Dee River in Horry County. The property is significant because it is likely to harbor an endangered plant species and because the purchase protects eight miles of river frontage along this scenic river. The proposed purchase price is \$250 per acre, which is estimated to be approximately 55% of fair market value. The total property cost is \$925,000. The source of funds is the Heritage Land Trust Fund.

#### II. Costs

<u>Action</u>	<u>Cost/Acre</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Land purchase	\$250	3,700	\$925,000 (FMV = \$1,660,000)
Appraisal			8,000
Environmental assessment			4,000
Survey			30,000
Legal fees/ title insurance			5,000
Access facilities			<u>10,000</u>
			<b>TOTAL \$ 982,000</b>

#### III. Significance

This Little Pee Dee River Addition provides habitat for the endangered Sarvis holly (*Ilex amelanchar*) and protects the scenic corridor along the Little Pee Dee River. The 3,700 acre tract includes at least eight miles of frontage along the river. The property is a good example of a black water river system and includes cypress-gum swamps, bottomland hardwood forests, and fluvial sand ridges as predominant natural communities. This land lies near the North end of the Little Pee Dee River, is elongated in shape, and parallels the river. Thus a significant portion of river frontage can be protected fairly efficiently.

Stuart Greeter  
2/8/91  
(updated:  
David E. Koon  
5/6/91)



Project Proposal  
(Great Pee Dee-McCall Tract, Darlington Co.)

I. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to purchase a tract of land totalling approximately 2800 acres. The land is currently owned by The Conservation Fund, who has offered to sell it to the Department at a price well below fair market value. Acquisition of this property, known as the McCall tract, will help protect one of the large area tracts identified for protection in the inner coastal plain of South Carolina. This would include protection of four species ranked as S-2 (State Threatened). The source of funds is the Heritage Land Trust Fund.

II. Costs

	<u>Cost/Acre</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Total</u>
Actual Property Cost	\$257	2,800	\$720,000
Market Value	\$518	2,800	\$1,450,000
<u>Other Costs</u>			
Appraisal	10,000		
Survey	20,000		
Environmental Assessment	6,000		
Legal Fees	6,000		
Access Facilities	<u>10,000</u>		
Total	\$52,000		
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	<u>\$772,000</u>		

III. Significance

The McCall tract was acquired by the Conservation Fund from Kimberly-Clark Corporation. The land is near the center of an area identified as a priority large area project. Acquiring this tract would be important in helping to protect this area,

which provides habitat for four species designated as State Threatened. These are enchanter's nightshade (Circaea lutetiana canadensis), the skullcap Scutellaria parvula, and also Arabis missouriensis and Draba reptans.

In addition, there are stands of bottomland hardwoods and over seven miles of river frontage. This property is an excellent opportunity for protection, especially since it can be acquired for less than half of its market value.

Leighton McLendon  
5/9/91

**ASHE BEET, WARREN AND BIG ISLANDS**

**I. Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to protect four different coastal islands as Heritage Preserves. This will be accomplished by utilizing Heritage Land Trust Funds (HLTF) to pay for appraisals, environmental assessments, surveys and legal fees. Some of the islands will be donated and some will be purchased at fair market value. Funding to pay for the purchased portion of this project is expected to come from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) as provided under Section 315 of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act. Thus a total of 4,090 acres of land, valued at approximately \$1,583,000, will be protected as a Heritage Preserve by providing \$22,000 in Heritage Land Trust Funds.

**II. Cost**

<u>Property Name</u>	<u>Marsh</u>	<u>Upland</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Ashe Island	100	64	164	\$ 63,000	\$ 63,000
Beet Island	1385	300	1685	568,000	568,000
Warren Island	1390	246	1636	504,000	-0-
Big Island	<u>265</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>448,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>
	3140	950	4090	\$1,583,000	\$631,000

(Donated Value = \$903,000)  
(Actual = \$680,000)

**Other Costs**

Appraisal	\$12,000
Environmental Assessments	6,000
Survey	-0-
Legal Fees	<u>4,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$702,000 (\$22,000 from HLTF)**

**III. Significance**

Ashe, Beet, Warren and Big Islands lie at the southern tip of the 144,000 ACE Basin Large Area Protection Project. They are significant because they contain a diverse assemblage of outer coastal plain and barrier island natural communities. They are isolated, pollution free, undeveloped, and protected by open water boundaries. As such, they can provide unmatched opportunities for research and education. These islands will hopefully be further buffered by additional properties that will be protected under the ACE Basin Project. They are also complimented by the nearby Bear Island Wildlife Management Area, which covers approximately 12,000 acres.

Stuart Greeter  
8-12-91

## PROJECT PROPOSAL

### BLACK CREEK

#### I. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to acquire approximately 475 acres, which is composed of five different parcels owned by four different owners. The property is located in central Darlington County, adjacent to Black Creek and the city of Hartsville. The Black Creek-Hartsville site has been offered as a donation from these four conservation-minded landowners. As a Heritage Preserve, the property would be permanently protected as a significant natural area and be available to the public for outdoor recreation. A recreational facility, owned and operated by Sonoco Inc., is located within the tract, but will not be included in the acquisition. It may, however, be used as an access point for people who wish to canoe Black Creek. This property can become a Heritage Preserve with no costs to the S. C. Heritage Trust except related land acquisition expenses. Heritage Land Trust Funds (HLTF) will be utilized to pay for an appraisal, environmental assessment, survey, legal fees, and other acquisition expenses.

#### II. Cost

<u>Acquisition</u>	<u>Cost/Acre</u>	<u>Total Acreage</u> (approx.)	<u>Total Cost</u>
Black Creek Property	\$ -0-	475	\$ -0-
<u>Other Costs</u>			
Appraisal			\$ 8,000
Environmental Assessment			8,000
Survey			16,000
Legal Fees			5,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST:			<u>\$ 37,000</u>

#### III. Significance

The stretch of Black Creek encompassed by the project is very scenic as well as ecologically significant. The site supports good examples of several natural communities, two of which, Atlantic white cedar bog and pine-scrub oak sandhill are of concern to the SC Heritage Trust Program due to their rarity. Several significant plant species are resident on this site, including longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*), Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), pond pine (*Pinus serotina*), and a sneezeweed (*Helenium pinnatifidum*).

David E. Koon 4/22/91

SAVAGE BAY ADDITION (MCPHATTER)

I. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to purchase approximately 3.5 acres of land adjoining the eastern boundary of the Savage Bay Heritage Preserve in Kershaw County. The property would be an addition to the existing preserve and would serve as buffer for the core of the preserve, which contains two Carolina bays. The source of funding is the Heritage Land Trust Fund and the property is to be purchased from a private landowner.

II. Cost

<u>Cost/Acre</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
\$4,000	3.5	\$ 14,000

Other Costs

Appraisal	\$ 1,500
Survey	1,500
Legal Fees	500
Environmental Assessment	<u>1,500</u>

TOTAL \$ 5,000

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$19,000

III. Significance

More than 90% of all Carolina bays in the state have been destroyed as naturally functioning ecosystems. Of the 36 least disturbed bays selected by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board for protection, Savage Bay ranks 22nd.

The two bays located on this preserve have been protected through acquisition, however the adjacent property is threatened by residential development. This proposed purchase and possible future acquisitions will provide badly needed buffer from residential encroachment and associated problems. Problems we have experienced to date at Savage Bay include trash dumping, motorized off-road vehicle damage, and vandalism of signs and bird nesting boxes. This proposed addition and future additions are needed to facilitate prescribed burns which are essential to maintain the surrounding fire-dependent longleaf pine community. This particular addition also contains the road that is currently used for access to the property.

Jeff McLemore  
3/26/91

SAVAGE BAY ADDITION (TRIVETT)

I. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to purchase approximately 2.3 acres of land adjoining the eastern boundary of Savage Bay Heritage Preserve in Kershaw County. The property would be an addition to the existing preserve and would serve as buffer for the core of the preserve, which contains two Carolina bays. The source of funding is the Heritage Land Trust Fund and the property is to be purchased from a private landowner.

II. Cost

<u>Cost/Acre</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
\$4,000	2.3	\$9,500

Other Costs

Appraisal	\$ 1,300
Survey	1,300
Legal fees	500
Environmental Assessment	<u>1,300</u>

TOTAL \$ 4,500

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$14,000**

III. Significance

More than 90% of all Carolina bays in the state have been destroyed as natural functioning ecosystems. Of the 36 least disturbed bays selected by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board for protection, Savage Bay ranks 22nd.

The two bays located on this preserve have been protected through acquisition, however the immediately surrounding property is threatened by residential development. This proposed purchase and possible future acquisitions will provide badly needed buffer from residential encroachment and problems associated with it such as motorized 4-wheelers, motor bikes, sand robbing, trash dumping, and pesticide and herbicide use on adjacent home sites. Already there are problems here including motor bikes, motorized 4-wheelers, trash dumping, and vandalism to preserve signs and bird nesting boxes. This proposed addition and future additions are also needed to facilitate prescribed burns which are essential for maintaining the natural character of the surrounding fire-dependent longleaf pine community.

Jeff McLemore  
12/13/90

## Little Pee Dee River Addition

### I. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to purchase a total of 269 acres of property along the Little Pee Dee River. The property is significant because it is likely to contain an endangered plant species and because the purchase helps to protect a scenic corridor along the river. We propose purchasing this property at 67% of fair market value for a total property cost of \$94,000. The total project cost is estimated to be \$104,000. The source of funds is the Heritage Land Trust Fund.

II. <u>Costs</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Land Purchase	269	\$ 94,000 (FMV = \$141,000)
Appraisal		2,000
Environmental Assessment		2,000
Legal		1,000
Survey		<u>5,000</u>
	TOTAL	\$104,000

### III. Significance

The Little Pee Dee River Addition provides habitat for the endangered Sarvis holly (Ilex amelanchier) and protects the scenic corridor along the Little Pee Dee River. This 269 acre tract includes slightly less than two miles of frontage along the river. The property is a good example of a black water river system and includes cypress-gum swamps and bottomland hardwood forests as predominant natural communities. This land lies between the existing Tilghman and Dargan Heritage Preserves and is another piece in the puzzle needed to connect these two preserves. Three or four additional purchases here would result an almost continuous 16 miles of frontage protected on the west side of the river.

Stuart Greeter  
8-12-91



PROJECT PROPOSAL

LITTLE PEE DEE STATE PARK BAY

I. Proposed Action

The Little Pee Dee State Park Bay site is a 300 acre tract (parcel #1) adjacent to Little Pee Dee State Park in Dillon County. The proposed action is to purchase this property at fair market value from the Georgia-Pacific Corporation for \$350 per acre or \$105,000. The S. C. Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism will provide funding (Land & Water Conservation Fund) in the amount of \$52,000. Heritage Land Trust Funds (HLTF) will be utilized to pay for the balance of the property cost as well as an appraisal, environmental assessment, survey; legal fees, and other purchase costs. This property will then be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and become part of an existing State Park with PRT designated as the manager. As a Heritage Preserve, the property would be permanently protected as a significant and unique natural area and be available to the public for outdoor recreation.

II. Cost

<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Cost/Acre</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
#1	\$ 350.00	300	\$ 52,000 (PRT LWCF) 53,000 (HLTF) <hr/> \$ 105,000
<u>Other Costs</u>			
Appraisal			\$ 2,500
Environmental Assessment			3,500
Survey			8,000
Legal Fees			2,000
			<hr/> 16,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST:			<hr/> \$ 121,000

III. Significance

Little Pee Dee State Park Bay was approved as a priority protection project by the S. C. Heritage Trust Advisory Board in November of 1986. This tract contains a natural, undisturbed Carolina Bay that ranks as number 21 out of the best 36 Carolina Bays selected for protection. The resident bay forest contains several characteristic plant species which include loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*), sweet bay (*Magnolia virginiana*), pond pine (*Pinus serotina*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), fetter bush (*Lyonia lucida*), bayberry (*Myrica cerifera*), honeycup (*Zenobia pulverulenta*), and bamboo vine (*Smilax laurifolia*).

David E. Koon 3/22/91