

MINUTES
BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Myrtle Beach Convention Center
Oak Street & 21st Avenue North
Room 202-204
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
Friday, January 17, 1997
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, January 17, 1997 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, Room 202-204, Oak Street & 21st Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, 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: Tommy Miller, Mary Pope Waring, Marion Burnside, Campbell Coxe, Ted Oxner, 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.

II. Meditation

The Board held a moment of silent meditation.

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The Board adopted a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 1996, Board meeting as submitted.

IV. Presentations/Commendations

A. Keowee/Toxaway Fisheries Resources MOU - Dr. Timmerman and Val Nash discussed with the Board the recently executed Memorandum of Understanding between the Duke Power Company and the Department on the management of fisheries resources on the Keowee/Toxaway Lakes. Dr. Timmerman introduced Jim Hendrix, Ben Taylor and John Garton with Duke Power and presented them with a plaque commemorating this event.

V. Constituency Comments

No constituency comments were presented to the Board.

VI. Items for Board Action

A. 1997 Goals and Objectives and 1996 Accomplishments - Dr. Timmerman distributed a document highlighting 177 accomplishments of the Department

of Natural Resources for 1996 and highlighted several key items from that list. He stated that goals and objectives for 1997 would be an action item on the February 1997 Board agenda. Dr. Graham asked the Board to review these accomplishments in detail and to be ready to discuss the goals in terms of how they should be accomplished and priority at the February meeting. He stated that while staff were responsible for most items, there are many items on this list in which the Board should have a role.

- B. Proposed Management Plan for Bird Key Stono Heritage Preserve - Tom Kohlsaatt made a presentation concerning Bird Key Stono Heritage Preserve, which is one of the largest Eastern Brown Pelican rookeries in the country. He explained that, because of changes in environmental conditions, the management plan needed to be amended. After discussion, Mr. Miller moved that the plan be approved as presented, Ms. Waring seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- C. Proposed Easement at Lake Cherokee - Mac Watson discussed the easement requested by Wayne Peeler at Lake Cherokee to provide him access to his property, which would be an "easement ingress". After brief discussions, Mr. Miller made the motion that the easement be approved, with the condition that Mr. Peeler provide a survey at his cost, Mr. Cox seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

VII. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Mr. Coxe discussed matters taken up at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee, stating that there were two matters to be brought before the Board for consideration. He stated that the division had been involved in developing a safe harbor plan for Red Cockaded Woodpeckers and that the draft plan was reviewed in detail at the Committee meeting. He stated that, while all the details are not yet completed, the Committee recommended to the Board that the Department of Natural Resources administer this plan. After a brief discussion, he so moved, Mr. Burnside seconded the motion, and the motion passed. He stated the complete habitat conservation plan between the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be taken up in detail with the Board at a later date.

He also reported that the Advisory Committee requested the DNR Board to go on record opposing the fencing of any state-owned property for hunting purposes. Dr. Graham stated that there had been public hearings held on

this issue and the results had not been compiled. He stated that he would like to have more time to consider this issue before it is acted on by the Board. Mr. Coxe asked that this subject be put on a future agenda for Board action.

- B. Marine Resources - Ms. Waring reported on the January 10th meeting of the Marine Resources Advisory Committee and discussed in detail the South Carolina Shrimper's Association's plan to request a moratorium on trawling license sales. She stated that her Committee had approved a motion to gather additional information before a decision was made whether to bring this matter to the Board for action. She stated that information will be gathered next month and may be brought before the Board in February. She stated that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be on March 7, 1997.

VIII. Director's Briefings

A. Executive Office

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman distributed a sheet detailing the process through which the Board arrived at its budget recommendations to the Governor's Office. He gave a report on what the Governor provided for DNR in his budget; from that part of the budget marked Projected Surplus, law enforcement received \$1,350,000, and the other divisions received \$175,000 for facilities maintenance. He stated that if there is no surplus at the end of the budget year, these items will not be funded. In the recurring part of the budget, there was \$50,000 for the Game Section, \$75,000 for the Marine Division, and \$50,000 for the Land Division. He stated there were three other areas that were absolutely essential for the Department's budget for next year, and he was going to seek the Governor's approval to seek these additional items in the legislative process. These were \$50,000 for the operation of the Walhalla Fish Hatchery, \$300,000 for continued Heritage Trust operations, and \$50,000 for Geological Survey. Also, the Governor indicated he was going to ask for a Bond Bill this year and that he had asked that \$10 million be placed in the Bond Bill for the Jocassee Gorges project. He stated that the Governor was going to meet on January 31st at Lake Jocassee to hold a press conference on this project and he asked the Board to join him there.

Dr. Timmerman discussed the Quarterly Vehicle Accident Report and asked Board members to contact the deputy directors if they had any questions.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a document outlining what he felt would be the status of our state's natural resources and the Department of Natural Resources in the Year 2020. He stated that the Year 2020 would be as far into the future as he has served the Department of Natural Resources in the past. He challenged the Board to read this material carefully and to use it to stimulate their own thinking in that regard. (Copy attached to original Board minutes)

Dr. Timmerman discussed the Mitigation Banking concept and the legislation that established the DNR Mitigation Bank. He stated that Hank Stallworth would be the staff coordinator of this project and asked Mr. Stallworth to discuss it further. Mr. Stallworth stated that the Mitigation Banking Program was up and running and discussed it in detail. He stated that the Corps of Engineers would like to see some assurances that, where there was an agreement among the permitting agencies and the agency seeking mitigation, that the Board would look favorably on such a situation. After a brief discussion, the Chairman stated the Board had no objection to Mr. Stallworth moving forward as he had discussed with the Board.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Board that he had reluctantly accepted Caroline Agardy's resignation and that she was going to work for the Budget and Control Board. He discussed briefly the process being used to choose a new Human Resources Director.

2. Deputy Director's Committee - Dr. Paul Sandifer stated that the Deputy Director's Committee would use Dr. Timmerman's 2020 Document as a guide for their ongoing efforts. He discussed briefly the Committee's deliberations concerning informal uniforms to be used by employees in the field and at public functions to readily identify them as Department employees. He stated that he would have more details for the Board at a later date. He stated that they are also discussing the possibility of a department ring, which could be bought at the employee's expense. He stated that the divisions were continuing the Employee of the Year Program and the Deputy Directors recommended giving the Department Employee of the Year a bonus and a smaller bonus to each division's Employee of the Year. He stated that staff was discussing the Department's boat ramp policy, and that this policy may be brought before the Board for further consideration at the March meeting.
3. Legal - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

4. Legislative Affairs - Michael Thompson reported on the beginning of the legislative session and distributed information on proposed legislation dealing with the sale of venison. He stated that once introduced, it would come before the Board for subsequent consideration at a later meeting. He also discussed the proposed bill on road hunting and stated that he was optimistic about its chance for passage. Mr. Miller asked about trespassing legislation proposed by the Department, and Mr. Thompson reported that this would be included as a provision of a larger bill during this session.
5. Human Resources - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
6. Environmental - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

B. Deputy Directors

1. Natural Resources Enforcement - Col. Huguley reported on several good cases recently solved by Department personnel and commended the investigative unit officers as well as the district field officers for their good work. He pointed out that often officers are involved with serious offenders and during the investigation of these cases there is real potential for risk on the job. He discussed briefly a recent case involving several individuals with extensive criminal records. He reported on the revised Citizen Survey for the Law Enforcement Division now being distributed, and reported that they are aggressively working on a property watch program that would help the Department assist citizens where abuse was taking place in relationship to illegal trespassing activities. He reported that he had begun to work with other agencies who are applying for a grant for a Chaplain program for state law enforcement officers, their families and for victims. He distributed a final copy of a schedule for restitution for values of wildlife, minus marine species. He stated that he had worked with Brock Conrad and his staff extensively to develop these recommendations and that the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee has also asked the Board to adopt them. He stated that these should be adopted with the knowledge that they would be updated periodically. After a brief discussion, Mr. Miller moved that the Board accept and adopt the proposal restitution values. Mr. Coxe seconded, and the motion was passed.
2. Conservation Education and Communications - Mr. Baines mentioned the Families Helping Families Program and stated that Ms. Collins would make a report at the next meeting. He thanked all the

Department staff that assisted his division during the Christmas season. He stated that they had over 15,000 orders to be filled resulting in \$161,000 being brought in. They could not have filled these orders without the help of staff from other divisions.

3. Marine Resources - John Miglarese reported on the recent shrimp baiting season stating that participation had increased slightly, but catch and effort were the lowest ever. He stated that if this winter was cold enough to reduce the amount of shrimp significantly, we might see a real reduction in participation next season. He stated that the trawler season ended January 15 and that this season was not very good either. Dr. Sandifer reported on two Asian viruses found at the Waddell Center and stated that the situation was contained and did not represent a clear and present danger to our natural shrimp resources. He stated that the greatest threat appeared to be to the Waddell Center itself, and that they were determining how best to remedy this situation. He stated they were monitoring wild stocks along the entire coast in an effort to determine if these two strains are present in our state waters. He said he would continue to keep the Board apprised as this situation unfolded.
4. Water Resources - Freddy Vang distributed a copy of the South Carolina River News as information and commended Alvin Taylor for his assistance. Mr. Vang stated that at the next Board meeting he wanted to distribute the latest SC State Water Plan and provide an update on the Hurricane Conference.
5. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee reported on the State's Conservation Districts Conference and on the upcoming SC Environthon Program. He reported that along with CEC staff they had held a SCMAPS workshop for DNR employees to train them as instructors in this program. He reported on the recent Stewardship Development Awards Program given at the State's Conference where three awards were presented. He also reported on participation in the conservation sections of the Farm Bill and stated that all these programs are going quite well.
6. Administrative Services - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time. Ms. Waring asked Mr. Reeves about the point-of-sale issue, and he reported they had contacted other states and were gathering further information on this program and should have a report for the Board at the March meeting.

Dr. Graham indicated that the Board would now break for lunch, but stated that it was an auspicious occasion meeting here at the Myrtle Beach Wildlife Expo sponsored by the Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund. He stated that he had met with members of the

HHMWF Board earlier and wanted to remind everyone that the DNR Board and the Harry Hampton Board had entered into a cooperative agreement about two years ago to benefit both organizations. He stated that, today, we are all still working toward the same objectives and have the same common interest. He reminded those who have come on board with the Department recently, as well as others, of this cooperative agreement and that we are committed to supporting the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund and its activities in every way we can. As Chairman of the DNR Board, he encouraged each Board member, supervisor, central office worker, and field staff member to volunteer whenever possible to support Hampton Wildlife Fund activities in every way they can. He stated that, while members of the Board encourage such volunteer efforts by agency staff, he reminded supervisors that volunteering is not and cannot be mandatory. Dr. Graham then reminded the DNR family of the many benefits that accrue to the Department, its constituents and the people of South Carolina from the success of the Hampton Wildlife Fund. He further reminded DNR staff of the fund raising events and public relations projects sponsored each year by the Fund that directly benefit the Department of Natural Resources, and of the various functions that the Hampton Wildlife Fund sponsors each year which affords opportunities for, and deserve, our volunteer support.

Following lunch, the DNR Board reconvened.

7. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Brock Conrad reported that the SC Deer Study Group would be meeting in Charleston beginning February 9, and invited the Board and other staff to attend. He introduced Tommy Strange who gave a detailed report on the Santee Focus Area, activities in general, and their plans for the future. Mr. Strange also reported that there had been discussions concerning the potential interbreeding between wild mallard ducks and released mallard ducks. He stated he and his staff had done a series of scientific sampling projects which have documented hybrids in the wild in South Carolina. He stated that he felt released mallards are certainly interbreeding already and could be a threat to our wild populations. Dr. Timmerman suggested that genetic workups be done on these animals in order to further document this situation.

Larry Cartee introduced Mr. Jim Fowler of Mutual of Omaha's "Wild Kingdom" to the DNR Board. Mr. Fowler complimented the DNR Board and the Hampton Wildlife Fund on their many beneficial activities and stated that he was proud to be a part of the Myrtle Beach Wildlife Expo.

Mark Huguley brought to the Board's attention that they may have made an error in their original vote in which they adopted the restitution schedule. He stated that the proper motion would have been to adopt Sections 1-5 and not to adopt the section dealing with marine animals since this was still under consideration. At this time, Mr. Miller made a

motion to rescind the Board's previous motion, Mr. Coxe seconded and the motion passed. Mr. Miller then made a motion to accept Sections 1-5 of the restitution schedule and that the marine resources schedule be taken up at a later date. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion and the motion passed.

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 and legal 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 and legal matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Mr. Coxe made a motion to appoint Mr. Gene R. Johnson as Horry County Conservation District Commissioner with term of office of 1/17/97 to 9/18/98. Mr. Burnside seconded and the motion was passed.

Mr. Coxe made a motion to appoint Mr. Glen Carroll Winburn as a District Conservation Commissioner from Horry County with a term of 1/17/97 to 1/31/99. Mr. Burnside seconded and the motion passed.

Mr. Coxe made a motion that the Board regretfully accept Dr. Timmerman's notification of his impending retirement on June 30, 1997. Mr. Burnside seconded, and the motion passed.

Mr. Coxe made a motion that the Board bestow upon Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr. the honorary title of Director Emeritus to begin July 1, 1997. Mr. Burnside seconded and the motion passed.

Mr. Coxe made a motion that the Board appoint Dr. Paul A. Sandifer as Director effective July 1, 1997. Mr. Burnside seconded and the motion passed.

Chairman Graham stated that Dr. Timmerman would continue to be a vital part of the Department as Director Emeritus and discussed some of the duties that he would like for Dr. Timmerman to carry out in that role. (Copy of document attached to original Board minutes)

XIV. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

Dr. Graham stated that the time and date of the next meeting would be Thursday, February 13th at 11:00 a.m. tentatively at the Wampee facility at Pinopolis, SC. He stated that the Board would be notified formally as soon as the place was established. He stated that the March meeting would be held on the third Friday in Columbia, and the June meeting would be held on the third Friday of June at the Marine Resources Center. Concerning the meeting in February, Chairman Graham asked any Board member who was having problems finding accommodations to contact Dan Dobbins, and he stated that he felt that the Mary's Island facility would be available at the Donnelley Center.

XV. Adjournment

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