

AMENDED MINUTES
BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Harbison Environmental Education Center
Columbia, South Carolina
Friday, October 17, 1997
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. on Friday, October 17, 1997, at the Harbison Environmental Education Center, in Columbia, South Carolina. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted and mailed to the news media. Dr. George Graham presided at the meeting. Board Members that were present included Tommy Miller, Marion Burnside, Campbell Coxe, Ted Oxner and Edward C. (Corky) Lee. Mrs. Mary Pope Waring was out of state and unable to attend. Dr. Paul A. Sandifer and staff members of the Department of Natural Resources were present at the meeting as were various guests.

I. **Call to Order**

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. **Meditation**

Dr. Graham called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Chairman Graham asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the September 19, 1997 meeting. There being no corrections or additions, the minutes were accepted as mailed.

IV. **Presentations/Commendations**

A. **Outstanding Project Award - States' Organization for Boating Access (SOBA)**

Dr. Sandifer called on James Duke to receive the Outstanding Project Award. Dr. Sandifer informed the Board that the Boating Access/Boating Engineering Section has been recognized with the Outstanding Large Boat Access Facility Award, by the States' Organization for Boating Access for the Dom Facility on Lake Thurmond. This facility can simultaneously launch and retrieve six boats. Parking is also available for 187 vehicles and trailers.

Mr. Duke stated that he appreciated being recognized by his peers for a job well done. Mr. Duke also recognized his staff and Benny Reeves, Deputy Director of Administration.

B. **Freddy Vang recognized Mark Corley, Dennis DeFrancesco and Ellen Seats for their work on the recent publication entitled Farming for Clean Water in South Carolina: A Handbook of Conservation Practices. This handbook is being widely used by farmers and landowners as a guide for clean water farming. This publication has also been selected for use in high school vocational education classes in agriculture, for technical college classes and by Clemson University. Mr.**



Vang praised Mark Corley, of the Land, Water and Conservation Division, for his work in making this happen and his efforts with EPA and NRCS . Mr. Vang pointed out that Dennis DeFrancesco, of the NRCS, was the one responsible for obtaining and organizing the information in this publication and recognized Ellen Seats for her work, along with CEC, with laying out the material in a presentable format for publication.

Mr. Coxe praised the work of staff and stated that this is one of the best publications, as far as farm manuals, that he has seen.

- C. Dr. Sandifer informed the Board of an honor being bestowed on Mr. Corky Lee. Mr. Lee is being honored by the SC Forestry Association with its Distinguished Service Award. Staff are making a special video today to assist in this effort.

V. Special Presentation

Chairman Graham introduced Mr. Hugh Ryan, State Forester with the SC Forestry Commission, and thanked him for the hospitality extended through use of the Harbison Center. Mr. Ryan welcomed the Board and guests to the Environmental Education Center. Mr. Ryan expressed that the forestry community is well aware of the close relationship of the Forestry Commission and DNR.

VI. Constituency Comments

- A. Chairman Graham called on Andy Nettles, Chairman, SC King Mackerel Cup Series. Mr. Nettles thanked the Board for the opportunity to appear and speak with them. Mr. Nettles also thanked DNR for the job they have done with the Governors Cup Billfishing Series. As Chairman of the SC King Mackerel Cup Series, Mr. Nettles would like for the King Mackerel Series to have the same status as the Billfish Series and to use the term "Governors Cup" for their series. The tag and release program being adopted by the King Mackerel tournaments will aid scientific research and reduce the number of fish being killed. Based upon 1996 King Mackerel tournament data, a 36" fork length minimum could potentially reduce the kill in South Carolina tournaments by 52%. This would allow fish to spawn 3 or 4 times before they are harvested. Also a special conservation fund will be generated to put money back into the resource throughout the series. These tournaments have 100 - 300 boats per tournament and about 800 boats throughout the series, with about 3,500 participants overall. Mr. Nettles stated that one way to shift the focus to conservation is to create the South Carolina King Mackerel Governor's Cup Series. People will know simply by the name that they are not only concerned with King Mackerel fishing and the tournaments, but the main objective is to support conservation issues in South Carolina. They will be committed to the goal of maintaining these marine fisheries and hope to live up to the same high standards that have been set by the Billfish Series. Mr. Nettles stated that they are not asking for funding, or to increase the DNR workload. Their plan is to create their own board and generate funds for support. Mr. Nettles asked the Board for their endorsement of the program and asked for their endorsement to use the name South Carolina King Mackerel Governor's Cup Series.



Dr. Sandifer informed the Board that this matter has been discussed by the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Board for about two years. He stated that the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Board feels very strongly about trying to broaden the conservation message that has been put forward by the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series. The Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Board met Friday, October 10, and received this request from Mr. Nettles and by a majority vote endorsed the use of The Governor's Cup King Mackerel Series name with a clear understanding that it will promote the conservation message through size limits and tag and release programs that give credit for tag and release. A formal written agreement will be developed by DNR and the King Mackerel Series Tournaments to govern the use of the Governor's Cup name. He also noted that there will be a clear separation, including a different logo, for the King Mackerel Series so there will be no confusion in the public's mind between the Mackerel Series and the Billfish Series.

Mr. Miller made a motion to accept the Governor's Cup Advisory Board recommendations (copy of recommendation is attached to the original minutes) and endorse, in concept, the Governor's Cup King Mackerel Series with the understanding that the formal written agreement will be brought back to the Board at a later date. Mr. Burnside seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

VII. Items for Board Action

A. Santee Coastal Reserve Management Plan

Chairman Graham called on Derrell Shipes who presented the concepts for the Santee Coastal Reserve Management Plan. Dr. Sandifer commented that the final draft management plan has been sent to various conservation groups and representatives of non-consumptive users for review and input. Some positive responses have already been received from these groups, and additional input is anticipated. Dr. Sandifer stated that unless there was objection from members of the Board, this plan will be used as guidance for staff to move forward in preparing for August 1999 when the Collins Creek Gun Club's lease and license expire. The plan was accepted as information for staff guidance without objection. Dr. Sandifer noted that additional information will be provided to the Board as it becomes available.

B. Proposed Jocassee Gorges Endowment Fund

Mr. Miller proposed legislation to create an endowment fund to receive donations from the public and make them available for operating, maintaining and possibly adding property to Jocassee Gorges. This fund will be called the Jocassee Gorges Endowment Fund. Mr. Miller moved that the Board recommend legislation establishing the Jocassee Gorges Endowment Fund as per the draft legislation mailed to Board members in advance. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.



VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

A. Land, Water and Conservation

Mr. Vang informed the Board that the Land, Water and Conservation Advisory Committee held their first joint Advisory Committee meeting. There are two items from that meeting to be brought before the Board.

The first item is a proposal for farmland protection legislation. Mr. Vang explained that this is a vehicle to purchase development rights on agricultural property. In the 1996 US Farm Bill, \$35 million was set aside for this program and \$14 million has already been given to 17 states on a one-to-one matching basis. There is a coalition of individuals statewide interested in this program, but it would require some matching funds. This is being brought before the Board as a concept with a request to be placed on next month's agenda.

The second item is a conservation cost-share program. This program will be used to assist in establishing soil and water conservation practices, principally directed towards reducing nonpoint source pollution from agriculture. This is also being proposed as a concept with a request to be placed on next month's agenda.

B. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Mr. Coxe informed the Board that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee recently met at the Webb Center. The Committee reviewed the summary of the public meetings on the proposed restructuring of games zones. Mr. Coxe felt that the Advisory Committee's recommendation is a good compromise. He asked Billy McTeer to give a report.

Billy McTeer informed the Board that previously members of the General Assembly expressed concern about the complexity of the rules and regulations compounded by the existence of eleven game zones. They asked staff to look at how many game zones were actually needed from a biological standpoint. Staff had earlier been working on a plan to reduce the game zones from eleven to four. The bill was introduced to the General Assembly last year with no action taken, pending the public meetings. Mr. McTeer reviewed the results of the public meetings (results attached to the original minutes).

Derrell Shipes informed the Board that the new proposal is to combine eleven games zones into six game zones. This would be done by consolidating zones 2 and 4; zones 5, 7 and 10; zones 8 and 9; and zones 6 and 11. Zones 1 and 3 will remain as they are. No deer season changes are recommended with this proposal. Their recommendation for a statewide quail season is to open on the Monday before Thanksgiving and run through March 1. The other change is for proposed game zone 4, where the raccoon/opossum season would have no bag limit (proposal attached to the original minutes). Mr. Bumside asked that the staff consider, for future action, no limit on opossum statewide. Mr. Shipes said staff would look into this issue.



Mr. Coxe commended the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries staff for their work on this issue.

Mr. Coxe made a motion that the Board approve the proposed game zone plan as presented by staff. Mr. Burnside seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

IX. Director's Briefings

A. Executive Office

1. Director

Dr. Sandifer commended Mike Willis and Charles Farmer for the way they have interrelated with the media with the latest controversial issues.

The instructions for formulating the budget request were received from the Governor's Office. The Department's request was submitted to the Governor's Office last week.

Dr. Sandifer reported that several staff had received recognition at the SEAFWA meeting: Buddy Baker, was recognized for serving 10 years as Chairman of the Fur Resources Committee of the Southeast Section of The Wildlife Society; Breck Carmichael received the Jim McDonough Award which recognizes an outstanding biologist; Tim Ivey was elected President-Elect of the Southeast Section of The Wildlife Society; and Tom Curtins received the Director's Biologist of the Year Award for fisheries.

Dr. Sandifer informed the board that he will be attending the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Annual Meeting in Hershey, PA, October 19-23.

Dr. Sandifer reviewed the Quarterly Vehicle Accident Report.

2. Legal

Mr. Quinn stated that he had one matter for Executive Session.

3. Legislative

Michael Thompson informed the Board that Sen. Harvey Peeler, Chairman of the Senate Fish and Game Committee, and Lisa Sox, Director of Research for the Senate Fish and Game Committee, will be touring the Marine Resources Center on October 24.

Mr. Thompson also informed the Board that he is working on the final draft of the Department's legislation.

4. Human Resources

Initial screening of applications for the Internal Auditor was conducted this week.



5. Environmental
No report at this time.

B. Deputy Directors

1. Administration - No report at this time.
2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries was the featured division in this month's Board meeting. The division presented an outstanding overview of what services they offer.
3. Natural Resource Enforcement - Col. Huguley reviewed two Law Enforcement Division directives, Use of Force and Vehicular Pursuit. These will be presented for action at the November meeting.

Col. Huguley presented, for information, a draft of Prohibited Behavior for Enforcement Officers (Code of Conduct). Col. Huguley explained that one or more of these behaviors will probably be recommended to be incorporated into the policy on Standards for Disciplinary Action rather than create a separate body of material.

Col. Huguley also presented drafts that pertain to Law Enforcement Operations, to be issued under the authority given to division directors to issue guidelines pertaining to their area of responsibility. The division directives are products of a cross-section of Law Enforcement staff.

4. Conservation Education and Communications - Carole Collins reported that the renovations to the Wildlife Shop were almost complete and will provide better access to the public and should increase sales.
5. Marine Resources - John Miglarese updated the Board on the activities of the Marine Advisory Committee's subcommittee on shrimp viruses. The regulatory process, the planning process and the public input process are ongoing and will be coming to closure within the next two weeks. It was anticipated that the Board would be able to delegate the authority of formal public hearings to the Marine Advisory Committee; however, since restructuring, the Board itself must handle the public hearings. A public hearing on the proposed shrimp importation regulation is scheduled for October 28 at 7:00 pm at the Marine Resources Center.

Dr. Miglarese stated that to date 15,340 shrimp baiting permits have been sold.

Dr. Miglarese briefed the Board on the Carolina Coastal Adventure, a joint educational program with Marine, Land and CEC. Approximately 30 students attended this workshop and it was well received.



Dr. Miglarese advised the Board that last week the Marine Division, in conjunction with the City of Beaufort, a sport fishing club and the Adjutant General, collaborated on Reef-Ex , a project to place excess Army tanks and Army personnel carriers on an artificial reef near offshore Beaufort. This was very well attended.

Dr. Miglarese briefed the Board on the recent whale stranding in Myrtle Beach.

6. Land, Water and Conservation - Mr. Vang updated the Board on the Lynches River Management Plan.

Mr. Vang reported on several communities that have established guidelines and received a rate reduction of 6% for flood insurance.

The long term forecast is an increase in rain for the winter and spring.

The conservation districts are moving forward with staff on the designation of the Ashley River as a scenic river.

X. Executive Session

At this time, Mr. Miller made a motion that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss legal, contractual and personnel matters.

=====

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Chairman Graham called the meeting back to order.

Following Executive Session Mr. Miller made a motion that the Board accept the recommendation from the Governor's Cup Board of Directors to appoint Mr. Robert H. Hood, of Charleston, to fill the seat vacated by the death of B. A. Brown. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Miller made a motion that the Board accept the conservation district commissioner appointments, to include the reappointment of James F. Huggins, and the new appointments of Henry Eason, Barbara C. Baughman, Thomas L. Henderson, Robert Quillen Finley and Bates R. Houck. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.



XI. **Time and Location of the Next Meeting**

Chairman Graham stated that the next meeting of the DNR Board will be held on Friday, November 21, in Columbia, at 10:00 a.m.

XII. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to be brought before the DNR Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

