

**Land, Water & Conservation Division
Advisory Committee Minutes
Dennis Building, Room 335
Columbia, South Carolina
Thursday, August 19, 2010**

Present

Lynn Youmans	Bill Simpson
Marvin Davant	James McLeod
Oscar Stevens	Webb Smathers
Patricia Hartung	Larry Nates
Charles Broadwell	

Staff:

Ken Rentiers	Don Winslow
Hope Mizzell	Chris Page
Bill Clendenin	Lindsay Fairchilds
Barry Beasley	Marc Cribb
Scott Howard	Dorothy Phillips

Call to Order/Welcome: The August 19, 2010, meeting was called to order by Chairman William Simpson at 1:05 p.m. In compliance with the provisions of Section 30-4-80(e) (Freedom of Information Act), notification of this meeting was given to all persons, organizations, local news media, and other news media that requested such notification. Absent from the meeting, Dean Moss, Tom Garrison, Dr. Aziz, Lewis Walker, Frank Murray and Steve Kinard.

Approval of April 6, 2010 Minutes: Motion was made by Mr. Marvin Davant to approve the April 6, 2010, minutes and seconded by Mr. Jim McLeod. The motion passed.

Drought/Hurricane Update: Hope Mizzell provided a drought and hurricane update. She discussed that this summer is on track to be the hottest summer in 115 years for many stations across the Eastern seaboard. She provided information summarizing the SC Drought Response Committee's July 9, 2010 Incipient drought declaration. Since July 9 the scattered showers have brought significant relief from the drought for many areas. She anticipates that the Committee will reevaluate and downgrade portions of the State next week. However, some areas will remain in drought because some lake levels are approaching the first stage of drought. The Savannah River Basin Lakes are expected to reach Level 1 drought by early September which will require a reduction in releases out of Lake Thurmond to 4,200 cfs. The Catawba Wateree Drought Management Group declared a Stage 0 Drought Watch on August 11, 2010. She provided information from USDA on the drought and heat's impact on crop conditions. She provided a 5-day rainfall forecast with 1.5" to 3" possible statewide due to deep tropical moisture over the region along with an unstable air mass. However, the 8-14 day forecast calls for below normal precipitation and a continuation of the above normal temperatures. She ended with

an update on the Hurricane Season. Many forecasters are pleasantly surprised that the season has been quite thus far. But, NOAA continues to expect above normal hurricane formation as we move into the peak months of Hurricane Season. Their above normal hurricane formation forecast is based on above normal sea surface temperatures in the hurricane breeding ground and the anticipation that wind shear should weaken. Hope also provided a handout entitled “Historical Summary of the South Carolina State Climatology Office”.

Aquatic Plant Control Activities Update: Chris Page reported on the funding and spending of program dollars and what affects budget cuts have had on the program. He also gave updated information about the new and improved herbicides that are now available. How these new herbicides help in the reduced cost to treat aquatic species and also helps in reducing the cost of renting equipment needed to treat nuisance species. Chris provided the Committee with copies of the State Aquatic Invasive Species Plan and provided information about plans that are in place to keep a head of incoming invasive plants and animals (marine animals, estuarine animals, lime fish). Chris reported on current control activities in various areas across the State.

Geological Survey Update: Bill Clendenin started with the announcement that this year is the **185th Anniversary** of the Geological Survey. Bill went on to give the Committee an overview of controlling cost to run an agency, working with other agencies, groups, and colleges to raise money and maps for the Geology program and the importance of having digital mapping products to meet the public needs now and in the future. Future study projects for Geology include alternate fuel, earth quake hazards and set stations to look at physical changes.

Deputy Director’s Report: Ken spoke briefly about the past year and the difficult budget situation. He stated that DNR had its first RIF in agency’s history and the lost of personnel and experience to the agency. He informed the Committee that the agency is looking at another 15% cut. Ken thanked the Committee members for their help with the legislature. Ken updated the Committee on the current water issue, Surface Water Permitting Bill. The Bill has been signed into law; the regulations have to be written. The State Water Assessment has been completed and a copy is available online. Ken recommended to the Committee that they review DNR’s updated website. Staff updated the State Water Plan and it should be up for review and feed-back on the website. Ken also provided information to the Committee that each major basin is going to have an advisory council, starting with the Savannah River Advisory Council and said that they are requesting volunteers to serve on the council. It is anticipated that the remaining advisory councils will be in place within the next six months. Ken updated the Committee on the status of the Comprehensive Study of the Savannah River Basin and the Watershed based studies project with the Corp of Engineers. He informed the Committee that climate change will be a priority project for the agency and Hope Mizzell will be leading a committee focusing on climate change. Flood group has been doing map modernization for a new generation of maps coming onto the market and SC has been chosen to a pilot state for a new program called “Risk Map”. Some of the maps that will be included are flood hazards, earthquake hazards and wild fires.

Mr. Frampton gave the Committee an overview of the future budget outlook and again suggested to the Committee that they keep natural resources on their mind when they return to their districts and speak

with their legislators. Mr. Frampton confirmed that climate change will be one of the agency's priorities next year.

Committee Comments: Jim McLeod gave his views on the affects the current budget situation has caused and the need to think about strategic planning for the future of the conservation districts. Larry Nates acknowledged the passing of Commissioner Tommy Knotts, Aiken, earlier this year. Larry Nates suggested that a special invitation be extended to Sterling Sadler, President, SCACD to attend the next meeting. It was suggest that some future meetings be scheduled on Tuesday instead of Thursday. Mr. Simpson informed the Committee that Lindsay Fairchilds has organized the Ashley Scenic River Council and that there will be a meeting next month. Lindsay was also instrumental in getting a grant to repair septic tanks in the upper Charleston region. The Committee took a moment to extend a special thank you to Ken Rentiers, Marc Cribb and Dorothy Phillips for their continued work and support of the conservation districts.

Executive Session: At 3:00 p.m., Mr. Youmans motioned to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues with second by Mr. Nates. All were in favor.

At 3:10 p.m., motion to return to return from executive session, seconded and all were in favor.

Mr. Youmans motioned that re-appointments be approved and seconded by Mr. Oscar Stevens, all were in favor. The Conservation District Commissioner re-appointments were approved and are as follows: Mr. Fred L. Raines, Abbeville County; Mr. William Harrington, Clarendon County; Mr. Neal Rogers, Dillon County; Mr. Douglas Reeves, Dorchester County; Mr Joe Derrick, Edgefield County; Mr. Benjamin Hardee, Horry County; Mr. William Ardrey, Lancaster County; Mr. F. Michael Seymour, Laurens County; Mr. John Wiggins, Marion County; Mr. Jack Turner, Spartanburg County and Ms. Jayne Carsten, Williamsburg County.

Mr. McLeod made a motion that the new appointment be approved and seconded by Mr. Larry Nates, all were in favor. The new appointment was approved and is as follows: Mr. Brent Weaver, Lexington County.

Next Meeting Date: Scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in Columbia.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Simpson. All were in favor to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.