

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

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, SC

Friday, August 16, 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, August 16, 1996 in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, 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: Tom Miller, Ted Oxner, Mary Pope Waring, Marion Burnside, and Campbell Coxe. 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 as noted by Chairman Graham prior to the beginning of the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The Board adopted a motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 1996, Board meeting as submitted. .

IV. Presentations/Commendations

Chairman Graham introduced David Cline, Chairman of the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund Board, to make a presentation from the Cline Company. Mr. Cline stated that on behalf of his father, his brother and himself, he would like to present the Department with a check for \$10,000, with \$5,000 going into the Cline Fund for Law Enforcement purposes and the annual banquet, \$1,000 going to HOFNOD, \$1,000 to Operation Game Thief, \$1,000 to the Billie Anne Cartee Scholarship Fund, \$1,000 to the DNR Scholarship Fund for employee's children, and \$1,000 for the S.C. Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers Association. Both Dr. Timmerman and Dr. Graham thanked Mr. Cline, his brother and father and the Cline Company for their generous contribution to the Department and the state's natural resources.

Chairman Graham then called on Freddy Vang who introduced the new state climatologist Dr. Michael Helfert.

V. Constituency Comments

There were no constituency comments presented to the Board at this time.

VI. Items for Board Action

- A. Deputy Enforcement Officer Policy - Col. Huguley informed the Board that this material had been presented to the Board at their last meeting, and that there had been very few changes since that time. Vice Chairman Miller, Chairman of the Natural Resources Enforcement Advisory Committee, stated that his Committee had been polled prior to this meeting, and they had voted to approve the policy. After a brief discussion of the policy as finalized, Mr. Burnside made a motion that the policy be approved, Mr. Coxe seconded, and the motion passed.
- B. Harvest Information Program - Brock Conrad discussed the Harvest Information Program in detail, pointing out that an outline had been presented to the Board prior to the meeting. He stated that it would be necessary for the state to implement this program for the 1998 season. He stated that staff intended to meet extensively with the constituents that would be effected by the program to determine how it could best be funded. There was discussion of the possibility of a fee, as well as a possibility of seeking appropriated funds from the General Assembly. Mr. Conrad stated that this was being presented as information.
- C. Proposed 1996-97 Waterfowl Season - Mr. Conrad introduced a video on the national status of waterfowl, prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Following the video, Tommy Strange gave the Board a report on the status of waterfowl in South Carolina. Mr. Conrad pointed out that for the first time, the Service was allowing the establishment of a Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day on January 25, one week following the ending of the normal waterfowl season for the nation. There then ensued discussion concerning the last goose season in South Carolina and the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day. There was also discussion concerning the increase on the limit of mallards being proposed for the upcoming season. Mr. Miller requested that staff monitor the black duck/mottle duck/hen mallard question very carefully during the coming season so they could advise the Board of the efforts of the regulations. Following discussion, Mr. Miller made the motion that the staff recommendation of the last goose season be amended so that the season would begin on January 18 and end January 24, with January 25 being reserved as a Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day wherein only youth would be allowed to hunt waterfowl and geese, with the goose season resuming on January 26 and ending on February 1. Mr. Burnside seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Mr. Miller then made a motion that the 1996-97

waterfowl season proposed by staff be adopted as presented with the amendment adopted by the Board. Mr. Burnside seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

- D. Reedy River Fish Kill Report - At this time, Randy Geddings presented a video which showed the extent of the fish kill on the Reedy River and the measures being taken to clean up following the spill. He estimated that within the area affected, over a million gallons of fuel had been lost from the pipeline and that it had resulted in the largest fish kill in the state history. Mr. Geddings stated that the company had been very cooperative and that there was an extraordinary amount of cooperation between the county, state and federal governmental agencies involved. Mr. Geddings stated that over fifty department employees were involved, representing Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, Law Enforcement Division and the Conservation Education and Communication Division. He pointed out that these people performed their duties under extremely uncomfortable and hazardous conditions and stated they were to be commended. He also commended Ed Duncan, our environmental staff and our legal staff for their involvement. Chairman Graham thanked Mr. Geddings and stated that the Board would consider this matter further in executive session.

VII. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. Conservation Education and Communication - Mr. Burnside reported that the committee had met last Friday and he was very impressed with the enthusiasm exhibited by the staff of the CEC Division. He said they gave a very complete and comprehensive briefing of the division's activities and they seemed to really enjoy what they are doing and are very proud of their accomplishments. He stated they had received a report on the sale of magazine by-products and they are up 6% over last year, having already exceeded the targets established by the General Assembly. He then briefly discussed other matters brought before his Committee stating there was nothing requiring Board action at this time.
- B. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Mr. Coxe reported briefly on the meeting stating that most of the items that needed Board attention had already been discussed and voted on previously in this meeting.

VIII. Director's Briefings

A. Executive Office

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman reported that the Geological Survey had produced a S.C. Mineral Resources Map indicating minerals being mined in the state and their location. He pointed out that the mineral

extraction industry represents a \$500 million industry for South Carolina. He then introduced Dr. Bill Clendenin, State Geologist, who briefed the Board on the map and the mineral industry across the state.

Dr. Timmerman briefed the Board on the agency's budgetary process to date. After a brief discussion, Chairman Graham stated that he would like to convene the Budget Committee soon in preparation for a meeting with the Governor's staff, during which they would present the Department's budget priorities. He stated that he and Mr. Oxner would work with Dr. Timmerman to set up such a meeting.

Dr. Timmerman briefly discussed the new DNR assistance manual and commended Caroline Agardy, Sonny Baines and their staffs for the fine job they did in the preparation of this manual.

Dr. Timmerman provided the Board with copies of information developed at the request of the Chairman of the Winyah Bay Focus Area Task Force. Dr. Timmerman stated that he wanted to provide for greater coordination between the Department and these focus area groups in the future, and indicated that a Memorandum of Understanding would be developed that could be used in that regard.

Dr. Timmerman stated that our Department was heavily involved in the State's Emergency Preparedness process and that the Governor had expressed a great deal of interest in these activities. He stated that he had asked Dan Dobbins and Lt. Fritz Jolly to develop a department-wide Emergency Preparedness Plan and this had been completed and provided to the Board for information. Dan Dobbins reported that Lt. Fritz Jolly was the agency's Emergency Preparedness Officer and that he had organized an interdivisional team to prepare this draft document over the last several months. He commended Lt. Jolly and those from each division for the work they had done, stating this would be a dynamic document that would change through time as the agency's needs and responsibilities changed.

Dr. Timmerman reported that there was a great deal of interest throughout the southeast in the use of Point of Sale Techniques for the sale of licenses and permits. He stated that Benny Reeves and his staff had been very involved in investigating this procedure and

would attend a workshop to be held at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' annual meeting this fall. He stated that he felt this was something that would be very beneficial to our agency in the future. Ms. Waring stated that she would like to commend Dr. Timmerman, Benny Reeves and his staff for their work in this area and recommended that the Board read a related article in the August issue of Field and Stream.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the recent promotional campaign for Senior Lifetime Licenses had been very successful, resulting in the sale of 1,736 licenses over a six week period. He stated this exceeded the amount of such licenses sold in the entire last fiscal year.

Dr. Timmerman reported that he had recently implemented a plan to restructure the Executive Office and the command structure within the agency. He stated he had met with the agency leadership and had gotten very favorable response from everyone involved. He provided the Board with copies of the restructuring plan and stated that he felt this would improve the agency's efficiency, prevent duplication of effort and provide the necessary command and control structure to move the agency into the 21st century. Chairman Graham stated that Dr. Timmerman had carried out this restructuring under the executive authority provided by the governing statutes of the agency and expressed the complete support of the Board.

2. Legal - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
3. Legislative Affairs - Michael Thompson reported the Legislative Proposal that the Board approved last month has been forwarded to the Legislative Council and they were in the process of drafting Bills. He stated that he had forwarded the Board's Legislative Proposal to the Chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs Committee as well as the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee and expected to be meeting with them soon.
4. Human Resources - Caroline Agardy reported on the agency's effort on Total Quality Management, and also discussed briefly her staff's involvement with the Strategic Plan and staff training.

5. Environmental - Dr. Timmerman reported briefly on the environmental section's involvement in the Reedy River fish kill evaluation as well as their activities in exploring mitigation banking.

B. Deputy Directors

1. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee reported that on July 22, Governor Beasley had signed an agreement between the US Department of Agriculture and the State's Conservation Districts in Georgetown County. He stated that this agreement would provide the framework for their continued cooperative efforts.

Mr. Chamblee reported that their division would be co-hosting a Wild Turkey Habitat Conference to be held on August 20th at Embassy Suites in Columbia, and invited the Board to attend.

Ms. Waring asked about a \$657,000 project dealing with animal waste treatment that was not approved, and asked for an update. Mr. Chamblee reported that Dr. Timmerman had contacted the DHEC Commissioner and asked for a meeting on this matter between our two agencies. Commissioner Bryant had responded, but a meeting has not yet been scheduled.

2. Administrative Services - There was nothing further to report to the Board.
3. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Brock Conrad reported that a meeting had been held with the Sportsmen's Coalition and others at the Santee Coastal Reserve to discuss the new plan for the reserve. He stated that they had not made any recommendations as of yet. He also reported that his staff had met with The Nature Conservancy and that we now have an agreement with them on the management aspects of the plan. Chairman Graham reiterated that time is of the essence and that they must complete their recommendations to the Board quickly. After a brief discussion, the Board asked their recommendations be provided to them by September 15, so that they could be considered for the October or November meeting.

Mr. Conrad reported on a recent Freshwater Fisheries Pondowner's Survey that was conducted to see how they felt about Department's level of service. He reported that the results of the survey were very gratifying and reflected well on the Department.

Mr. Conrad distributed information concerning the US Fish & Wildlife Service's new 1-800 toll free number for reporting of bird banding.

4. Natural Resources Enforcement - Col. Mark Huguley reported on the most recent session of in-service training.
5. Conservation Education and Communications - Sonny Baines introduced Steve Bates, acting Education Coordinator, who gave a report on this year's Camp Wildwood activities. He expressed appreciation to each of the divisions for their assistance.
6. Marine Resources - Paul Sandifer reported that the Saltwater Stamp Art contest had been held last week and they had the most entries they had ever had. He also reported that the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund Marine Banquet had been held on August 9 and was enormously successful. He reminded the Board that Friday, September 13, was the beginning of shrimp baiting season and predicted only a moderate to average season. He stated that we had had one of the poorest brown shrimp season on record this summer.
7. Water Resources - Freddy Vang reported that South Carolina would host the national meeting of the Interstate Council on Water Policy in Charleston on September 23-26, 1996, distributed material on that meeting and invited Board members to attend if possible. Mr. Vang distributed material on Beach Sweep/River Sweep to be held in September, and reminded the Board that they were always looking for volunteers to participate in this program. He reported that the U.S. Geological Survey was doing hydrology surveys in the coastal plains and this work was about one-half finished. He stated they were requesting \$600,000 from Santee Cooper as matching funds to complete this study. Ms. Waring stated that individual Board members may be able to help in this effort.

IX. Missions, Goals, & Strategic Planning

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

X. Policy Review

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

XI. Comments

Mr. Burnside stated that he was concerned about the status of brown-headed cow birds in South Carolina and feels that their nesting habits were adversely affecting song bird

reproduction. He asked that staff study this issue, and investigate the possibility of convincing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take this bird off the protected list. Mr. Conrad stated that his staff would begin a study of the existing research data on the brown-headed cow bird, enter into a dialogue with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and report to the Board at its September meeting.

Ms. Waring stated that she would like to commend all of the staff and volunteers who worked so hard to make the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund Marine Banquet in Charleston such a success.

XII. Executive Session

Mr. Miller moved for the Board to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Mr. Cox 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.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Mr. Miller made a motion that the Board accept staff recommendations for compensation in relation to the Reedy River Fish Kill, to include employee fringe benefits. Mr. Burnside seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mr. Miller made a motion that the Board approve the recommendation for Conservation District appointments as submitted. Mr. Burnside seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Chairman Graham stated that in Executive Session the Board took action on a personnel matter and stated that he would like to read the statement and asked that it be placed before the Board in the form of a motion. "In Executive Session, the DNR Board has considered all Department employees who meet our job requirements for Department Director. It is the Board's opinion that Dr. Paul Sandifer is the most qualified person for this position. In preparation for Dr. Timmerman's anticipated retirement, the Board now appoints Dr. Paul Sandifer as Director-Designee of the Department of Natural Resources." Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to place that before the Board in the form of a motion, Mr. Burnside seconded, and the motion passed.

Ms. Waring stated that she would like to see further discussion about the activities and scope of work of our Conservation Districts at future meetings. She also stated that she would like to see the Winyah Bay focus area discussed as part of the plan to further the coordination of that program. She also stated that she was glad to hear that Point of Sale would be considered at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting, and asked that this matter be placed on the agenda for the November Board meeting so that the Board could be briefed.

XIII. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The Board agreed to hold its next Board meeting in Columbia at 9:00 am on September 20, 1996, in order for the Board to attend the Officer of the Year luncheon at 1:00 pm. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Board would hold its October meeting on October 25, with the place of the meeting to be determined later.

IV. Adjournment

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

