

MINUTES
BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, South Carolina
Friday, June 21, 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, June 21, 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 am, 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 May 16, 1996, Board meeting as submitted. Chairman Graham asked several questions to follow up on some items that were noted in the Board minutes.

IV. Presentations/Commendations

There were no presentations or commendations to be presented at this time.

V. Constituency Comments

There were constituency comments presented later in the meeting on items for Board action.

VI. Items for Board Action

- A. Campbell Coxe noted that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee met recently to discuss the options regarding the Santee Coastal Reserve. He noted that the plan and funding options were discussed, and Brock Conrad and staff went over the costs and projections regarding the various options for management of the Santee Coastal Reserve. Chairman Graham noted that we need to manage this property as efficiently as

possible and he solicited any comments that would provide any positive recommendations. At this time, the following comments were provided by various individuals. Mr. Charlie Luqueire of the Five Rivers Coalition presented a statement noting that this property needs to be available for public use and that it should be managed without a private lease. Mr. Luqueire noted that his group would seek public hearings in the area on this matter. Bob Bailey of the SC Sportsmen's Coalition provided comments noting that his organization was opposed to any third party lease as there would be an adverse public reaction. Mr. Bailey noted if the Board cannot come up with a solution without a private lease, the SC Sportsmen's Coalition would assist in coming with a solution and if the Board would accept their help, they would be glad to provide support through an Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Bailey stated the Coalition would pay for the expenses of this effort in order to develop a solution. Ron Carter of the SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism, noted that federal funds approximating \$2 million were used to acquire property with the Santee Coastal Reserve being used as a match and a private lease would have implications as it relates to these federal funds and public use. He noted that PRT would be glad to assist in this effort as well as help the Department look at revenue generating ideas. Mr. Ned Joye of the SC Ducks Unlimited presented comments noting that sportsmen were concerned and a private lease should not be decided upon until every option has been exercised. Mr. Joye noted that MARSH funding may be possible for use on this property. Mr. Dave Wielicki of the SC Waterfowl Association noted that there will be a cost for public hunting and that a lease should only be looked at as a last option for consideration. Mr. Wielicki raised the question of why the State needs to consider leasing when they are at the same time purchasing more lands. He stated that he would support the Ad Hoc Committee concept developed by Mr. Bailey and he would be glad to provide support for this effort. Campbell Coxe noted that retired Judge David Harwell had presented a statement at the Advisory Committee meeting and Derrell Shipps read this statement to the Board for the record (copy attached to original Board minutes). Chairman Graham confirmed Mr. Bob Bailey's offer to spearhead a group to work on this issue and he noted that we do not want to get involved in hearings as this relates to a local issue. Dr. Graham stated that he thought it would be best for this issue to be handled through representative groups and individuals as is being done.

- B. Harvest Information Program - Brock Conrad noted that we have gotten a delay on implementing this program for one year and this item may be put off for a later discussion.
- C. Fees for Draw Hunts - Brock Conrad noted that fee options had been sent out to the Board for discussion and details on fee options were discussed with the Board. Chairman Graham noted that we need to seek to make the hunts self-supporting and that we should seek to cover the cost for the waterfowl hunts. Ms. Waring noted that we need to look at ways to cut cost and maximize opportunities for other types of hunts that may exist. Chairman Graham asked the staff to look at areas where we may be able to maximize hunting opportunities that are currently not being done. Following discussion of the fee options, the Board adopted a motion to approve the implementation of a fee schedule with option four with the waterfowl hunt fee being increased to \$50.00 (copy attached to original Board minutes).
- D. Fish Kill Investigation Report: Pullham Cove- Lake Greenwood: - Gene Hayes presented the Board with a detailed report on the fish kill investigation for Pullham Cove, Lake Greenwood. Mr. Hayes noted that this report had been sent to the Board and that it is recommended that \$2,195 in total expenses be sought for reimbursement for this fish kill. Following discussion, the Board approved the report as submitted and the request to seek reimbursement for this fish kill in the amount of \$2,195.
- E. Hitchcock Woods Conservation Easement: Stewart Greeter noted that the Hitchcock Woods Conservation Easement had been sent to the Board in their packet (copy attached to original Board minutes). Mr. Greeter went over this agreement noting that the document sent to them included changes in the easement approved by the Board in September, 1995. Following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve the new Hitchcock Woods Conservation Easement as submitted.

VI. Director's Briefings

A. Executive Office

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman distributed information to the Board on the budget noting where increases had been approved and he went over the wish list and items that we have on this list. He noted that we are now working on the FY97-98 budget request and this will be developed to present to the Governor. Chairman Graham noted that Ted Oxner is Chairman of the Board's Finance Committee, serving with Mr. Burnside, and asked for any volunteers that may wish to serve on this committee and if there were no volunteers he noted that he would serve.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recent staff meeting minutes to the Board for their information.

Dr. Timmerman asked Sonny Baines to pass out a copy of the coordinated information flow chart and Mr. Baines went of this chart. Mr. Burnside noted that if this plan does not work, that problems regarding such should come back to the Board. Chairman Graham noted that this plan is the culmination of what was started several years ago by Mr. Burnside and that he commended Mr. Burnside for his efforts in this area.

Dr. Timmerman distributed information to the Board on a letter being sent out for people reaching age 64 regarding the purchase of a life-time license.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the legislative procedure that had been recently discussed with the Board and noted that this procedure would be put into effect on July 1, 1996.

2. Legal - Buford Mabry noted that the Bishop age discrimination case had been dismissed and restraining order on shrimp will be discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Mabry further noted that Ms. Jean Cureton is medically retiring.
3. Legislative Affairs - Dr. Timmerman noted that Michael Thompson was not at the meeting but a legislative report will be presented to the Board at their July meeting.
4. Human Resources - Caroline Agardy noted that state employees had been granted a 3.4% pay increase in the new budget and the Law Enforcement plan for salary increases is being developed. She further noted that the Classification System is being revamped to go into effect July 1 and the Compensation Policy was distributed and discussed with the Board at the last meeting. Following discussion, the Board approved the Compensation Policy as submitted (copy attached to original Board minutes). Ms. Agardy distributed a list of various training sessions to the Board for their information.
5. Environmental - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

B. Deputy Directors

1. Administrative Services - Benny Reeves noted the state auditors have finished their report and that he will get information on license and magazine subscriptions to Ms. Waring in the near future.
2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Brock Conrad distributed a report on the 1995 Deer Harvest for their information.
3. Natural Resources Enforcement - Mark Huguley distributed a recent article on a canine program in *Field and Stream* magazine. He informed the Board that no agency assisting with the Olympics was being reimbursed for their activities regarding this assistance. The Board was shown public service announcements on the B-SAF Program which was recently implemented.
4. Conservation Education and Communications - John Davis went over the recent awards and recognitions received by the magazine. Sonny Baines noted that a media relations training program has been developed and he went over the schedule and coordination of this program in each Division.
5. Marine Resources - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
6. Water Resources - Freddy Vang presented a report on the upcoming hurricane season and he informed the Board that a State Climatologist has been hired. Mr. Vang further noted that information on river releases has been developed and a project is being developed at Furman University on the hydrology of the Piedmont area.
7. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - This report was covered previously in the meeting.

IX. Missions, Goals, & Strategic Planning

Larry Cartee reported that the Strategic Plan would be presented to the Board at their July meeting.

X. Policy Review

Caroline Agardy distributed a copy of the procedure for terminating an employee to the Board for their information (copy attached to original Board minutes).

XI. Comments

Chairman Graham asked the Board members that had not turned in their evaluation form for Dr. Timmerman to please turn these into him as soon as possible.

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.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the following Conservation District Commissioner appointments: Haile LeMaster, Jr. - Cherokee, Henry B. Rickenbaker, Jr. - Clarendon, Robert W. Murk - Lee, Heath H. Hill - Richland.

XIII. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The Board agreed to hold its next Board meeting at Edisto Island Town Hall on July 19, 1996.

IV. Adjournment

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