

MINUTES

BOARD OF THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**Office of the National Wild Turkey Federation
Edgefield, South Carolina
November 18, 1994
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., Friday, November 18, 1994, at the Office of the National Wild Turkey Federation in Edgefield, South Carolina. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Chairman Marion Burnside presided at the meeting and other Board members present included: J.M. Pendarvis, Dr. Howard Poston, Tom Miller, Knox Haynsworth, and Jake Rasor. 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 Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. MEDITATION

The Board held a moment of silent meditation prior to the meeting beginning.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

The Board adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the October 21, 1994, Board meeting and approved them as submitted.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS

Dr. James Earl Kennemar of the National Wild Turkey Federation welcomed the Board to Edgefield for their meeting. Dr. Kennemar noted that a presentation on the interactive video shooting system will be made following the meeting and he went over plans for a visitor's center to be constructed at their offices in the near future. Chairman Marion Burnside expressed thanks to Dr. Kennemar and the National Wild Turkey Federation for their support in the past and in hosting this meeting of the Board of the Department of Natural Resources.

V. CONSTITUENCY COMMENTS

There were no constituency comments to be presented at this time.

VI. DIRECTOR'S BRIEFINGS

A. Executive Office:

1. Director -

Dr. Timmerman went over the results of the recent election and noted that we will be having new legislators, committees and legislative staff to work with, especially in the House of Representatives. Mr. Pendarvis asked the staff to send the Board all new information on committee appointments upon its receipt. Dr. Timmerman informed the Board that he was in the process of hiring the new conservation officers and he would like to meet with the Board sometime in December on the appointment of these new conservation officers. Dr. Timmerman noted that calls on memorials on Lake Long have been coming to the Department and the staff has developed a recommendation on how to handle these memorials. Brock Conrad went over this recommendation with the Board noting that a fund would be established and landscapers will be hired to handle this memorial in the future. Dr. Timmerman informed the Board that in 1995 he plans to work with the Strategic Planning Committee to do a self-study evaluation of the Department. This will include involvement and input from all staff and review of morale and management in the Department will be evaluated. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will work with professional groups that have conducted such evaluations in the past and such will be done at no cost.

2.. Legal -

Buford Mabry informed the Board that the contracts case has been settled against Wahoo and \$25,000 has been recovered. He noted that we are still defending a civil rights case involving an officer and that Administrative Law Judges are now handling license suspension cases.

3. Legislative -

Dan Dobbins provided the Board with an Election Commission Report on results of the recent election and he noted that we are currently working on drafting revisions for Chapter 9.

4. Human Resources -

Dr. Timmerman noted that information on training would be provided to the Board in Executive Session.

5. Environmental -

There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.

B. Deputy Directors -

1. Administrative Services -

Benny Reeves noted that the Procurement Auditors have completed their review through October, 1994, and have left the Department. Mr. Reeves noted that Mr. Pendarvis had asked about the cost of producing fish and that the staff is reviewing values published by the American Fisheries Society and that he would have a further report on this matter at a later time.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries -

Brock Conrad noted that the biodiversity funding initiative is a major program in the Department and Billy McTeer gave an update on a recent seminar which he had attended regarding this matter. Mr. McTeer noted that federal legislation will be introduced in March for this proposed program and the IAFWA has endorsed this program and is taking a lead role in this matter.

3. Natural Resources Enforcement -

Bill Chastain reported that everything is on schedule for the hiring of conservation officers and the question on the delivery of weapons ordered for the Board is that these should be completed within two weeks.

4. Conservation Education and Communications -

Sonny Baines noted that the new issue of the magazine addresses biodiversity and the new issue of "The Resource" was distributed to the Board and discussed with Mike Creel. Mr. Creel noted that this publication was printed at a cost of \$0.13 per copy and he went over the format for this publication to be handled twice a year.

5. Marine Resources -

Paul Sandifer reported that the NOAA lease was presented to the Budget and Control Board and it was approved. He noted that an opinion had been received from the National Marine Fisheries Service on shrimp fishing as relates to turtles and he went over this matter with the Board. He also advised the Board of a recent action in Florida which outlaws gill nets and expressed the concern this could have on the impacts of fishermen moving into Georgia or South Carolina.

6. Water Resources -

Freddy Vang distributed two new publications to the Board for their information and went over these briefly. Mr. Vang noted that the division will be involved on the predictions of weather in an upcoming meeting and that work is underway on the Lynches River corridor plan.

7. Land Resources and Conservation Districts -

Cary Chamblee reported that the Land Resources and Conservation Districts Advisory Council will meet on December 7, 1994, and the NAPP Photography Update was provided to the Board by Chip Berry.

VII. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

- A. Recommendation to Close Lakes in Mountain Lakes Project for Renovation and Restocking - Brock Conrad reported that staff proposes that the project lakes in Chester County called Mountain Lakes be closed to fishing on January 1, 1995, and reopened to fishing on June 1, 1996. Following discussion of this matter, the Board adopted a motion to approve this recommendation as presented.

VIII. ADVISORY COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

- A. Heritage Trust - There was no report from the Committee at this time.
- B. Conservation Education and Communications - Sonny Baines noted that the Committee had met and he went over the items discussed at the meeting to include the Junior Duck Stamp Program which is being sponsored by the Department in conjunction with the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition and the Women in Wildlife Program.
- C. Marine Resources - Mr. Pendarvis noted the Committee met on November 10, 1994, and he went over the items discussed at the meeting.
- D. Natural Resources Enforcement - Mr. Miller noted the Board met recently and he went over the items discussed at the meeting.

IX. MISSIONS, GOALS, STRATEGIC PLANNING

Larry Cartee discussed a recent memo to Dr. Timmerman on Strategic Planning and the concept of creating a Natural Resources Agenda for the Department and to make recommendations to the newly elected governor on a proposed agenda (copy attached to original Board Minutes). Following discussion of this matter, Dr. Timmerman noted that he would like to have further discussion of this item with the Board at their December meeting.

X. POLICY REVIEW

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

XI. COMMENTS

Rob Keck, Executive Vice President of the National Wild Turkey Federation, expressed his appreciation to the Board for their support and he distributed to the Board a copy of their annual report and noted that the National Wild Turkey Federation was pleased to host this meeting.

Mr. Pendarvis noted that a letter had been received on a boat ramp at Bennett's Point and this item was number one and number two in priority but not in the monthly report. Dr. Timmerman noted the staff would review this matter and contact him to further discuss.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Member Mr. Miller moved for the Board to hold an Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. Mr. Razor seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Board. Chairman Burnside 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

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

Chairman Burnside that there were no items for action by the Board at this time.

XIII. TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting in December through a conference call to be held on December 16, 1994.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

