

MINUTES
BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

Oconee State Park
Friday, October 20, 1995
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, October 20, 1995, at Oconee State Park. 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: Joe Edens, Mary Pope Waring, Campbell Coxe, Marion Burnside, Tom Miller and Phillip Lowe. 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 he and Dr. Timmerman welcomed all guests to the meeting.

II. Meditation

The Board held a moment of silent meditation and an opening prayer 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 September 15, 1995, Board Meeting as submitted.

IV. Presentations/Commendations

Dr. Timmerman and Chairman Graham presented a plaque and a gavel to Marion Burnside in appreciation of his seven years of service as Chairman of the S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission and the S.C. Department of Natural Resources Board.

V. Constituent Comments

Senator Tom Alexander welcomed the Board to Oconee County and expressed thanks and support to the Board and staff for its efforts in continuing the operation of the Walhalla Fish Hatchery.

VI. Director's Briefing

A. Executive Office

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman noted that the Governor's Office wants the Department to be run in a businesslike manner, to be user friendly, and look at ways to raise more revenue in the agency. Dr. Timmerman went over a

number of ideas concerning these issues and noted that he will ask the Board to assist in the process to develop more revenue for the Department in the future.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had some personnel and contractual matters to discuss in executive session.

Dr. Timmerman distributed the Quarterly Vehicle Accident Report to the Board members for their information.

Dr. Timmerman noted that an agreement between the DNR Board and the Board of the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund had been developed by former Chairman Burnside and he noted this agreement was sent to the Board for their action. Chairman George Graham noted that this had been worked on over a period of time and he recommended and asked the Board for approval of this agreement. Following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve the agreement as presented (copy attached to original Board Minutes.)

2. Legal - Buford Mabry noted that a copy of the Order for a Temporary Injunction to allow Sunday hunting on selected tracts of land in Newberry and Fairfield counties had been distributed to the Board. He noted that this matter would be discussed further in executive session. Mr. Mabry gave the Board a brief synopsis of the property-taking legislation which is currently being considered.
3. Legislative Affairs - Michael Thompson reported that the legislative package has been given to Legislative Council to draft and that he had recently met with Rep. Sharpe to go over this package as Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.
4. Human Resources - Dr. Timmerman noted that 105 applications have been received for the Deputy Director of Law Enforcement position and the screening committee will meet shortly to narrow these applications to a group to interview. The screening committee consist of Bob Brantly of Florida, Captain Stanley Smith, Lt. Bill Frazier, Buford Mabry, Paul Sandifer, Mark Keel of SLED, and Caroline Agardy. Dr. Timmerman noted the screening committee will narrow the group to three to five individuals to recommend to him for his consideration for this position.
5. Environmental - There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.

B. Deputy Directors

1. Administrative Services - Benny Reeves distributed a copy of the budget to the Board and noted that we will be working with the Governor's Office on this budget. He advised the Board that we will be breaking down our programs in more detail from 13 to 33 programs at the request of the Governor's Office.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries - Brock Conrad distributed luggage tags with the business cards to the Board and noted these could be developed for them if they so desired.
3. Natural Resources Enforcement - Alvin Wright gave an up-date on the dove cases in Law Enforcement which occurred recently and Alvin Taylor provided an up-date on boating activities and boating accidents that have occurred in the state.
4. Conservation Education & Communication - Don Winslow provided an up-date on the S.C. MAPS Program that is being integrated into the State's public school system.
5. Marine Resources - Paul Sandifer noted that a barge has been leaking in Charleston Harbor and that the staff has been working closely on this problem. He also distributed to the Board a recent article on shrimp baiting.
6. Water Resources - Freddy Vang distributed a map to the Board on the number of tropical events which occurred this year and advised that Board that hydrilla has been found in Lakes Keowee and Thurmond. Mr. Vang further noted that the Water Resources Advisory Committee recommends that the Board appoint Steve Kinard to this Committee.
7. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee distributed a copy of the recent Land Resources Bulletin and a letter on a project relating to best management practices which is operating on a \$50,000 budget and will print 30,000 copies of a Best Management Practices Manual. Mr. Chamblee noted that the Land Resources and Conservation Districts Advisory Committee recommends that the Board appoint Mr. Charles Snow to this Committee.

VII. Items for Board Action

- A. Top Sowing Wheat - Brock Conrad went over the process for establishing regulations for hunting mourning doves through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Conrad also distributed a copy of the planting guidelines recently adopted by the Clemson University Extension Service. Breck Carmichael distributed a copy of the alternatives regarding ways to decrease the harvest pressure on doves and he also distributed a copy of the proposed change in the baiting provisions for Mourning Dove hunting in South Carolina (copy attached to original Board Minutes). Phillip Lowe discussed the actions of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee noting that the Committee voted three to two to eliminating the top sowing of wheat. Mr. Lowe discussed the problem and the discussions that were held on this matter with the Advisory Committee. Following other discussion, the Board adopted a motion to accept the recommendations of the staff to eliminate the top sowing of grains or seeds as presented by staff for the 1996-97 Mourning Dove season.

- B. Draft Goals and Objectives - Strategic Planning Committee - Larry Cartee noted that the draft Goals and Objectives from the Strategic Planning Committee had been mailed to the Board (copy attached to original Board Minutes). Mr. Cartee went over these draft Goals and Objectives and sought input from the Board. The Board noted that they felt they needed to have more input into this process and that we need to look at dates and milestones as well as cost figures in prioritizing programs as it relates to these goals and objectives. In addition, coordination with Tourism, Forestry and looking at a regional office set-up were also noted as items which need to be followed through within the development of a plan. The Board noted that the concerns of the SC Forestry Association need to be obtained and this should be done before the Board takes any action on this plan. Mr. Cartee noted that he will follow through on this matter and report back to the Board.
- C. Proposed Legislation - Road Hunting and Trespass - Mr. Miller noted that the concepts for consideration on road hunting and trespass had been sent to the Board in their packet (copy attached to original Board Minutes). Mr. Miller went over these proposals and Alvin Wright discussed each proposal in detail. Following discussion, the Board adopted motions to accept staff's recommendations as presented on road hunting and trespass and to make these items as part of the Department's legislative package.
- D. Drug Testing Policy - Caroline Agardy noted that the proposed drug testing policy had been sent to the Board in their packet (copy attached to original Board Minutes). Ms. Agardy discussed this proposed policy with the Board. Following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve the policy as presented with the deletion under Item II.B of the first part of the sentence which stated "With the exception of DNR law enforcement...". Based upon this change noted, the policy was approved by the Board.
- E. Discussion - User Fees on Department Property - Dr. Timmerman noted that this item had been discussed by the Board at the last meeting and the Chapter 9 provisions have changes in this proposed legislation which would provide for user

fees on Department properties. Buford Mabry noted these changes in Chapter 9 will provide user fees for all Department properties. Ms. Waring asked if we could put user fees on Heritage Trust properties at this time or could we look at a permit for current use of Heritage Trust properties. Following further discussion of this item, Ms. Waring asked that the staff put together a draft implementation plan for such user fees on Heritage Trust properties for staff review and to have this item on the agenda for the November Board meeting.

- F. Proposed Policy - Samworth Boat Landing - Dr. Timmerman noted that information had been sent to the Board regarding this matter and that the staff has recommended that we continue to not allow use of this boat landing. Dr. Timmerman asked the Board for guidance on this matter as it related to a limited use of the boat ramp at the Samworth WMA. Following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to open the Samworth WMA boat ramp on a limited one year basis with this ramp to be maintained and not expanded beyond its current condition and to instruct the staff to continue in a passive manner the integrity of the Samworth WMA.
- G. License Revocations - The Board reviewed the license revocations of Mr. Roger Dale Todd and Mr. Charles M. Henderson. Following this review, the Board adopted a motion to affirm the decision of the Administrative Law Judge to revoke these licenses under current state law.
- H. Proposed Easement at Lake Thicketty - Brock Conrad noted that a memo regarding a proposed easement at Lake Thicketty had been sent to the Board (copy attached to original Board Minutes). Following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve the easement as presented by Mr. Conrad.
- I. Proposed Heritage Trust Acquisitions - This item was delayed for discussion in the executive session.
- J. Report on Trout Program - Randy Geddings gave an in-depth report on the Trout Program and provided an up-date on the negotiations regarding the Walhalla Fish Hatchery. Mr. Geddings noted that further information would be provided this afternoon in a tour of the Walhalla Fish Hatchery.

VIII. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. Marine Recreational Fisheries - Paul Sandifer distributed a copy of the minutes of the recent meeting of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee. Chairman Graham appointed Ms. Waring to be the Board's representative on the Marine Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee.
- B. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - There was no report from this meeting this month as the meeting was canceled.
- C. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Mr. Lowe went over the items discussed at the recent meeting and noted that minutes of the meeting will be sent to the Board members.

IX. Missions, Goals, & Strategic Planning

This item was previously acted upon in the Board meeting.

X. Policy Review

This item was previously acted upon in the Board meeting.

XI. Comments

The Board expressed thanks to the PRT staff for hosting the meeting at Oconee State Park and the accommodations that were made available for those attending.

XII. Executive Session

Mr. Miller moved for the Board to hold an executive session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Mr. Lowe 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 contractual matters.

=====

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

The Board adopted a motion to accept the staff's recommendations to purchase the following Heritage Trust properties: 1) South Williman Island; 2) Old Island; 3) addition to Dargan Heritage Preserve; 4) addition to the Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve; and 5) Brasstown Creek (copy attached to original Board Minuted).

The Board adopted a motion to reappoint Ed Muckenfuss and appoint Obie Stokes to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee, appoint Charles Snow to the Land Resources and Conservation Districts Advisory Committee, and appoint Steve Kinard to the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

The Board adopted another motion to hold an executive session for legal and personnel matters. Chairman Graham announced that at this time the Board would hold another executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

=====

Minutes - DNR Board Meeting
October 20, 1995
Page 7

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

XIII. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting on December 1, 1995, at 10:00 am in Charleston.

XIV. Adjournment

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

