

MINUTES

BOARD OF THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, South Carolina
October 21, 1994
9:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was held at 9:00 a.m., on Friday, October 21, 1994, in Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, S.C. 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: Tom Miller, J. M. Pendarvis, George Vickery, Jake Rasor and Dr. Howard Poston. 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 9:00 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 September 16, 1994, Board Meeting and approved them as submitted.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS

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

V. CONSTITUENCY COMMENTS

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

VI. DIRECTORS' BRIEFINGS

A. Executive Office:

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman informed the Board that the Quarterly Vehicle Accident Report had been distributed to them for their information. Dr. Timmerman noted that arrangements had been made to view the video machine at the National Wild Turkey Federation offices in Edgefield and they had invited the Board to meet in Edgefield for their November meeting. Dr. Timmerman distributed notes from the recent Deputy Directors staff meeting for their information. Dr. Timmerman

informed the Board that he had met in the Governor's Office on the 800MHz system, and the State will be going to this system at a cost of \$9.5 million to the Department over three years. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department currently spends \$300,000 per year on maintenance for the radio system and this amount could be contributed to the cost for this new system.

2. Legal -
Buford Mabry distributed memos on the Crime Bill and proposed amendments on the Brady Bill and went over this legislation with the Board. Mr. Mabry also noted that as the Department acquires more property we will have more problems with legal suits and damage claims in the future.
3. Legislative -
There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.
4. Human Resources -
There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.
5. Environmental -
There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.

B. Deputy Directors -

1. Administrative Services -
Benny Reeves reported to the Board that the FY 95/96 Budget Request had been sent to the Governor's Office and the Department has developed Performance Measures in the budgetary process. He noted that he will give the Board members a detailed copy of this budget.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries -
Brock Conrad noted that Bob Brantly recently made a report on the Game and Non-Game Programs and that action has been taken to change the name of the Game Section to the Wildlife Management Section, and the Non-Game Section to the Wildlife Diversity Section. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will handle this matter administratively and this was for the Board's information. Val Nash gave an update on the outreach efforts in the Freshwater Fisheries Program noting that the 1-800-ASK-FISH program was initiated recently by Governor Campbell. Mr. Nash further noted that we are starting a checkout program of rods and reels at the libraries in Lexington County and information on the American Sportfishing Association was distributed to the Board for their information.

3. Natural Resources Enforcement -
Bill Chastain reported that the panel is now interviewing for conservation officer positions and recommendations will be developed by December. Dr. Timmerman noted that he will ask the Board for approval for conservation officer appointments in December and we have been receiving a large number of calls regarding these positions. Lt. Chip Sharpe showed the Board two Public Service Announcements that have recently been completed on the restructuring efforts and the Operation Game Thief Program.
4. Conservation Education and Communications -
Sonny Baines noted that the Department is able to produce some high quality videos now due to the various divisions sharing recently in the cost of securing new video equipment. John Davis updated the Board on the magazine's role in the South Carolina Maps Program, and a letter from Dr. Barbara Neilsen to the schools to encourage involvement in this program was distributed. It was noted that the cost for this program will be \$65.00 per teacher per year.
5. Marine Resources -
Paul Sandifer noted that he had just returned from a meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and that his staff had recently met at the Marine Center with the Atlantic Coast Conservation Association to develop information on fisheries programs. He went over various items in the monthly report and discussed the recent closure of shellfish areas by DHEC due to the heavy rain.
6. Water Resources -
Freddy Vang gave the Board an update on the Aquatic Weed Program and went over the Aquatic Plant Management Plan with the Board. A detailed presentation and slide show on this program was made to the Board for their information.
7. Land Resources and Conservation Districts -
Cary Chamblee updated the Board on recent federal legislation to reorganize the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the changes that will be made with this reorganization. He noted that the Conservation Districts meeting will be held January 5-9, 1995, in Charleston, and he distributed some new publications to the Board for their information.

VII. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

- A. Heritage Trust Property Matters - This item was delayed to be discussed in Executive Session.
- B. Foster Creek Fish Kill - Miller White noted that a report on the Foster Creek Fish Kill had been sent to the Board (copy attached to original Board minutes). Mr. White went over this report in detail and following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve the report as submitted and to seek the recovery of the costs outlined in the report.
- C. 1995 Turkey Season Proposed Changes - David Baumann noted that the 1995 Turkey Season proposed changes have been sent to the Board (copy attached to original Board minutes). Mr. Baumann went over this report and following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve the proposed changes as submitted.
- D. Proposed Chapter 9 Revision - Billy McTeer distributed a summary of the proposed Chapter 9 revisions as developed by a committee in the Department (copy attached to original Board minutes). Mr. McTeer went over these recommendations and noted that it is estimated that the changes will produce approximately \$1 million in revenue. Chairman Burnside asked the whole Department to get behind this proposed Bill and for everyone to work closely on this matter. Mr. Pendarvis asked about combining the WMA Permit and the proposed access permit and this item was discussed with the Board. Following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve the recommendations as presented and for the total Department to provide support for approval and adoption of this package.
- E. Proposed Long Term Lease for NOAA Building - Paul Sandifer noted that the proposed lease of land at Ft. Johnson for the construction of the new federally funded Marine Laboratory by NOAA had been sent to the Board for their consideration (copy attached for original Board minutes). Dr. Sandifer went over this proposal in detail and following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve the proposed lease and the details of the proposal as submitted.
- F. Vehicle Tags for Advisory Boards/Committees - Mr. Pendarvis discussed the practice of specialized vehicle tags for Advisory Boards members and it was agreed that the members could secure these tags on their own if they so desired.
- G. Mobile Phones and Pagers - Mr. Pendarvis noted that information had been sent to the Board on the cost associated with mobile and pagers and he did not have anything further to report at this time.

VIII. ADVISORY COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

A. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that there was nothing further to report from this Advisory Board at this time.

IX. MISSIONS, GOALS, STRATEGIC PLANNING

Larry Cartee noted that there was nothing further to report to the Board this month.

X. POLICY REVIEW

Caroline Agardy noted that a committee is meeting to review policies and a draft report will be available in December.

XI. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Board that he had recently sent a reply to Mr. Russell Patterson on questions that he had raised and he showed the Board a copy of this reply and the supporting documents that went along with the reply.

Mr. Vickery noted that the recent action by the Marine Advisory Board as it relates to supporting legislation on limits of the channel net permits with legislators in the Georgetown area was of concern and he would like to see these types of actions come before the full Board for discussion. Mr. Vickery asked for further discussion and clarification on this matter and Mr. Pendarvis noted that he will review the minutes to get with him on this matter.

Mr. Pendarvis noted that Mr. James Duke is working on a cost estimate for a boat ramp at Bennett's Point and he moved for the Board to agree to establish this project and move it as a priority when funds are available. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Board.

Mr. Pendarvis noted that he had received a memo from Mac Watson on the cost of fish in the Department and he asked that this matter be continued and we need to have a more complete and detailed report as it relates to the cost of producing fish in the Department. Mr. Pendarvis noted this matter needs further clarification and additional cost estimates and this was discussed with Benny Reeves who noted that he would follow through on this matter.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

The Board adopted a motion to approve the recommendations from the Land Resources staff for appointments to the Land Resources and Conservation Districts Advisory Committee.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the staff recommendations for the appointment of District Commissioner Sam McQueen. Mr. Pendarvis voted in the negative on this motion.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the recommendations from the Water Resources staff on the appointments on the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the Heritage Trust staff recommendation on the licensing of Dr. Waugh.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the Heritage Trust staff recommendations of two Waccamaw tracts.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the recommendations on Nipper Creek.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the acquisition of the Lynchburg/Savanna site.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the acquisition of the Savage Bay/Scurry tract. Mr. Pendarvis voted in the negative on this motion.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the acquisition of the Savage Bay/Peay tract. Mr. Pendarvis voted in the negative on this motion.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the acquisition of the Albright tract.

The Board adopted a motion to appoint Frances Limehouse to the Marine Resources Advisory Board.

The Board adopted a motion to reappoint William Jennings to the Conservation Education and Communication Advisory Board.

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XIII. TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting at the office of the National Wild Turkey Federation in Edgefield, SC at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 18, 1994.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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