

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

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building  
Columbia, SC

Friday, October 25, 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, October 25, 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 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 20, 1996, Board meeting as submitted.

**IV. Presentations/Commendations**

A. Dr. Graham announced that Dr. Timmerman had been given the Clarence W. Watson Award, the highest award that can be given by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, for his outstanding contribution to natural resources management on the state, national and international level. He stated that he and the Board were proud of Dr. Timmerman for his accomplishments and were honored that he could represent this agency and our state in his many endeavors and hope of that he would do so in the years to come.

B. Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor Recognition - Dr. Graham called on Major Van McCarty who with Charlie Snyder presented to Dwight Long the first Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor Award. He then presented to Mr. Long the Game Conservation International award for outstanding hunter education instructor.

**V. Constituency Comments**

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

VI. Items for Board Action

- A. Blue Crab Legislation - Dr. Sandifer distributed two double spaced sheets of changes to replace sheets in the original draft legislation that was mailed to the Board prior to the meeting (copy attached to original Board Minutes) and asked the Board's consideration of making this proposed legislation a part of their Legislative Package for 1997. Mary Pope Waring stated that a lengthy review process had been undertaken under the auspices of the Marine Advisory Committee and praised members of the department staff and members of the commercial and recreational fishery for their participation. She stated that while there is still some vocal opposition to aspects of the proposed legislation, she felt this was a very good compromise and moved that the Board approve this proposal. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, and Dr. Graham called for a discussion. Following general discussion, the motion was approved. Ms. Waring then discussed briefly the issue of limited entry and John Miglarese gave the Board a briefing on that concept.
- B. Proposed Waccamaw River Heritage Trust Preserve Management Plan - Johnny Stowe briefed the Board on the management plan for the Waccamaw River Heritage Trust Preserve. Ms. Waring made a motion that the plan be approved, Mr. Burnside seconded the motion and the motion was passed.
- C. Deputy Law Enforcement Officer (DLEO) Strength Recommendations - Col. Mark Huguley distributed a memo delineating in writing the action previously taken by the Board concerning strength recommendations for Deputy Law Enforcement Officers. Following a brief discussion, Dr. Graham stated that the memo did accurately reflect the Board's action.
- D. Ratification of Telephone Poll on Budget - Dr. Graham stated that because of the timing of the presentation of the final budget proposal to the Governor's Office, action had to be taken by the Board previous to this meeting. He stated that a telephone poll had been held on October 8, 1996, and that the Board had unanimously adopted the budget document. He stated that he would like to now ratify that telephone poll. Mr. Miller made a motion that the Board take that action, Mr. Burnside seconded and discussion was called for. Ms. Waring stated that she had several issues of which she was concerned, specifically that additional monies were needed for mapping in the Geological Survey, the Boating Safety Program and the South Carolina MAPS Program in the CEC Division. Dr. Timmerman and staff then entered into a lengthy discussion of measures that they were exploring to mitigate the funding needs in these areas. Following this discussion, Ms. Waring stated that she was satisfied with the responses and felt that additional amendments were not necessary at this time. Dr. Graham called the question and the motion was passed.

**VII. Advisory Committee Reports**

- A. Water Resources - Freddy Vang reported that the last several Advisory Committee meetings had dealt with the State Water Plan and that the Plan would be before the Board for consideration in the near future. He stated they would be meeting with the SC Farm Bureau in December at their annual meeting to discuss the matter further. He also reported that the Budget and Control Board had voted unanimously to approve the generous action taken by the SC Electric & Gas Company to place six miles of the Saluda River into the State's Scenic River System.
- B. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries - Mr. Coxe stated that they had met on October 10 at the Webb Wildlife Center and that the meeting dealt primarily with deer management across the state, and he complimented the staff on their work in this regard. He stated that his Committee had formed a joint committee with the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee to work on problems caused by deer depredation and to work on developing a system to allow the Department to be compensated for game illegally taken.
- C. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Von Snelgrove reported that their recent meeting centered around ways that the conservation districts can improve their services to the state into the next century. He also discussed the Farm Bill and the provisions containing money for a Farm Land Protection Program. He pointed that South Carolina is one of the states that does not have such a program as of yet, but his Committee is exploring ways to implement such a program to take advantage of these federal funds.
- D. Conservation Education and Communications - Mr. Burnside reported on the recent meeting held at the Marine Center. He stated that the Committee was given a thorough briefing on the SCMAPS Program and that it was most impressive. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Burnside made a motion that the Board resolve that the SCMAPS Program is a flagship educational program of the Department. Ms. Waring seconded the motion and the motion passed. Mr. Burnside called on Sonny Baines who introduced Jim Goller and John Davis who gave the Board a briefing on the *SC Wildlife Magazine's* revenue picture and the products for sale to raise revenue for the magazine. They then presented to the Board a new line of products that would go on sale at the first of the year through the magazine. Dr. Graham asked about potential patent or trademark problems and Jim Goller stated they were exploring that to be sure that such did not occur.

**VIII. Director's Briefings**

**A. Executive Office**

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman reported that he had recently had a meeting with the Governor's Chief of Staff and had emphasized the budget requests; he expressed appreciation to Dr. Graham for his advocacy of the budget with the Governor's Office. He stated that the Chief of Staff had said there is the possibility of a Bond Bill this year.

Dr. Timmerman stated that the Board would be receiving a notification of a public announcement to be held on November 13 at 10:00 a.m. at Lake Jocassee concerning the Duke Project. He stated the agenda would deal with an acquisition of 1,000 acres through the Heritage Trust Program, \$500,000 of Legacy Fund money for acquisition and \$1,000,000 in the U.S. Forest Service budget for acquisition in that area.

Dr. Timmerman stated that Ms. Waring had expressed interest in the possibility of establishing a Trust Fund, the proceeds of which would be used to manage department properties. He distributed a copy of the Wildlife Endowment Fund Act, legislation that he felt would be an ideal vehicle for such a purpose. After a brief discussion, Ms. Waring suggested that we create a list of institutions, foundations, boards, etc. that could be approached for donations.

Dr. Timmerman discussed the State Printing Committee's recommendations, stating that he had worked with the Governor's staff to ensure that none of our mail room staff would not be moved as a result of this proposal. He then reviewed briefly the recommendations of this report. Dr. Graham expressed dismay that our printing operation was one of the most efficient in the report but that we may be forced to close it down. He asked Dr. Timmerman to make every effort to see that this was not done, while assuring the Governor that we would be a team player in the new printing operation established at Corrections.

Dr. Timmerman also reported that we had hoped to fill an attorney's position soon, but the Attorney General's Office has held that request up for the time being. He expressed concern that the Attorney General may be seeking to have such positions moved to his office.

Dr. Timmerman distributed the most recent quarterly vehicle accident report and discussed it briefly.

Dr. Timmerman reported that he would like to address the January Board Meeting on the future of the agency's programs into the year 2020.

2. Deputy Director's Committee - Dr. Sandifer reported that the Committee continued to meet on a regular basis and invited the Board to attend their next meeting on November 12. He reported that at their last meeting, they had received a briefing on a Point-of-Sale Workshop attended by the Administrative Division's staff. He stated they would bring this issue before the Board at another meeting.

Dr. Sandifer reported that the Task Force on Science and Technology was looking into a department-wide study to determine the key technology needs of our field offices.

Dr. Sandifer reported that they anticipated an opportunity to bid on a NOAA contract to do ecological characteristics studies of the ACE Basin, and that this would be an agency wide project.

Dr. Sandifer stated that he had recently received notification that the Department of Commerce had received funds in their budget to finalize the funding for the NOAA building at Ft. Johnson. This, along with other funding through the National Institute of Standards and Technology, would complete the funding for the building.

3. Legal - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
4. Legislative Affairs - Michael Thompson reported that he had been meeting with Legislators on the Board's 1997 Legislative Proposal and was in the process of developing a list of sponsors for those individuals pieces of legislation in the proposal.
5. Human Resources - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
6. Environmental - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

**B. Deputy Directors**

1. Marine Resources - Dr. Sandifer stated that he had nothing further to report, but stated that he would not have been able to assume the new duties given to him by Dr. Timmerman and the Board if it had not been for the able staff at the Marine Resources Division. He particularly thanked John Miglarese in this regard as well as Fred Holland, David Cupka, Donnie Gibson, David Whitaker, and others.
2. Water Resources - Freddy Vang reported there was no report. Marion Burnside stated that he had seen a recent ruling from the Circuit Court that appeared to have a serious impact on whether or not impounded waters were considered navigable, thereby public. After a brief discussion, Dr. Graham asked the legal section to investigate this matter and report to the Board at a subsequent meeting.
3. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Von Snelgrove reported that there would be a Non-Point Source Pollution Meeting with DHEC on November 12 and that this was a problem that had been discussed with the Board previously. He also gave the Board a brief report on the first South Carolina Envirothon Competition to be held on March 17, 1997.
4. Administrative Services - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
5. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Mr. Conrad distributed a copy of the Heritage Preserve work plan to the Board and invited comments. Brock Conrad introduced Mr. Joe Hamilton, the Coordinator of the Savannah Basin Focus Area, who then provided the Board with a thorough briefing of the activities in the focus area. Ms. Waring expressed appreciation to Mr. Hamilton and others that were involved in the focus area programs, stating that this partnership approach was an example of how forward-thinking this agency is in its work.  
  
Dr. Timmerman discussed the various Land Trusts that are now in existence and suggested the possibility of developing a coordinating plan so that these trusts can work together and interact more efficiently and effectively.
6. Natural Resources Enforcement - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
7. Conservation Education and Communications - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

**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**

There were no further comments from the Board members at this time.

**XII. Executive Session**

Mr. Miller moved for the Board to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel, legal and contractual matters. Ms. Waring 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, legal and contractual matters.

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**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

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

Mr. Burnside made the motion that Chalmers Dial and Webb Smathers be reappointed to the Land Resources and Conservation District Advisory Committee for a 4-year term. Ms. Waring seconded and the motion passed.

Mr. Burnside made the motion that Lewis Walker, Ben Gramling and Nick Odom be reappointed to the Water Resources Advisory Committee. Ms. Waring seconded and the motion passed.

Mr. Burnside made the motion that the three new appointments and four reappointments for Conservation District Commissioners on the list provided be approved. Ms. Waring seconded and the motion passed.

**XIII. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting**

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the next Board meeting would be held on Friday, November 15, 1996, at the regular time in Columbia, SC, at the Water Resources office.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that, as was customary, there would be no meeting in December.

After further discussion, it was decided that the February meeting would be held on the 14th in conjunction with the Wildlife Exposition in Charleston. The Chairman reminded the Board that the Migratory Waterfowl judging would also be held on February 14th also in conjunction with that meeting.

**IV. Adjournment**

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