

MINUTES

BOARD OF THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, South Carolina
September 16, 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, September 16, 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, Knox Haynsworth, George Vickery, Jake Razor and Dr. Howard Poston. Dr. James Timmerman 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 August 26, 1994, Board Meeting and approved them as submitted. Mr. Pendarvis noted that he had an item to take up in Executive Session relating to the minutes and an item which was discussed in Executive Session at the previous meeting.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS

Dr. Timmerman presented an item given to the Department by the Canadian Government in recognition of our efforts with the North American Waterfowl Plan and noted that this recognition would be prominently displayed.

V. SPECIAL ISSUES - REPORT ON PIEDMONT DEER HUNTING ISSUES

Chairman Burnside noted that the hearing officer had held hearings on the proposed changes in Wildlife Management Area Regulations and he asked Derrell Shipes to go over the hearing officer's report. Mr. Shipes noted that the hearing officer's report was mailed to the Board in their packet and he went over the items in this report and discussed these items in depth with the Board. Following discussion, Mr. Razor moved for the Board to vote to withdraw the proposed regulation changes and uphold the hearing officer's findings. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Board.

VI. CONSTITUENCY COMMENTS

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

VII. DIRECTORS' BRIEFINGS

A. Executive Office:

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman informed the Board and congratulated the Chairman on receiving the Order of the Palmetto Award from Governor Campbell. Dr. Timmerman noted that the notes from the September 6, 1994, staff meeting had been distributed which included a memo to the Deputy Directors on their roles and responsibilities. Dr. Timmerman informed the Board that close to 1,000 applications have been received for the Conservation Officer positions which have been advertised. Dr. Timmerman distributed new business cards to the Board members, and a list of the vacancies on the Advisory Boards was also distributed. Mr. Pendarvis asked about the status of the change in the Executive Order and Chairman Burnside noted that this is being done. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Conservation Officers Award Banquet would be held today at the Embassy Suites Hotel starting at 1:00 p.m.

Larry Cartee gave an update on the S.C. Geological Survey and went over the mission and purposes of this program. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will be seeking additional funding from the Budget and Control Board to assist with the implementation of this program.

2. Legal -
There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.
3. Legislative -
There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.
4. Human Resources -
Caroline Agardy reported that the Human Affairs Commission is working with the staff on the Department's Affirmative Action Plan.
5. Environmental -
There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.

Dr. Timmerman further noted that the Legislative Audit Council has issued a report on vehicles in state government, and the Department was not listed in the report as being in noncompliance. He noted that he has asked Terry Hughey to work on a statewide maintenance plan for boat repairs in order to come up with a better system. Dr. Timmerman noted that each Deputy Director

is now charged with the responsibility of getting recommendations to him on vehicle assignments and commuting, and each Deputy Director has to manage the vehicles in their division within the guidelines that are established.

B. Deputy Directors -

1. Administrative Services -

Benny Reeves reported that a draft report of the 1992-93 Audit was just completed and the procurement auditors are now working in the Department.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries -

Brock Conrad distributed a report on Heritage Trust lands to the Board for their information. He also distributed a report on dove season preferences and recommended the Board make a decision on this matter early in the coming year in order to get it into the brochure before the next dove season. Dr. Timmerman noted that at the recent IAFWA meeting, most states were losing hunters and Pennsylvania, for example, has lost one million dollars in revenue over the last two years. Efforts are underway to recruit women and youth and some states are now implementing a program called the "Outdoor Woman". In addition, at the meeting an electronic system used to stimulate interest in hunting was discussed and the National Wild Turkey Federation has purchased one of these systems to use. Dr. Timmerman noted that we would set up a Board meeting in Edgefield at some future date in order that the Board could see this system and its applications.

3. Natural Resources Enforcement -

Bill Chastain noted that the Crime Bill has passed and a seminar will be held on Phases II and III of this Crime Bill. This item was discussed and Dr. Timmerman noted that we will have this item as an agenda item for a more detailed briefing at the October Board meeting.

4. Conservation Education and Communications -

Don Winslow reported that the Education Council has approved recommendations for the DNR Program. Mr. Winslow presented a report on the Department's education programs in the schools noting that 250 schools have been scheduled this year and 129 schools are on the waiting list for programs during this school year. He noted that this effort reaches between 50,000 and 60,000 students in the state's schools. Mr. Winslow also informed the Board that a draft Memorandum of Understanding between our Department and the Education Department has been developed on the South Carolina Maps Program.

5. Marine Resources -
Paul Sandifer went over the archeological study of the Marine Center's property noting that various sites are being reviewed to locate the NOAA building to be constructed. Brochures on the history of Ft. Johnson were distributed to the Board for their information. He noted that the DNR will provide the land for the NOAA building and a cooperative agreement has been signed by Dr. Timmerman on this project. Dr. Sandifer noted that he will ask the DNR Board at the next meeting to consider approval of a long term, no cost lease for the land for this project.
6. Water Resources -
Freddy Vang went over the status of mercury testing with the Board and discussed the expansion of aquatic weeds in the state and efforts undertaken to control this problem. Following discussion, Mr. Pendarvis asked for a more detailed report on the aquatic weed problem and treatment alternatives to be presented to the Board.
7. Land Resources and Conservation Districts -
There was nothing further to report to the Board this month.

Chairman Burnside noted that there was a recent article on mosquito abatement proposals in Georgetown County, and John Frampton went over the background concerning this matter noting that there is a proposed ordinance on managed impoundments as it relates to mosquitoes. George Vickery discussed the opposition to this ordinance and it was noted that the Department would continue to follow this matter closely.

VIII. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

- A. Proposals for Land and Water Resources Advisory Committees:
Dan Dobbins presented the redrafted proposals for the Land and Water Resources Advisory Committees that were sent to the Board (copy attached to original Board minutes). Dr. Timmerman noted that we will have recommendations for appointments to the Advisory Committees at the October meeting. Dan Dobbins went over the redraft with the Board and several questions were raised by Mr. Pendarvis relating to this proposal. Following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to accept the recommendations as submitted, and to have the issue of tags for Advisory Boards and Committee members to be an agenda item for discussion at the next Board meeting.

IX. ADVISORY COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

A. Conservation Education and Communication: Mr. Vickery noted that the Board met on September 9, 1994, and discussed the concerns about the lack of staff for the Department's education program. Mr. Vickery noted that it was the consensus of the Advisory Board that the following items be relayed to the Natural Resources Board:

- 1) That all Divisions of the DNR cooperate with CEC to establish uniform educational programs that fit with each division's specialty.
- 2) Recognize the importance of increase in dollars and FTEs (positions) for education because of the overwhelming demands from our schools.

Mr. Vickery went over the other items from the Board meeting and it was noted that minutes of this meeting would be sent to the DNR Board for their information.

B. Natural Resources Enforcement: Mr. Miller noted that this meeting was held last Friday on the shrimp baiting issue and he would defer action on this to the Marine Resources Advisory Board. Mr. Miller did note that the Natural Resources Enforcement Board withdrew its recommendations on road hunting until we see what action the Department of Transportation takes on the road hunting matter.

C. Marine Resources: Mr. Pendarvis noted that the Marine Resources Advisory Board met jointly with the Natural Resources Enforcement Advisory Board and he went over the discussion on shrimp baiting. Mr. Pendarvis noted that the Board along with the Natural Enforcement Advisory Board approved the following recommendations:

- 1) Do not change the existing shrimp baiting legislation.
- 2) Pursue legislation to make it unlawful to purchase, barter or trade marine products harvested or taken illegally.
- 3) Pursue contact with the South Carolina Department of Revenue and members of the General Assembly to assess the feasibility of using the tax code to identify illegal sales.
- 4) Increase law enforcement presence.

These recommendations were presented to the DNR Board for approval in the form of a motion and it was seconded and adopted by the DNR Board. Mr. Pendarvis asked the DNR Board to send an appropriate letter to the members of the General Assembly that the current shrimp baiting law is satisfactory and no changes are requested.

Mr. Pendarvis noted the Board approved a motion to recommend to the DNR Board that the Department seek legislation requiring the use of turtle excluder devices in channel nets. The DNR Board approved a motion to adopt

this recommendation as presented. Mr. Pendarvis also noted the Marine Resources Advisory Board adopted a motion to recommend to the DNR Board that they approve revising the lottery for channel net permits to weight new applicant's chances of being selected based on the number of consecutive years his/her name is in the lottery. The DNR Board adopted a motion to approve this recommendation as submitted.

X. MISSIONS, GOALS, STRATEGIC PLANNING

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

XI. POLICY REVIEW

Caroline Agardy noted that a committee is being developed to study the policies in the Department and will take about six months to complete the review process.

XII. COMMENTS

Mr. Pendarvis noted that he had received a list of mobile phones and pagers as it relates to cost, and he asked Benny Reeves to send a copy of this information to the Board for discussion at the next Board meeting. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has the Deputy Enforcement Officers for appointments and he asked the Board for any comments or input on these appointments.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Miller moved for the Board to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Rasor seconded the motion and it was approved by the Board. Chairman Burnside announced that at this time the Board would hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel 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.

The Board adopted a motion to accept staff recommendations for conservation district commissioner appointments to include Allen Beer, Raymond Whales, Jr., Louis Hardaway, Jr., and Richard B. Gamble. Mr. Pendarvis spoke against the motion and voted in the negative on the motion.

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XIV. TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting at 9:00 a.m., Friday, October 21, 1994, in Columbia, S.C.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

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

