

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

**Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, SC**

Friday, September 20, 1996

9:00 am

The regular meeting of the Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was held at 9:00 a.m, Friday, September 20, 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 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Meditation

The Board held a moment of silent meditation in honor of Mr. Tommy Welch and this was lead by Chairman Graham prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Dr. Timmerman introduced Mr. Bob Streeter, Assistant Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who will be the keynote speaker at the Conservation Officer Awards Banquet.

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The Board adopted a motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 1996, Board meeting as submitted.

IV. Presentations/Commendations

There were no presentations/commendations to be made to the Board at this time.

V. Constituency Comments

Danny Stone of the Five Rivers Coalition asked the Board to make a decision on the option for seven acres to build a boat ramp and to make improvements to the Buck Hall Landing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Stone supported these recommendations and asked for the Board's support. Nancy Somerset passed out photos of the boat ramp being discussed and asked the Department to pursue the option

and improvements at the Buck Hall Landing. Dan Phillips stated that he lived in Columbia and that he would like to see improvements made to the boat ramp at McClellanville. Chairman Graham expressed appreciation for these comments and noted that the Board hoped to have a recommendation soon on this matter.

VI. Items for Board Action

- A. Outdoors Woman Program - This item was delayed until the report of Conservation Education and Communication Division later in the meeting.
- B. Proposed Heritage Trust Land Acquisitions - Action on this was delayed for discussion in Executive Session.
- C. Draft Blue Crab Legislation - Paul Sandifer distributed a series of recommendations on Blue Crab legislation which was approved by the Marine Advisory Committee and asked for the Board to approve these recommendations in concept and a draft Bill would be submitted to the Board for final action at their October meeting. David Whitaker went over the background of the development of these recommendations through the Blue Crab Ad Hoc Committee. Following discussion, the Board agreed to accept these recommendations as information and to have this as an agenda item for the October meeting.

VII. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. Heritage Trust - Discussion of this committee meeting was delayed by the Board for Executive Session.
- B. Marine Resources - Ms. Waring went over the items discussed at the meeting and the settlement on the shrimp farm law suit was distributed and discussed by Paul Sandifer. Ms. Waring commended Jim Quinn for his work on the McClellanville boat ramp and Captain Garbade and officers in District 9 for their work on the Olympics.
- C. Natural Resources Enforcement - Tom Miller noted the committee met on September 11, 1996, and he went over the items discussed at the meeting noting that there were no items for action by the Board.

VIII. Director's Briefings

A. Executive Office

- 1. Director - Dr. Timmerman noted that we are in good position on the federal budget and that we are working with the Governor's Office to consolidate our budget programs for the Department's budget. He noted that we hope to have a response on this consolidation of the Department's programs within a week or two.

Dr. Timmerman noted that in 1998, a national award will be presented to the farmer or rancher that has excelled on stewardship and this award will be presented in 1997 in South Carolina.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he has worked on the Biological Services Program and a meeting with the Secretary of the Interior recently at the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Teaming With Wildlife Funding Proposal was discussed at the recent International meeting and that he was not as optimistic as his fellow directors on legislation regarding this program for next year.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Wildlife Legislative Fund and Shikar Safari have joined forces on a public relations effort for ballot initiatives that relate to hunting and related items.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he will ask Rose Marie to send a memo to the Board on the advisory committee vacancies for the Board to make recommendations to the Governor for appointments to these vacancies.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a map on Heritage Trust properties noting the distribution of these properties throughout the state.

2. Deputy Director's Committee - Paul Sandifer noted that the deputy directors are reviewing the educational programs in the agency and SCMAPS will be the flagship education program for the Department. He noted that funding for this program is needed and a request will be made to the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund. Dr. Timmerman noted that \$20,000 in carry-over funds have been put into the CEC budget for this program. Paul Sandifer noted that the deputy directors have discussed the point-of-sale license program and a workshop will be held on this subject at the upcoming annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He noted that a recommendation would be developed regarding this program.
3. Legal - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

4. Legislative Affairs - Michael Thompson noted that the legislative proposals have been sent to the divisions to review and that he will be coordinating with House and Senate members on legislation to sponsor. He informed the Board that on October 30-31, 1996, there will be a tour of coastal facilities by the House Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee.
5. Human Resources - Caroline Agardy reported that a Public Awareness Forum will be held on October 23, 1996. She noted that there are no further policies to report to the Board which is an item on the agenda at a later time.
6. Environmental - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

B. Deputy Directors

1. Water Resources - Freddy Vang reported that the Interstate Council on Water Policy Meeting will be held next week in Charleston. He advised the Board that funding has been continued for the Regional Climate Center and the drilling project is underway in the coastal plain.
2. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee noted that the area meetings of the Conservation Districts are currently being held and attended by the staff. He advised the Board that Greenville County has been involved in the issuance of permits for storm water management and this action has recently been delegated to Clarendon and Richland counties.
3. Administrative Services - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
4. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - John Cely presented a report on brownhead cowbirds noting that they are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. He further noted that there is a depredation provision in the Act and it would be legal to take these birds if they are a threat to other wildlife. This item was discussed further with the Board at it related to this species.

Bob Perry presented a report on the Winyah Bay Focus Area and distributed information and maps regarding this project which is mainly in Georgetown County. Chairman Graham noted that there is

a concern by a Senator in the area regarding property for a wildlife refuge affecting beach access and the potential loss of state control. Ms. Waring noted that we need to work closely with the Georgetown County Council on this project and urged the staff to keep them fully informed.

5. Natural Resources Enforcement - Col. Mark Huguley reported that the Deputy Law Enforcement Officer Program is on track and all commitments are being met with about 150 applications being processed at this time. He noted that preliminary reports on the dove season show that the enforcement effort has been a success up until point in time. He further noted that he has selected Lt. John Watford to attend the FBI Academy.
6. Conservation Education and Communications - Cindy Thompson presented an in-depth report and video on the Outdoors Woman Program, and Sharon Wright and Beth Mason assisted in giving reports on the success of this effort this year. Chairman Graham noted this program is very successful in its second year and he would like to take this information to the Governor's Office to show that the program represents family values at its best.
7. Marine Resources - Paul Sandifer noted that over 12,000 shrimp baiting permits had been sold as of yesterday.

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. Mr. Cox 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.

The Board adopted a motion to accept the staff recommendations to purchase Heritage Trust properties at Daws Island, the Crescent property in Pickens County, and the Ft. Lamar property. (Copy of proposals attached to original Board minutes).

XIII. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The Board agreed to hold its next Board meeting in Columbia on October 25, 1996, at 10:00 a.m. The Board noted they would receive comments and have discussion at this meeting on the Santee Coastal Reserve.

IV. Adjournment

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