

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**MILLAREE HUNT CLUB, COLUMBIA, SC**  
**April 18, 1997**  
**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. on Friday, April 18, 1997, at the Millaree Hunt Club in Columbia, South Carolina. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the State's media. Dr. George Graham presided at the meeting. Board Members that were present included Tommy Miller, Marion Burnside, Campbell Coxe, Ted Oxner and Corky Lee. Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr. and staff members of the Department of Natural Resources were present at the meeting as were various guests.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chairman Graham introduced Cathy Snyder and Marsha Lindsay of the Legislative Audit Council who were in attendance at 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**

Board adopted a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 1997, Board meeting as submitted.

**IV. Presentations/Commendations**

Dr. Timmerman and Chairman Graham presented a plaque to Caroline Agardy for her four years of service to the Department. Sgt. Joey Rentiers presented recognition to the Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor of the Year - Mr. Jim Harris of Aiken County.

**V. Constituency Comments**

- A. Gene Johnston noted that he had comments to present to the Board on the sale of venison and related matters, and he deferred his comments to a later meeting and introduced Mr. Mark Griffith from Pendleton for comments. Mr. Griffith noted that there is a market for venison with 3 ½ million pounds of venison being consumed in the United States. One-fourth of this amount is produced in the United States and the rest comes from Australia and New Zealand. This venison is primarily red deer and fallow deer which sells anywhere from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per pound to the producer and approximately \$200.00 per deer to the farmer. Mr. Griffith noted that this market exists and he urged the Board to give consideration to the sale of venison in South Carolina. Chairman Graham noted that the sale of venison and the deer pen

enclosures topics would be discussed at the May meeting and we will have a representative of the S.C. Hospitality Association at this meeting to make comments.

**VI. Items for Board Action**

- A. Sale of Venison and Deer Enclosures - This item was deferred until discussion at the May Board meeting.
- B. Report on "Information on Importation of Cervids in SC" - Charles Ruth presented an in-depth report on the importation of cervids in South Carolina noting that we have had requests for the importation of deer and other exotic cervids. The staff report of December 1995 was sent out to the Board and Mr. Ruth went over this report in detail with the members of the Board. Chairman Graham noted that this item will be brought back up again at the May Board meeting for public comments. Derrell Shipes and Chip Sharpe noted that memos were sent to the Board on the sale of venison. These memos expressed concern about techniques that detect the differences between wild and pen-raised deer. The absence of a federally required paper trail is also identified as a concern. It was reported to the Board there is now a way to scientifically distinguish between wild and pen-raised deer and we need to have a state accredited lab at SLED with a forensic scientist for this purpose at an estimated cost of \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year for the salary of an individual. The additional cost for this forensic scientist will be developed for the Board's information. There was also discussion about human health implications and the illegal sale of deer which has long been a problem in the State of South Carolina. Corky Lee asked about the meat inspection protocol in New Zealand being similar to that of the United States and this item was discussed.
- C. Proposal to Import Non-Native Shrimp for Aquaculture - Chairman Graham noted that six of the seven members of the Board were present and that a quorum exists. Paul Sandifer presented the staff recommendations to the Board which were sent out, and John Miglarese distributed some recent information from Dr. Lightner that was received yesterday. Following discussion of these presentations, Dr. Sandifer recommended to the Board that they deny the importation permit request. David Cannon of Edisto Seafarms noted the information from Dr. Lightner is confusing and he went over various aspects of testing and procedures that are utilized to test for virus. He presented to the Board several alternative ideas for consideration and noted that a decision needs to be made soon or the industry will again be out of business this year. He noted that they only have the rest of April and May to stock shrimp. Bill Cox noted that four other farms were affected

by this decision which will be made by the Board as it relates to Edisto Seafarms. Howard Harter of Edisto Shrimp Farm went over the virus testing procedures and noted that they want to bring in the Pacific blue shrimp. Following discussion of these matters, Corky Lee moved for the Board to hold an Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning the liability and responsibility of the Board on the issuance of this permit. Mr. Oxner seconded the motion and the motion was adopted by the Board. Chairman Graham noted that at this time the Board would hold an Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning liability and the Board's responsibility on the issuance of this permit.

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#### **RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

Following the Executive Session, the Board resumed its regular meeting and invited participants back into the meeting.

Mr. Miller moved for the Board to allow the permit to be issued to Edisto Shrimp Farm for the importation of blue shrimp, subject to the April 7th draft of permit conditions for shrimp importation. Mr. Oxner seconded the motion, and following discussion, the Board adopted the motion.

#### **VII. Advisory Committee Reports**

- A. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Mr. Coxe noted the committee met recently and they have backed the staff on the subject of importation of deer and the prohibition on the sale of venison as it relates to the 2nd and 4th paragraphs of a document submitted to them. Mr. Coxe noted these positions are recommended to the Board by the advisory committee. Mr. Coxe noted the paragraphs on pens and the possession of deer are still under review and discussion by the advisory committee. Chairman Graham noted that paragraph 4 regarding the sale of venison will be discussed at the May Board meeting and the paragraph on enclosures and importation will be up for discussion at the June Board meeting.
- B. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee distributed a report on the recent committee meeting and went over this report with the Board. Mr. Chamblee noted that changes have been made in the Property Rights Act in sub-committee this week and he discussed this matter briefly. He noted that a Conference On Land Trusts will be held June 25 at Pine Island and he went over the details of this conference. Dr. Timmerman

noted that he has asked the advisory committee to look at how conservation districts can play a greater role in the Department of Natural Resources.

**VIII. Director's Briefings**

**A. Executive Office**

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman asked Benny Reeves to go over the status of the budget with the Board and he distributed a status report on recommendations made by the sub-committee of the Senate Finance Committee. Dr. Timmerman also distributed a copy of the Quarterly Vehicle Accident Report to the Board for their information.
2. Deputy Director's Committee - Dr. Sandifer noted the committee met recently and went over items relating to underground storage tanks and weapons for DLEOs in the Department. He noted that he met with sportsmen's groups on the Santee Coastal Reserve operations and will have a detailed report for the Board possibly for the May meeting. Chairman Graham asked that Dr. Sandifer get this report to the Wildlife and Freshwater Advisory Committee for their next meeting in June.
3. Legal - Paul League reported that Ester Haymond has been hired as a new attorney in their office and she has been designated as an Assistant Attorney General.
4. Legislative - Michael Thompson went over the status of the Chapter 9 legislation and road hunting legislation that is currently being considered.
5. Human Resources - Dr. Timmerman reported that Jean Cowell has been hired for the position of the Director of Human Resources.
6. Environmental - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

**B. Deputy Directors**

1. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
2. Administrative Services - Mr. Oxner noted that he had received a report on the June 30, 1995, audit and he commended the staff for a good job on this audit.
3. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Brock Conrad distributed a copy of the Canada Goose Harvest report to the Board for their information. Dean Harrigal provided a detailed report on the ACE Basin Focus Area noting that he had passed out a folder on the ACE Basin prior to the meeting for the Board to review. Bill Mahan gave

a status report on Francis Marion deer hunting with dogs for the Board's information. He introduced Mr. Dave Wilson of the US Forest Service who was in attendance at the meeting and Dr. Timmerman noted there is still a problem of ethics as it relates to the enjoyment of dog hunting in the Francis Marion area.

4. Natural Resources Enforcement - Col. Mark Huguley informed the Board of the staff's involvement in a recent rescue and he noted that three proposed policies with amendments had been sent to the Board (copy attached to original Board minutes). Following discussion, the Board approved these policies as amended in the form sent to them. Col. Huguley noted the new Boating Safety Act goes into effect on May 6, and a training video has been created in conjunction with the CEC Division. Col. Huguley noted they are working on a Memorandum of Understanding on training sites with the Power Squadrons. Alvin Taylor noted that he has had some calls on unauthorized "No Wake Zones" in certain areas, and this is currently being worked on by the staff.
5. Conservation Education and Communications - Sonny Baines noted that his staff is drafting a business plan for the magazine. A long range plan is also being drafted and these will be discussed at the advisory committee meeting to be held on May 2. Mr. Baines noted that Mr. Burnside and Mr. Oxner are helping with these plans. He noted that he is working with Land Resources on an action plan as it relates to the educational programs in both divisions. Steve Bates provided an update on the SCMAPS Program whereby 80 teachers signed up for the program but we could only accommodate 42 for the workshop. He noted that thirteen workshops will be held this summer with 300 teachers that will be attending. Due to the interest in this program, he noted that we are hiring an employee at the Marine Center to assist in this effort. He further noted that the Education Council is developing a long range planning process for the agency.
6. Marine Resources - John Miglarese asked the Board for approval and authorization to open the shrimp season based on biological sampling on or after May 15 with the Board being informed prior to the season being opened. Following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve this request as submitted by Mr. Miglarese. Mr. Miglarese noted that the 25th Anniversary and Timmerman Retirement Dinner will be held on June 19, 1997 at 6:00 p.m. in Charleston with the Board meeting on the following date.

7. Water Resources - Freddy Vang distributed a brochure on the Lynches River Festival to the Board. The Adopt-A-Landing Program overview was given by Barry Beasley and he noted that Ellis Farr has been hired to run this program. He noted that 41 landings have been adopted thus far in nine counties. Mr. Vang reported that a letter has been received from the EPA to fund the Reedy River Watershed Project.

**X. Missions, Goals, & Strategic Planning**

There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

**XI. Policy Review**

There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.

**XII. Comments**

Dr. Timmerman noted that he would like to do a progress report on efforts to recruit youths into hunting for the Board's information. Mr. Oxner noted that in Policy 710-03, Item A-3, he felt that the terminology should include every "reasonable" effort and the Board by consensus agreed to this change in the policy as previously adopted.

**XIII. Executive Session**

Mr. Miller moved for the Board to hold an Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Board. Chairman Graham noted that, at this time, the Board would hold an Executive Session to discuss legal and 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 adopt to approve the staff recommendations on conservation district commissioner appointments and reappointments (copy attached to original Board minutes).

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The Board adopted a motion to approve and to go on record in support of the Law Enforcement Division's recommendations to oppose Senate Bill 602.

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

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia at 10:00 a.m. on May 16, 1997. Chairman Graham noted that the Administrative Services Division would make a twenty minute presentation on its functions at this meeting and the same kind of presentation would be made in June by the Marine Resources Division, and in July by the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division.

**XV. Adjournment**

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