

MINUTES
BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wampee Conference Center

Pinopolis, South Carolina

Thursday, February 13, 1997

11:00 am

The regular meeting of the Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was held at 11:00 a.m, Thursday, February 13, 1997, at the Wampee Conference Center, Pinopolis, 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: Tommy Miller, Mary Pope Waring, 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 well as various guests.

I. Call to Order

Chairman George Graham called the Board Meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dr. Graham introduced Chambers Dial who welcomed the members to the area and extended their hospitality for this meeting. Dr. Graham noted that an article appeared in the Spartanburg paper recently concerning a one-arm amputee that used a cross-bow for hunting and went over this article and gave it to the CEC staff for their use as deemed appropriate.

II. Meditation

The Board held a moment of silent meditation.

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The Board adopted a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 1997, Board meeting as presented.

IV. Presentations/Commendations

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

V. Constituency Comments

Chairman Graham introduced David Cannon of the Edisto Shrimp Farm who made comments before the Board. Mr. Cannon introduced other shrimp farmers at the meeting as well as Mr. Bill Cox of the S.C. Shrimp Growers Association. Mr. Cannon went over the status of the industry and the impact that the problems with the virus had had on the industry over this past year. Mr. Cannon noted the problems associated with the shrimp virus and that this was threatening the shrimp industry in South Carolina. Mr. Cox made comments on the status of this industry noting that it is on the brink of collapse with a 90%-95% crop loss due to the shrimp virus. Mr. Cox went over a number of recommendations and requests from the Board and the Department. Mr. Cannon provided additional information concerning the need for relief and he noted they were seeking the help of the

Board to deal with this matter. Following detailed discussions of the shrimp virus situation by Paul Sandifer and Jim Quinn, Chairman Graham noted that the Board would ask the staff to work with all of the shrimp farmers to see if we can come up with some answers or solutions, but we would stick to our current conditions and actions at this time.

VI. Items for Board Action

- A. 1997 Objectives - Paul Sandifer distributed an updated version of the 1997 Objectives and went over these with the Board and asked for their input. Chairman Graham asked the Board members to look at these objectives and noted that we need to follow through with these during the year. Tom Miller noted that we need to look at consolidation of offices and facilities as an objective and Dr. Timmerman stated that we need an objective on updating boat ramps. Following discussion, Chairman Graham noted that the Board could present their information and areas of concern on these objectives to Dr. Timmerman.

VII. Advisory Committee Reports

- A. Water Resources - Freddy Vang reported that this meeting had been postponed.
- B. Governor's Cup Billfish Series Annual Report - Tommy Byrd noted that the Governor's Cup Billfish Series Annual Report had been sent out to the Board and he went over this report in detail. He noted that a Board will be set up to conduct a Kingfish Tournament and a program will also be established to tag wahoo, dolphin, and tuna. Following discussion, the Board adopted a motion to approve the annual report as submitted.
- C. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Campbell Coxe noted that the Committee met on February 12, 1997, at Donnelley WMA and he went over the items that were discussed at this meeting.

VIII. Director's Briefings

A. Executive Office

1. Director - Dr. Timmerman introduced John Tiencken, Jr., Chief Counsel at Santee Cooper and presented him the Honorary Kentucky Lt. Colonel's Award along with Jim Quinn.

At this time, Chambers Dial and the Land Resources' staff presented a detailed briefing on the diversity and variety of programs and activities in the Berkeley County area.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had attended the Deer Study Group meeting recently in Charleston and this was a very successful meeting. He commended John Frampton and the members of his staff that helped coordinate this meeting as it was noted that this was probably the best meeting ever held by this group.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we have secured a plaque for the Board to present to Caroline Agardy at the March meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he will talk to the Board at the next meeting about youth hunting programs and the way this is being pursued.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he met with the House Ways and Means Sub-Committee on our Department's budget request and they will recommend our request to the full Ways and Means Committee. Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of the Ways and Means Committee members to the Board to contact in support of our budget request.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Governor's budget has recommended a 3% pay raise for employees to be taken out of agency budgets through attrition. He noted this would include 28 to 30 positions in the Department.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the press conference with Governor Beasley was held on the Lake Jocassee property recently and 38 members of the press attended this event. He noted the Governor will recommend \$10 million in the bond bill for this project to be used as a match from other funding sources to secure the Duke Property.

Dr. Timmerman noted that a committee has been set up to hire a Human Resources Director and someone will be selected by the next Board meeting.

2. Deputy Director's Committee - Dr. Paul Sandifer noted this committee had met and went over policies on Deputy Law Enforcement Officers and discussed legislation regarding the federal weapons law in domestic abuse. Greg Frampton of the S.C. Department of Revenue gave a detailed presentation on Total Quality Management at this meeting.

3. Legal - There was nothing further to report to the Board at this time.
4. Legislative Affairs - Michael Thompson went over the legislative process and items that are being pursued by the Department at this time. Mr. Thompson noted that some legislative issues will be deliberated by the General Assembly and will need a position statement from the Board and these items may be requested to be on the agenda for discussion by the Board at a future meeting. Dr. Timmerman noted that Michael Thompson is coordinating legislative efforts with all deputy directors and key staff in the agency and this procedure seems to be working very effectively.
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. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Brock Conrad distributed a summary of the 96-97 Waterfowl Season noting that it was a disappointing season. He advised the Board that we had a Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day and the staff had worked very hard at the recent meeting they hosted of the Deer Study Group. John Frampton distributed t-shirts from this meeting to the Board members. Mary Pope Waring asked about the status of the refuge in the Santee area. John Frampton noted that funding is needed for this refuge and to secure this funding, a positive response from Georgetown County will be needed in order to get federal funds. Dr. Timmerman reported that the Governor had appointed Dr. Julius L. Leary, Jr. to the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, and Chairman Graham noted that the Governor had appointed Jake Rasor to the S.C. Migratory Waterfowl Committee.
2. Natural Resources Enforcement - Mark Huguley distributed a draft policy on deputy director's issuing directives for their division and asked the Board to approve this policy at their March meeting. He noted that a restitution schedule had been presented to the Magistrate's Association and thus far \$11,000 has been received in restitution. Corky Lee asked about the development of values for saltwater species and Paul Sandifer noted these are being developed at the current time. Col. Huguley reported that \$17,000 in fines and

\$4,000 in restitution resulted from the recent deer cases in Union County. He also reported on a black bear claw parts case made recently in Horry County and displayed some of the items that were confiscated with this case.

3. Conservation Education and Communications - Sonny Baines distributed a letter received from the Budget and Control Board on our printing operations noting that we will be able to keep our equipment and staff. Steve Bates distributed information and brochures developed recently by the SCMAPS Program. Carole Collins noted that the Department sponsored nine families in the *Families Helping Families Program* and she provided an update on the March of Dimes Walk which will be dedicated this year in memory of Beth Lea.
4. Marine Resources - Paul Sandifer provided a detailed discussion on experts who had assisted recently in the review of the shrimp virus problems. He went over the summary of the shrimp virus committee's conclusions and John Miglarese provided a discussion of the testing procedures that have been implemented and actions taken regarding the problems associated with the shrimp virus.
5. Water Resources - Mike Helfert provided an update on the upcoming Hurricane Conference and he also provided a detailed report on the hurricane activity and forecast that has been developed for 1997 at this time.
6. Land Resources and Conservation Districts - Cary Chamblee expressed thanks to the Berkeley Conservation District for hosting this meeting of the DNR Board and noted that demonstrations of their systems will be on display at the Berkeley District office.
7. Administrative Services - Dr. Timmerman noted that the State will consolidate computer technology in 1998 or 1999 which may effect our point-of-sale ideas. Linda Amick is retiring on June 30, 1997, and Diane Lee has been selected for this job.

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

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

XIII. Executive Session

Mr. Miller moved for the Board to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Mr. Coxe 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 and legal 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 approve the reappointment of Pinckney Skinner to the CEC Advisory Committee.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the reward monies as requested from the Operation Game Thief Program.

For information, the Board discussed the salary of the new Director of the DNR and will send a letter to the appropriate officials at the Budget and Control Board.

XIV. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia on March 21, 1997, at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of the Land Resources and Conservation Districts Division. Chairman Graham noted the Board would meet with Paul Sandifer on April 17, 1997, at Millaree to discuss changes in the Department and then hold its regularly scheduled meeting the next day on April 18, 1997, in Columbia.

XV. Adjournment

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