

**Land, Water & Conservation Division
Advisory Committee Minutes
Dennis Building, Room 335
Columbia, South Carolina
Tuesday, August 21, 2012**

CONFERENCE CALL

Present	Bill Simpson	Lynn Youmans
	Dean Moss	Patricia Hartung
	Tom Garrison	Webb Smathers
	Marvin Davant	Lewis Walker
	Larry Nates	Steve Kinard

Staff:	Ken Rentiers	Marc Cribb
	Dorothy Phillips	

Call to Order/Welcome: The August 21, 2012, **Conference Call** meeting was called to order by Chairman William Simpson at 1:00 p.m. In compliance with the provisions of Section 30-4-80(e) (Freedom of Information Act), notification of this meeting was posted in public places. Absent from the meeting, Nadim Aziz, Oscar Stevens, Jim McLeod and Charles Broadwell.

Approval of February 29, 2012 Minutes: Marvin Davant made a motion to approve the February 29, 2012 Minutes and seconded by Lewis Walker, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Deputy Director's Report: Ken updated the Committee on the current budget situation. Ken informed the Committee that there were no budget cuts for the coming year and that some additional funding was available for rebuilding and new equipment. The purchase of a new drill rig is being considered for use in the Earth Sciences group. Ken shared information about new deep well, 1500 ft in Williamsburg County.

Ken also informed the Committee that additional funds for the State Water Plan computer models and joint projects with DHEC should begin in September. This will help complete the computer models for 8 major basins with 2 years. Ken spoke about finding sponsors for stream gauges, Greenville Conservation District is considering being a sponsor. The Committee was informed about changes in how the agency will proceed with computer modeling funding. Director Taylor and the director of DHEC were in agreement with the new direction.

Savannah River Comprehensive study \$100,000 in the budget to restart the study and go into phase 2 of the study with the Corp of Engineers, Georgia EPD, SCDNR and the Nature Conservancy to join the study. Ken would like to have an update for the Committee by the next meeting.

Ken reviewed some of the projects the Division is working on or assisting with: the Environmental office with FERC relicensing projects (Keowee Toxaway). Working on data digitization project (electronic document storage). Aquatic Nuisance Species, treated 1300 acres this year with the main focus on hydrilla. Flood Mitigation has been busy training and technical assistance, have visited 100 local communities go get them updated on the flood maps. State Climate Office weather updates, the current drought status and organizing drought meetings. Heritage Trust, slight upward trend in revenue funds. Conservation Districts, will be requesting funding in FY14 to start rebuilding program to hire additional staff. Director Taylor has met with Sterling Sadler and has attended several Conservation District functions. Marc Cribb updated the Committee on the 2012 Envirothon, the Spartanburg HS team went to Pennsylvania to represent SC in the nationwide Envirothon, and the team finished 18 out of 54 teams. Marc also informed the Committee on the status on processing the Conservation Districts applications for state funds, as of today about half of the District's applications have been processed. Marc reviewed dates and locations of upcoming Conservation meetings (Midyear Conference, Annual 2013 Partnership Meeting and Legislative Banquet).

Committee Comments:

Larry Nates complimented Marc Cribb for assisting the SCACD with the project "the office of the future".

Marvin Davant provided the Committee with updated information concerning the Conservation Bank receiving full funding and the hope to be able to partner with DNR on some land protection issues.

Lynn Youmans informed that Committee that on the Internet MSN News local weather information from the weather station located on his farm that has been reporting for over 15 years.

Executive Session: At 1:20 p.m. Tom Garrison motioned to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues with a second by Dean Moss. All were in favor.

At 1:30 p.m. Dean Moss made a motion to return from Executive Session, seconded by Marvin Davant and all were in favor.

Dean Moss motioned that the Conservation District Commissioner re-appointments be approved with the exception of Commissioner Ramsay and the motion was seconded by Lynn Youmans, all were in favor. The Conservation District Commissioner re-appointments were approved as follows: Mr. Stanley Keaton, Abbeville; Mr. Thomas McElmurray, Aiken; Mr. Freddy Major, Anderson; Mr. James Hill, Barnwell; Mr. Alton Jeffords, Darlington; Mr. Jamie Smith, Dillon; Mr. W. Tolman Salisbury, Dorchester; Mr. Malcolm O'Neal, Edgefield; Mr. Mickey Lankford, Georgetown; Mr. English Dixon, Horry; Mr. Calvin Robertson, Laurens; Mr. Larry Nates, Lexington; Mr. Roddey Gettys, Pickens and Mr. Kenneth Mullis, Richland.

Dean Moss made a motion that the new Conservation District Commissioner appointment be approved and seconded by Web Smathers, all were in favor. The new appointment was approved and is as follows: Mr. Chris LeMaster, Cherokee.

Next Meeting Date: Next meeting date will be determined. Possible date in late October on Tuesdays or Thursdays in Columbia was discussed.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Simpson. All were in favor to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Dorothy L. Phillips