

**Land, Water & Conservation Division
Advisory Committee Minutes
Dennis Building, Room 357
Columbia, South Carolina
Tuesday, April 6, 2010**

CONFERENCE CALL

Present	Lynn Youmans	Bill Simpson
	Marvin Davant – Columbia	Dean Moss
	James McLeod	Lewis Walker
	Steve Kinard	Webb Smathers - proxy
	Patricia Hartung	
Staff:	Ken Rentiers	Marc Crib
	Dorothy Phillips	

Call to Order/Welcome: The April 6, 2010, meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Youmans 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 given to all persons, organizations, local news media, and other news media that requested such notification.

Approval of July 16, 2009 Minutes: Motion was made by Mr. Bill Simpson to approve the July 16, 2009, minutes and seconded by Mr. Jim McLeod. The motion passed.

Deputy Director's Report: Mr. Rentiers gave the committee an update on DNR's current budget situation, with an outlook of an additional 23% budget cut. He informed the committee that the agency had approximately 38 employees take the early retirement buy-out. LWC lost a substantial number of employees; and countless years of experience and knowledge. The agency has experienced approximately a 61% budget cuts in the past year. This affects LWC more because the division receives mostly state appropriated funds and does not have the revenue sources that other divisions have. With the budget cuts the division has had to cut back more services that would bring in federal funds and with operating funds being low the agency is unable to match, causing the agency to lose out on federal funds. Ken encouraged committee members to communicate with their legislative members about restoring some of the budget cuts and thanked the committee in advance for any assistance they could provide.

Ken informed the committee that the agency's efforts legislatively have been focused on the Surface Water Withdrawal and Permitting Bill S452. The bill has passed out of the Senate with the possibility of activity being taken in the House. DNR is not supporting the current version because of concerns that the minimum flow standard will not protect downstream users adequately and half of the major rivers in SC will not be subject to the 20/30/40 minimum flow that the agency feels is required for fish and wildlife, navigation, and recreation.

Ken announced that the year 2010 marks the 185th anniversary of the Geological Survey; it is the oldest natural resource program in South Carolina.

Update on Savannah Committee: Dean Moss opened his comments stating that the meeting with Georgia has been positive and that there is a full committee meeting scheduled on May 6th in Savannah. Ground water modeling for the salt water intrusion issue is complete. The conclusion of the model is that to stop the movement of salt water through the aquifer under Hilton Head all parties have to stop pumping. The committee will consider that proposal at the May meeting. Dean updated the committee on the water quality in the river. EPA is ready to issue a second version of a total maximum day load (TMDL) report which will allow for some continuing discharge into the river. This will be a substantial cut from the current load of about 775,000 lbs of biologic oxygen demanding substances reduced to approximately 120,000 lbs. South Carolina currently has about 12% of the permits and about 3% of the actual discharge in the river. The main challenge for the state is to get a larger bulk of the available larger capacity. Dean informed the committee that Georgia still has its river basin meetings and it has been difficult to get Georgia to accelerate their pace and they have had a change in leadership. Dean reaffirmed the fact that the state's resources are depleted and that we don't have staff and resources available to perform the work that is needed to come up with an equitable allocation between the states.

Committee Comments: The committee had discussions concerning DNR's support from the conservation districts and the state budget cuts.

Executive Session: At 1:30 p.m., Mr. Youmans motioned to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues with second by Mr. Moss. All were in favor.

At 1:40 p.m., motion to return to open session, seconded and all were in favor.

Mr. Youmans motioned that re-appointments be approved and seconded by Mr. Dean Moss, all were in favor. The Conservation District Commissioner re-appointments were approved and are as follows: Mr. Michael Shier, Calhoun County; Mr. Charles Coleman, Fairfield County; Mr. Lonnie Gillespie, Greenwood County; Mr. Daniel Jeungst, McCormick County; Mr. James Shealy, Newberry County; Ms. Betty Hughes, Orangeburg County; Mr. H. Heath Hill, Richland County; Mr. David Padgett, Saluda County; Mr. Charles Broadwell, Sumter County; Mr. Jack Burnett, Union County; Ms. Evelyn Edmunds, York County and Mr. Duane Christopher, York County.

Mr. Youmans made a motion that the new appointment be approved and seconded by Mr. Steve Kinard, all were in favor. The new appointment was approved and is as follows: Mr. Milton Floyd, Charleston County.

Next Meeting Date: To be determined.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Youmans and seconded by Mr. Dean Moss. All were in favor to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.