

SCDNR Board Resolution
March 18, 2021

WHEREAS:

The Department of Natural Resources' primary mission is to protect the State's natural resources and is charged with enforcing the protections and safeguards set forth in the Dewees Island 1975 Conservation Easement; and

WHEREAS:

The Department by letter of April 25, 2019, directed the Dewees Island Property Owners Association ("POA") and other concerned individuals and stakeholders to meet to formulate an appropriate and reasonable framework for restricting, if not eliminating over time, commercialized rental activity and restoring residential and lodging activity consistent with the Conservation Easement and the Dewees Island Land Use Plan within 60 days thereof; and

WHEREAS:

To date, the POA has not been able to deliver such an approved framework; and

WHEREAS:

The Department remains concerned that unrestrained and unregulated commercial activity on Dewees Island associated with short-term rentals, as defined by Charleston County ordinance, would have detrimental impacts on the State's natural resources on and around Dewees Island, and hence would constitute violations of the Conservation Easement if continued unabated.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Department will continue to monitor Dewees Island under the 1975 Conservation Easement and enforce it as necessary to preserve the conservation values and natural resources protected under the Conservation Easement;

The Department will enforce the Conservation Easement should it feel that the Conservation Easement has been violated, or determines the conservation values and natural resources protected by the Conservation Easement are threatened by commercial activity, including short-term rentals; and

Unless and until the Department is presented with a duly approved framework consistent with the Department's letter of April 25, 2019 addressing unregulated and unrestrained commercial activity on Dewees Island associated with short-term rentals, no short-term rentals, as defined by Charleston County ordinance, on Dewees Island will be approved by the Department, other than owner-to-owner rentals.