

Land, Water, & Conservation Division: Advisory Committee Minutes
Virtual
July 22, 2024

Present:

Larry Nates	Webb Smathers	Jim McCloud
Patricia Hartung	William Simpson	Will Glenn
Tom Garrison	Dean Moss	Diane Edwins

DNR Exec & Staff:

Brooke Myres	Ken Rentiers	Chris John
Jordan Baker	Tyler Brown	Jill John

Call to Order/Welcome: The July 22, 2024, meeting was called to order by **Mr. Simpson**, who welcomed and thanked all for attending.

Approval of the minutes from June 4, 2024. Motion made by Ms. Hartung, 2nd by Mr. Glen; – no further discussion – all in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

Following the invocation and approval of minutes, Tyler Brown asked the other guests attending to introduce themselves.

Deputy Director's Report; Ken Rentiers:

Mr. Rentiers started his update by asking the committee to partake in a moment of silence for the passing of John Parris. Mr. Rentiers spoke of the legacy and dedication that Mr. Parris gave to the Conservation Districts, and he provided the details of Mr. Parris's funeral arrangements. Next, he gave the committee an update on the Land, Water, and Conservation Division (LWCD). LWCD is preparing for its move to the new headquarters located at the State Farmers Market in West Columbia, along with all other divisions that are located in the SCDNR downtown office. This move will be happening around late October or early November. In LWCD, the Geological Survey and Conservation Districts programs will remain at their 5 Geology Road office. The Cultural Resources Preserves program is looking to move from its Parker Annex building located in the downtown Bull Street District, in hopes of finding a larger facility to store its ever-growing collection of artifacts, lab equipment, and field equipment. The budget requests were lean this year, receiving some retention money along with two FTE positions for Conservation Districts. Granted budget for land acquisitions and habitat protection, along with IT needs, and fish hatchery operations. Overall, everyone had a lean year, and it looks like next year's budget will be similar. Mr. Rentiers asked the committee if they had any questions.

Jim McCloud: Are there any updates on the Edisto and Waccamaw rivers?

Ken Rentiers: We are monitoring it, but since the Hydrology Program has now moved to DES, SCDNR is no longer handling it. DES is now working on water planning.

Will Glen: Is DES taking over the river basin meetings and water planning?

Ken Rentiers: Yes, they are fully taking over.

Dean Moss: Since being on the Lower Savannah Salkehatchie committee, they continue to meet and work together.

Executive Session:

Motion was made for the LWC Advisory Committee to enter Executive Session by Mr. Moss, 2nd by Ms. Edwins; – no further discussion – all in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

Motion was made for the LWC Advisory Committee to return to regular session by Ms. Edwins, 2nd motion by Mr. Glenn; – no further discussion – all in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

With a quorum present, the LWC Advisory Committee proceeded with commissioner appointments. The appointment list was distributed.

Conservation District Commissioner Appointments:

Approval of New Appointments. Motion was made by Mr. McCloud, 2nd by Mr. Moss; – no further discussion – all in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

Approval of Reappointments. Motion was made by Mr. McCloud, 2nd by Mr. Moss; – no further discussion – all in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

Comments:

Tyler Brown spoke to the committee about the two new FTEs that the Conservation Districts program will be receiving. Mr. Brown is thankful and appreciates the support from Mr. Rentiers, SCDNR, and the committee for helping obtain these two new positions. These positions will add to our current two Conservation Coordinators, which will allow the coordinators to divide the state into four, instead of how it is currently split into two. The four areas will be: West Piedmont, East Piedmont, Edisto Savannah Valley, and the Pee Dee. A formal announcement will be shared with the districts tomorrow. Jessica Egan will remain in the East Piedmont, and Jennifer Morris will remain in the Edisto Savannah Valley. Mr. Brown asked if the committee had any questions. No Questions were asked.

William Simpson: How many commissioners are on the Land, Water, and Conservation Advisory Committee?

Tyler Brown: 4, William Simpson, Diane Edwins, Larry Nates, and Tom Garrison.

Meeting dates were presented to the committee.

This meeting was adjourned. *Motion was made by Ms. Edwins, 2nd by Ms. Glenn; - no further discussion – all in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.*