

SCDNR Land, Water and Conservation Districts Advisory Committee Minutes

**SCDNR Headquarters
260 D Epting Lane
West Columbia, SC 29172**

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Present:

Hope Blackley
James McLeod
Larry Nates

Patrica Hartung
Tom Garrison
Webb Smathers

Will Glenn

DNR Exec & Staff:

Brooke Myres
Jordan Baker

Ken Rentiers
Susan Porter

Tyler Brown

Call to Order/Welcome The March 10, 2026, meeting was called to order by Chairman Will Glenn, who welcomed and thanked all for attending.

Following the call to order, the invocation was given, and guests were introduced to the committee. Tyler Brown introduced Susan Porter, who is the General Counsel for SCDNR. Susan Porter will be conducting the SCDNR Legal Training.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve the January 6, 2026 Minutes by Mr. McLeod, 2nd by Dr. Smathers – no further discussion – all in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

SCDNR Legal Training

Susan Porter conducted the required SCDNR Legal Training for the committee.

Deputy Directors Report

Mr. Rentiers announced to the committee his plans to retire. Mr. Rentiers stated that he was thankful for his time with the committee, as well as their hard work and dedication over the years. He has seen the committee and the division grow and is proud of all they have accomplished.

The committee gave Mr. Rentiers a standing ovation and thanked him for all he has done over the years.

Mr. Rentiers announced to the committee that Tyler Brown will be taking over his role as Deputy Director. He is excited to see Mr. Brown step into this role and knows he will do a great job.

Mr. Brown thanked Ken for his time and the impact he has had on the committee and division.

Mr. Brown asked the committee at this time if there were any questions at this time.

The committee discussed wanting to have more meetings in person as well as traveling to different locations for meetings. The whole committee is interested in exploring more of the properties that SCDNR has to offer.

Next, Mr. Brown gave the committee a quick update on the budget. The priority right now is having retention money to ensure we keep up with a competitive salary. We have asked for more funding with Flood Mitigation state mapping, we asked for funding to update equipment, as well as weather stations for Climatology. There was also an ask for funding for a new building for Heritage Trust Cultural Preserves and Botany. We are outgrowing Parker Annex, and the lease will be up soon, so we need to find a new building for them. Lastly, there is the Conservation Districts Technical Assistance Program (CDTAP), which is to help fund the backlog of tech support within the districts. This money will be recurring. Many commissioners have spoken to representatives to help advocate for this budget ask.

Mr. Brown took the time to inform the committee that in their folders was the Conservation District 2025 Annual Report. This report highlights each district and all its accomplishments from 2025. Mr. Brown thanked Brooke Myres and her team for all their hard work putting this report together.

Executive Session

Motion was made for the LWC Advisory Committee to enter Executive Session by Mr. McLeod, 2nd by Dr. Smathers – 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 Mr. Garrison, 2nd by Mr. McLeod – no further discussion – all in favor and none opposed. Motion passed. No actions were taken during the executive session.

Conservation District Commissioner Appointments

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

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

2026 Proposed Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, June 9, 2026: Geology Office / Hybrid (Hybrid). This meeting will be changed; a poll will be sent out to the committee.
- Tuesday, September 29, 2026: Geology Office / Hybrid (Hybrid)
- Tuesday, December 1, 2026: SCDNR Headquarters (if needed)

Comments

The committee thanked Mr. Rentiers again for his service and dedication to the committee and division and wished him luck in this next chapter.

Mr. Garrison brought to the committee's attention new legislation for sludge to be provided to agricultural lands. This potentially causes issues with farming. He hopes that this something districts are keeping in mind. The sludge is from wastewater treatment plants, and with the increase in fertilizer, this is becoming a huge issue for farms.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Dr. Smathers, 2nd by Mr. McLeod - no further discussion – all in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

This meeting was adjourned.