

Land, Water & Conservation Division: Advisory Committee Minutes
Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89508120712> Meeting ID: 895 0812 0712
Columbia Office of SCDNR/LWC, SC
Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Present: Bill Simpson
Tom Garrison
Larry Nates Patricia Hartung
William Glenn Diane Edwins
Marvin Davant James McLeod

Staff: Ken Rentiers, Tyler Brown, Brooke Myres, Chris Workman, Deanne Myrick

Guest: Kaley L. Nevin, DNR Social Media

Call to Order/Welcome: The **November 17, 2020** meeting was called to order by Chairman Simpson at 12:04pm. In compliance with provisions of Section 30-4-80(e) (Freedom of Information Act), notification of this meeting was posted in public places.

Chairman Simpson welcomed and thanked all for attending.

- **Approval of Minutes** from the August 4, 2020 meeting. McLeod motioned that the minutes be approved, seconded by Glenn with all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Deputy Director's Welcome new Advisory Committee Member and Report; Ken Rentiers:

- Introduction of new Advisory Committee Member, Ms. Diane Edwins, of Berkeley County, Commissioner; years of experience and involvement; we are pleased that she has joined us and thank her for service. Ms. Edwins thanked all and expressed gratitude for serving.
- Budget: we are operating under Continuing Resolution
- Program Managers are prepared for budget issues which may arise and are aware that we may face mid-year cuts
- Heritage Trust, as you know, Duck Stamp fees/housing market is good; therefore, well-funded. Several significant land acquisitions are under consideration/upcoming near future.
- Archeology has been awarded grant funding totaling roughly \$658,000. for historic preservation and other projects.
- Other issues include graffiti at Heritage Trust Preserves especially disappointing that Bald Rock has been defaced and property/cameras were destroyed.
- Climatology news includes utilizing sizeable FEMA grant to development Flood Alert Network; Pee Dee still has flooding issues; backs up Waccamaw; addressing these and

other issues including Lake Wateree currently some flood issues also. Always looking at both flooding and drought from all sides; addressing issues and ongoing work.

- Scenic Rivers, especially Bill Marshall, has developed a Black River Management plan which is in print and will soon be available. It's a great resource and will be shared with you once we have it.
- Hydrology – making progress on water planning to include the Edisto River Basin Council, which is up and running with a group of diverse and experienced stake holders meeting regularly. Staff is in the field and in the office with a mix of work and all the work is getting done. Circumstances haven't affected the work performance except that some meetings are not in person but online just like this one.
- That's a summary there's so much going on just a big picture view, any questions?
- Follow up questions/discussion included specifics on Heritage Trust and Santee Cooper lakes; if more information is needed, call to address additional details.

Conservation Districts Report; Tyler Brown:

- Election process for Conservation District Commissioners and Watershed Directors shows some turnover and we are in touch with the SC Election Commission to come up with changes as they work to certify the results. We hope to have a list of any new Commissioners/Directors and other changes and updates together by the end of the year.
- Districts have continued Board Meetings and work as usual while adapting to the Coronavirus circumstances.
- Grant updates – Equip grant provides for our field staff to continue with 3 full-time positions for 3 full years with no match; also will add one new position in the Camden area which we will fill hopefully by the start of the new year.
- State staff – Constant contact and ongoing work through splitting time between working remotely and coming into the office.

Watershed Districts Report; Chris Workman:

- Currently addressing/accessing a hydrilla issue in Cherokee; site visit in the next week
- Possibility of Watershed District(s) designation in Orangeburg and Marion Counties; determining best course of action there
- Holding quarterly Watershed District Meetings to keep up with information sharing, current issues and group problem-solving ideas
- Looking forward to in-person meetings

Envirothon/Education Report; Brooke Myres:

- 2021 Envirothon will be virtual with coaches' training handled through videos prepared in advance pertinent to current topics; all scholarships and prizes are as usual and will be awarded at conclusion of the virtual event; date for event is to be determined.

- In efforts to grow the teacher/education programs, we have made Conservation District Training videos; virtual resources; and pre-recorded sessions and interactive sessions on the following:
- National Association of Conservation Districts poster contest, themed: Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities
- Adopt-a-Stream (Virtual) Training in December
- Outreach video featuring SC Association of Conservation Districts' President, Jeff Wilson
- 2021 SC Wildlife Magazine articles in each issue on Conservation Districts

Chairman: Any questions/further/additional discussion before we move to business on the agenda? Any further discussion?

Hearing none, asking Ken to read the list of Commissioner appointments and re-appointments before we consider them.

- List as presented in the spreadsheet (everyone has a copy which was sent prior to the meeting for review) was read aloud and Chairman called for options of further discussion and/or a motion to approve the lists as presented.
- Comments made by Tyler Brown to bring to Chairman's attention that Mr. Nates may need to recuse himself from the vote because he is on the slate. Chairman noted and Mr. Nates agreed to abstain from voting.
- Motion made by McLeod to approve the slate of Commissioners up for appointment and those up for re-appointment as well as the candidate for Commissioner Emeritus.
- Motion was seconded by Hartung and Chairman called for vote
- Hearing all in favor and none opposed; motion passed; entire slate as presented and approved will be forwarded to SCDNR Board for their next meeting for consideration.

Chairman: Tyler Brown has a calendar of meetings for the coming year for consideration, please discuss.

- Proposed dates for LWC Advisory Committee to meet in 2021 are as follows:
- Tuesday, Feb. 16 from 10:00am-1:00pm
- Tuesday, May 18 from 10:00am-1:00pm
- Tuesday, Aug. 17 from 10:00am-1:00pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 16 from 10:00am-1:00pm

Motion was made by McLeod to adopt these dates as our 2021 schedule of meetings; seconded by Davant and with all in favor and none opposed; motion passed.

Chairman: Does anyone have additional comments or discussion? Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 12:49pm