

**Land, Water & Conservation Division
Advisory Committee Minutes
Dennis Building, Room 335
Columbia, South Carolina
Wednesday, October 19, 2011**

Present: Lynn Youmans, Jr. William S. Simpson, III
Marvin Davant Steve Kinard
Patricia C. Hartung Lewis Walker
Larry Nates Jim McLeod

Guest: Larry L. Yonce, DNR Board

Staff: Ken Rentiers Hope Mizzell
Marc Cribb Mark Malsick
Bill Marshall Bill Clendenin
Maria Lamm Scott Harder
Chris Page Sean Taylor
Dorothy Phillips

Call to Order/Welcome: The October 19, 2011, meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Simpson, at 1:05 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 have requested such notification.

Mr. Simpson reported that Mr. Moss, Mr. Broadwell, Mr. Garrison, Dr. Smathers and Dr. Aziz were absent. Mr. Simpson informed the board that the Civil Engineering Board at Clemson received a \$5 million gift from an alumnus; Dr. Aziz is head of the Civil Engineering Board. Mr. Simpson introduced Mr. Larry Yonce, DNR Board Member to the Committee.

Approval of March 9 2011, Minutes: Motion was made by Ms. Patricia Hartung to approve the March 9, 2011, minutes and seconded by Mr. Lewis Walker. All were in favor.

Geology/Hydrology Report: Bill Clendenin spoke about the creation of the New Earth Science Group (the combining of Geological Survey, Hydrology and the Flood Mitigation Program) created by Ken Rentiers and supervised by Bill Clendenin. The management approach being taken with these programs – Scott Howard is Chief Geologist, Joe Gellici is Chief Hydrologist and Maria Lamm heads the Flood Program. Bill outlined how this new approach addresses the DNR’s mission statement. He went through the different sections explaining their priorities and their major areas.

Climate Program: Hope Mizzell covered the program background in the Climate Program. She reintroduced Mark Malsick to the committee and they thanked him for his serve weather alert email, weather information and general good humor in the email; and Wes Tyler for weather services. Hope reviewed and explained the services the climate sections provides to different agencies, like DOT, EMD, media, private industry, emergency response teams. She updated and reviewed the hurricane and severe weather season and noted trends in the tornado outbreaks and how Doppler radar has helped to pin point tornadoes. Hope discussed the CoCo RaHS weather monitoring program and the need for more precipitation monitoring. The state's goal is to have 1 observer every for 36 square miles. She reviewed maps and explained how the observers work, where they are needed, and how the information is helpful. Hope reviewed the Drought Response Program and committee makeup. She reminded the Committee that South Carolina has been dealing with drought for the past 10 years. The current drought status for the entire state is in moderate. A State Drought Committee meeting will be scheduled within the next few weeks to review the status and discuss the need to upgrade the status. She also informed the committee that the Climate Office and all other divisions are working to develop a climate change strategy to determine the impacts on natural resources. Larry Nates thanked Hope for attending the conservation districts fall meeting and explaining to the group about the CoCo RaHS program. Lexington County is working to place rain gauges in all their fire departments. Hope also thanked the Harry Hampton Fund for the money to purchase rain gauges to be distributed to the fire stations and schools.

Rivers Conservation: Bill Marshall presented the Committee with an overview of the Scenic Rivers Program and reviewed the program, accomplishments, purposes and projects. He spoke about the Scenic Rivers Act 1989 and the 10 state scenic rivers. Management of the rivers is through a cooperative process between DNR and scenic rivers advisory councils, a partnership of landowners, rivers users and interested parties. DNR works with the advisory council to establish the management plan and to implement the plan. Due to limited staff, DNR only has 1 staff member available to oversee this program. Bill pointed out that in the past this program was DNR staff driven and there is a need to look at new ways and ideas for this program. Bill made copies of scenic rivers management plans available to committee members for their areas.

Bill Marshall also informed the committee about other projects, such as state trails programs and trail development. Mary Crockett has secured grants to develop trail guides for the Little Pee Dee and Lynches River Scenic Rivers. Bill updated the group on Beach Sweep/ River Sweep Program, FERC relicensing program. Currently there are 30 FERC projects in the state.

Heritage Trust: Sean Taylor reviewed some of the daily tasks performed by the Heritage Trust staff members. There are 17 properties across the state requiring daily maintenance and several with cultural resources (buildings, structures, archeological sites). He reviewed the Heritage Trust act and updated the Committee on the work that is ongoing and future projects. The erosion and access problem at Poinsett Bridge Heritage Preserve has been ongoing for years. Greenville County Recreation manages the portion the bridge is on and have applied for a DOT grant to complete the work. Sean reviewed and updated the Committee about the Kolb Archeological Preserve the public's interest in the 19th century stone vessels found on site, where

they were fired. Sean showed videos of field work and he encouraged the committee to attend the public day in March at the Kolb site.

Flood Mitigation Program: Maria Lamm gave a brief overview of the Flood Insurance program, updating the committee on the map modernization program. The mapping program is 12 counties from completing the map modernization program.

Aquatic Nuisance Species: Chris Page gave an update on the Aquatic Nuisance Program and the annual Aquatic Plant Management plan. Overview of current projects and public service announcement campaign highlighting aquatic invasive species prevention in South Carolina. This campaign will take advantage of several forms of communication with the public; billboards and public service announcements, e-blast, press releases and other media.

Deputy Director's Report: Ken Rentiers informed the Committee about the previous budget and what LWC could possibility look forward to in the next budget cycle. Priorities in the legislative package will be additional state appropriated dollars to pay for operating expenses. Ken spoke briefly about reorganization, reduced office space, vehicles, other spending cuts. Ken informed the committee that the Water Plan is a high priority briefed the committee of the previous meetings concerning the water plan and getting the conservation districts involved in the water planning.

Marc Cribb spoke about some projects currently ongoing in Conservation Districts, including the Kershaw Districts involvement in monitoring the Haile Gold Mine permit process, the Lexington District rain gauge project with the Climate Section and a water quality grant in Charleston District. Many districts are sponsoring beaver/wild hog workshops around the State. The 1933 Spartanburg Project Berry Gully, the first soil erosion project in the southeastern United States. The Spartanburg District and the Association of Conservation Districts had the 1970 marker re-casted and will have a re-dedication of the historical marker later this month.

Ken Rentiers continued with his updates, by informing the Committee on the status of the Surface Water Withdrawal Permitting Bill, it is a legislative priority and Ken passed out hand-outs and ask the Committee members to review and if they had any comments to contact him.

Committee Member Comments: Executive Session: A motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing appointments and reappointments was made by Mr. Bill Simpson with second by Mr. Marvin Davant. All were in favor. Mr. McLeod moved to come out of executive session, with second by Mr. Kinard. All were favor.

Commissioner Appointments: Mr. McLeod moved to accept the re-appointments with second by Mr. Kinard. All were in favor. They are as follows: Mr. Williams B. Oswald, Allendale; Mr. Troy M. Diel, Berkeley; Mr. William S. Simpson, Charleston; Mr. Marion L. Rizer, Colleton; Mr. Ellis M. O'Tuel, Marlboro; Mr. Ronnie Bullard, Spartanburg.

Mr. McLeod moved to accept the new appointments with second by Mr. Kinard. All were in favor. They are as follows: Mr. Hugh P. McClimon, Anderson.

Jim McLeod proposed that there be a study on the constitution of the commissioner emeritus status. Ms. Hartung moved to accept the status of Commissioner Emeritus with a second by Mr. Kinard for Mr. Edward Swartz and Mr. William A. Gallman, Aiken. All were in favor (with reservations).

Ms. Hartung made a motion that there be a policy developed for commissioner emeritus standards and length of time served, with a second by Mr. McLeod. All were in favor.

Mr. Youmans made a motion with a second by Mr. Kinard to have a “vote of confidence and gratitude” with a commendation for Ken Rentiers and the Land, Water and Conservation staff. All were in favor.

Next Meeting Date: January 2012, at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Dorothy Phillips
Recording Secretary