

**Land, Water & Conservation Division: Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Parker Annex, DNR Archaeology, Columbia, SC**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2019**

|                 |                  |               |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | Bill Simpson     | Webb Smathers |
|                 | Larry Nates      | Dean Moss     |
|                 | James McLeod     | Marvin Davant |
|                 | Patricia Hartung |               |
| <b>Staff:</b>   | Ken Rentiers     | Brooke Myres  |
|                 | Tyler Brown      | Deanne Myrick |

**Call to Order/Welcome:** The **April 25, 2019** meeting was called to order by Chairman William Simpson at 2:24pm. 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 then opened for comments. James McLeod urged holding future Committee meetings at other DNR/Conservation sites. All agreed that the tour, presentation and location were nice and encourages attendance. Patricia Hartung agreed and added that we are responsible for spreading awareness of great work going on by having meetings and gathering information where the work is being done. McLeod asked how we make rural SC/specific programs and outreach a priority. Rentiers' response: we fight for dollars; also extend invitations to legislators who want to see what's going on with specific projects.

**Chairman asked for consideration of minutes as presented from Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> meeting;** motion to approve minutes as typed brought by McLeod, motion to second by Moss; all in favor and motion passed. Chairman called on Ken Rentiers for Deputy Director's Report.

**Deputy Director's Report; Ken Rentiers:** Invited all to visit project on Pockoy Island during the month of May. Specifically recommended the Heritage Trust Advisory Board meeting May 9 at noon at Edisto Island followed by site tour.

- Legislatively, the aid to Conservation Districts measure to increase funding up to \$1 million did not pass this time but we will keep trying.
- \$500,000 recurring funding for stream gauges is great for LWC. It's a small budget pie which also includes funds for 2 drill workers and 1 climatologist (Agricultural drought climatologist; Global variance and how it relates to Ag) for more water data.
- Water planning got nothing in House and consideration of \$1.3 million in Senate ongoing will see what happens there.
- Flood mapping and working with Office of Disaster and Recovery *DRO* and FEMA Flood Inundation Network; staging assets for flooding.
- State water plan: good progress on framework document.
- Basin Advisory Councils will be important within Conservation Districts.
- Governor's Flood Control Rep: Alvin Taylor
- Flood Water Commission responsibilities fall on Ken Rentiers

***Conservation Districts Program Manager's Report; Tyler Brown:***

- Introduction of **Brooke Myres, Envirothon Coordinator** as well as assisting with operations and outreach. Brooke spoke to her background in Farm Bill Programs and gave Envirothon overview with handout.
- NRCS memorandum of agreement *MOA* replacement; working new document in process
- Dams/Watershed Districts clarification of our role as Conservation Districts
- Partnership Conference this year will be in Charleston
- Florence Commissioner Sterling Sadler was recognized in the House by Rep. Kirby which was a great spotlight on Conservation Districts

***Chairman Simpson New Business:***

- Chairman then asked to go into Executive Session for discussion of recommended Conservation District Commissioner appointments and reappointments; motion was made by McLeod to go into executive session then seconded by Moss; All approved and motion passed to move to Executive Session at 3:23 pm.

***Executive Session:*** Motion made by McLeod to return to regular session to proceed to voting, seconded by Moss and motion passed to return to regular session at 3:28pm.

***Regular Session:*** Returned to regular session at 3:28pm; followed by a motion from Moss to approve entire slate of appointees and re-appointees, seconded by McLeod, with all in favor and entire slate approved; motion passed.

***Chairman Simpson Closing:*** If no further comments, Chair recommends closing the meeting. Ken Rentiers mentioned he should inform members of the opening of the Sassafras Mountain Overlook which was recently completed and DNR's role in the project; encouraged all to visit this beautiful highest point in SC. Following some discussion among members, Chairman Simpson declared the meeting adjourned at 3:30pm concluding with future meeting time and place to be determined.