

**Land, Water & Conservation Division
Advisory Committee Minutes
Dennis Building, Room 335
Columbia, South Carolina
Tuesday, April 23, 2013**

Present	Bill Simpson	Marvin Davant
	Larry Nates	Charles Broadwell
	Jim McLeod	Webb Smathers
	Steve Kinard	

Staff:	Ken Rentiers	Marc Cribb
	Scott Howard	Hope Mizzell
	Bill Clendenin	Maria Lamm
	Bill Marshall	Dorothy Phillips

Call to Order/Welcome: The **April 23, 2013** meeting was called to order by Chairman William 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 posted in public places. Absent from the meeting, Nadim Aziz, Oscar Stevens, Tom Garrison, Patricia Hartung, Lynn Youmans, Lewis Walker and Dean Moss.

Approval of January 28, 2013 Minutes: Steve Kinard made a motion to approve the January 28, 2013 Minutes and seconded by Charles Broadwell, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Geology Update – Scott Howard: Bill Clendenin gave a quick update and informed the Committee that Joy Sullivan will be retiring from DNR. Scott discussed what the Geology Survey does and its mission. He updated the Committee as to mission of the earth science group, with emphasis on Geologic Data Collection. This included ongoing mapping in the state, various types of mapping and which areas. He gave highlights of joint project with Georgia, Florida and North Carolina.

Flood Mitigation Update - Maria Lamm: current status by county (Richland, Lexington, Florence, Clarendon, Orangeburg and Greenville). Maria informed the committee that FEMA had made changes in how the mapping would be done, by watershed. Currently there is a study project that includes Lower Catawba, Wateree, Upper Savannah and middle Savannah. She also informed the committee that work on this project will be this year; and what impact this mapping will have on SC residents. Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 that eliminated all subsidies for flood insurance policies. She went on to explain what a subsidized policy was and what affect this act would have on flood insurance policies.

Conservation Districts – Marc Cribb updated the committee on Conservation Districts Program would be requesting 3 temporary–full time staff persons on NRCS grant working assisting the federal conservation reserve program (CRP). Marc briefly reviewed what CRP covers and what personnel do when they visit with the landowners; mapping and entering computer information. He stated that the contracts will be expiring this year and the need for landowners to re-enroll in the program.

Marc also informed the committee about the Wetlands Reserve Program that the conservation staff is also working on, easements to make sure land stays in wetlands forever.

Conservation outreach and education preformed by the District Offices through workshops (litter programs, land beautification, small farmer workshops). Marc reviewed several ongoing items, the Conservation Districts Directory, the 2013 Envirothon Program and partners that sponsor and volunteer for the Envirothon, and the flyer from the Conservation Partnership Conference, with the list of the 12 newly elected commissioners. Thanked Marvin Davant for the presentation on the Conservation Banks given at the conference.

Bill Marshall gave a summary update on Keowee-Toxaway (KT) Hydroelectric Project, relicensing. In March 2011 Duke Energy initiated the first stages of the FERC relicensing process for this upstate hydroelectric project with two reservoirs, Lakes Keowee and Jocassee. Duke's current license for the KT Project expires in August of 2016. Currently, DNR staff is participating in a Relicensing Stakeholder Process to develop an Agreement in Principle (AIP) for the new project license. Current unresolved issues for the DNR include measures for land and habitat protection and fishery protection from turbine entrainment.

Downstream delivery of water from the KT lakes to Lake Hartwell is an interest governed by a 1968 operating agreement between Duke Energy, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Southeast Power Administration. For the future KT Project license, Duke is proposing to update the operation agreement to redefine water storage at Lake Keowee and include a new drought-response plan which, if accepted under a future license, will enable the KT lakes to retain more water for longer periods than in the past under severe drought conditions.

Deputy Director's Report: Ken recognized the passing of Mr. Van Noy Thornhill of Charleston and acknowledged his work in conservation. Informed the Committee about the Climate Change Report that was released by DNR. That there was a new DNR Board member approved by the Governor Mr. Glenn McFadden of Rock Hill. Update on the DNR budget, showing improvement for some new projects. Joint Public workshop on water study with DHEC was held and that DNR has a basic position paper in response to some of the questions that came out of the workshop. Ken reviewed some of the Heritage Trust Public Day Archaeology activities for the committee and stated that there was a strong attendance.

Committee Comments: Jim McLeod suggested that next year if possible to schedule a LWC Advisory Committee meeting on the same day as the Legislative Appreciation Dinner during the Partnership Conference.

Executive Session: At 3:10 p.m. Chairman Simpson motioned to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues with a second by Jim McLeod. All were in favor.

At 3:20 p.m. Jim McLeod made a motion to return from Executive Session, seconded by Larry Nates. All were in favor.

Steve Kinard motioned that the Conservation District Commissioner re-appointments be approved and the motion was seconded by Marvin Davant, all were in favor. The Conservation District Commissioner re-appointments were approved as follows: Mr. Landis A. Hiers, Bamberg; Mr. Bates R. Houck, Calhoun; Mr. Cleveland C. Hiott, Colleton; Mr. James C. Lynch, Florence; Ms. Peggy W. Williams, Georgetown; Mr. Ray Crapse, Hampton and Mr. James H. McLeod, Kershaw.

Webb Smathers made a motion that the new Conservation District Commissioner appointments be approved and seconded by Marvin Davant, all were in favor. The new appointments were approved and are as follows: Mr. Milton F. Floyd, Charleston; Mr. John H. Smoak, Charleston; Mr. Carl Coleman, Dillon; Mr. Bruce G. Price, Dillon; Mr. Jeff L. Clark, Kershaw; Mr. Edwin W. Estridge, Kershaw and Mr. Nigel K. Cox, Spartanburg.

Mr. Raymond L. Tumbleston, Charleston; was appointed as Emeritus Commissioner.

Next Meeting Date: Next meeting date TBD.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made at 3:30 p.m.; all were in favor to adjourn.

Dorothy L. Phillips