

Land, Water & Conservation Division: Advisory Committee Minutes
Marine Resources Division Conference Room
Fort Johnson, Charleston, SC
Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Present: Bill Simpson
Dean Moss
Larry Nates
Patricia Hartung
William Glenn
*Dr. Smathers attempted to call to join the meeting

Staff:

Ken Rentiers	Brooke Myres	Chris Workman
Tyler Brown	Deanne Myrick	Katie Luciano
Bill Clendenin	Brooke Czwartacki	Will Doar
Scott Howard		

Guests: Kenny Mullis, President, SC Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD); Ann English, State Conservationist, Jada Burrell, NRCS; NRCS; Reginald Hall, NRCS; Commissioner Jeff Wilson, incoming President, SC Association of Conservation Districts

Call to Order/Welcome: The **February 19, 2020** meeting was called to order by Chairman Simpson at 12:53pm. 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; called on Mr. Workman for opening invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Brown introduced Ms. English; Ms. Burrell; Mr. Hall; Mr. Mullis and Mr. Wilson then recognized Commissioner Beers, who attended SCACD Annual Partnership Conference this week; and is longest serving Commissioner (over 47 years).

- **Approval of Minutes** from the December 2019 meeting. Mr. Moss motioned that the minutes be approved, seconded by Ms. Hartung with all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.
- **Agenda item VI: Deputy Director's Report; Ken Rentiers:**
- Welcome guests and thank you to all who planned and participated in the SCACD Annual Partnership Conference in Charleston.
- Noted that all of SC is officially out of drought status.
- Announced new hires: Robert Clark, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Manager and Keith Bradley, Botanist.
- Outlined Water Planning progress to include The Edisto River Basin, which is the first being set up, received 34 applications to fill 24 seats – members to be determined soon and their first meeting will be held early April 2020. Great support from Water Utility Council and PPAC and we are hopeful that the Pee Dee River Basin project will be funded next.
- Hosted a Drought Monitoring Workshop where information was shared on how to improve on the current process with a regional approach vs. national. Belief is that multiple people

collaborating to produce US Drought Map instead of a single person would be best. The regional approach is better for local farmers/farms.

- Heritage Preserve work continues; Archeology report: property at Fort Frederick, in partnership with Beaufort County, our team is studying the oldest Tabby Structure which was built in 1733. Also gave brief report on Pockoy Island with invitation to visit during ongoing work when scheduled.
- **Agenda item VII (A): SCACD Update, Kenny Mullis, SCACD:**
- Contribution Agreements increase to over \$400,000.00 Per year; NACD providing grants for technical assistance; negotiating new MOA with NRCS should be finalized soon; Mullis called on incoming President of SCACD, Mr. **Jeff Wilson**, who thanked Mr. Mullis for his 4 years of service as President and both expressed appreciation for the great partnership between NRCS, DNR and SCACD.
- **Agenda item VII (B): NRCS Update, Ann English:**
- Thankful to all for great partnership
- New Farm Bill is running fast to get Farm Programs implemented including Source Water Protection – working with Conservation Districts and Watershed Directors/Watersheds on how best to address these issues.
- SC was selected to participate in the new Feral Hog Program: Newberry and Hampton signed agreements up and both will be operational this Spring.
- Big push on Soil Health, especially to get employees trained; SC has 4 “Champions of Soil Health” so pointing to them and sending referrals to those who are already experts. Working to get more people involved.
- Mobile Irrigation Lab Project funded with Aiken County leading partnering with USDA; DNR; Palmetto AgriBusiness Council; Ag South and American Forestry Association. So far 12 applications/sign-ups are in beginning/initial phase.
- **Agenda item VIII, LWC (A): Conservation Districts Update, Tyler Brown:**
- Announcing Brooke Myres of our staff and Commissioner Ben Setzler of Newberry as participants in the Palmetto Leadership in the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (P-LEAF) group through Clemson University.
- Chris Workman, Conservation Districts, Watershed Program Manager, gave Watershed Boards update: Directory in progress; monthly reporting system in place; dam inspections are ongoing, focus currently on Upstate dams with heavy rain – all are in good shape. Organizing DNR/NRCS/DHEC meeting to address Watershed Boards interests.
- Brooke Myres, Conservation Districts, Program Development Manager, is asking everyone to fill out surveys and return to her because they will be utilized at Strategic Planning Session; invited all to Palmetto Sportsmen’s Classic for mini greenhouse growing and recycling project; Envirothon Coaches Training was held for 15 coaches; thanked Mr. Davant for his efforts for increasing the donation from the Harry Hampton Fund for Envirothon grant; announced social media outreach projects.
- **Agenda item VIII, LWC (C): Earth Sciences Update, Bill Clendenin:**
- Celebrating 195th Anniversary of the Geologic Survey – 1825 was first legislative funding for geology.
- Minerals contributed \$1.14 Billion to the economy of SC in 2019.

- Katie Luciano presented on Coastal Vulnerability: the measure/monitor of coastal physical change.
- Brooke Czwartacki presented on Coastal Hydrology Program
- Will Doar presented on Surface Elevation Table
- Scott Howard presented on Sand Resources Offshore Studies (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) – Sand Resources for beach re-nourishment
- Bill wrapped up the presentations by adding that his team works to provide sound science in these and other research/study areas of environmental impact as it affects our state.
- During this presentation, Mr. Moss was excused by Chairman and left his vote by proxy for approval of the slate of nominees for Commissioner Appointments as presented in Chair's hands if needed due to quorum numbers.
- **Agenda item IX (A): Conservation District Commissioner Appointments:**
- Hartung motioned to go into Executive Session for discussion and motion seconded by Glenn. All in favor and none opposed; motion carried and non-Committee Members were dismissed at 3:25pm.
- After 5-minute executive session, so motioned to end and go back to regular session was made by Mr. Nates and seconded by Ms. Hartung with all in favor the motion carried.
- Chairman called all back to the meeting and asked for a motion. Ms. Hartung motioned to move to accept & approve the slate of appointees/re-appointees as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Nates with all in favor and none opposed, motion passed. **The nominees approved will be considered by SCDNR Board of Directors at the March 2020 meeting for final approval.**
- Chairman noted that a plaque recognizing former Committee Member Broadwell has been prepared and will be sent to him in appreciation for his service to the Committee.
- Chairman asked for any other business and/or comments and Mr. Nates asked to give information to the Committee on an ongoing park project in Lexington County which includes multiple partners. The proposed "passive park" is planned for the Red Bank area which is dense with commercial properties. The park will have walking and nature trails to include areas around businesses and schools. The Lexington Conservation District is seeking revenue sources and additional partners for funding to make it a reality.
- At closing, brief discussion included idea of moving the meetings around to each section of SC (Pee Dee/Upstate/Charleston/Columbia, etc...) with the possibility of the next meeting to be held at either DNR's Cooks Mountain Property or elsewhere; time and place to be determined
- Meeting adjourned at 3:43pm.