

Land, Water & Conservation Division: Advisory Committee Minutes
Double Tree Hotel, Tuscany Room, Columbia, SC
Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Present: Bill Simpson
Larry Nates
James McLeod

Webb Smathers
Dean Moss

Staff: Ken Rentiers
Tyler Brown

Deanne Myrick

Call to Order/Welcomes: The **February 27, 2019** meeting was called to order by Chairman William Simpson at 12:05pm. In compliance with provisions of Section 30-4-80(e) (Freedom of Information Act), notification of this meeting was posted in public places.

Deputy Director's Report; Ken: introduced Tyler Brown; thanked Dean Moss for Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC) work and discussed:

- River Basin Councils/ Basin Advisory Councils
- DNR's technical resources; hydrology staff
- Funding update: \$2.5 million in Governor's budget; house/senate may do more; \$500,000 marked for stream gauges (identified 105 priority sites)
- Legislative Reception Tues, March 5, 2019/email message forthcoming as reminder
- Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic weekend of March 22-24, 2019
- Heritage Preserve archaeology dig at Botany Bay ongoing

Conservation Districts Report; Tyler:

- Conservation Districts not hosting separate legislative reception this year
- Annual Partnership Conference updates, including:
- Legislator of the Year: Cal Forest/Saluda County. After meeting with Commissioners, Cal met w/ County Officials which resulted in doubling the funding for Saluda Conservation District

Dean Moss on PPAC: (side note: Op-Ed/Letter to the Editor is underway informing public of the Committee meetings & outlining PPAC)

- Many challenges including: outdated water withdrawal permits based on changing circumstances e.g. industrial/ SRS, which used massive amounts decades ago which they'll never need again
- Google plant (Berkley County) and others: truthful needs and how to accurately measure this
- How to prepare for national agriculture operations pushing for advance sign ups / increases in irrigation rights (as seen in Western USA)
- Permitting system in place "grandfather permits" are 30 years and there is no provision of law to reconcile, especially intake permits granted years ago
- Task for all parties to figure how best to address this; audit? Change laws?
- Strategy for when policy recommendations are made, they are backed with sound science
- Vital for community councils to be in place and organized

PPAC discussion including input/comments from all present:

- Farm Bureau opposed to DNR's & DHEC's authority and recommend/request USDA have authority for water plans for state of SC; does USDA have expertise in water planning?
- How will this affect funding coming to DNR for this purpose?
- Agriculture is #1 industry in State; Ag and Forestry numbers are at \$30 billion annually
- Talking points to take home: we must have funding for water plan; we all have vested interest; water utilities have contributed to cover costs associated with ensuring proper planning, including hiring/paying facilitator.
- All involved are fully committed, with 350-400 estimated years of experience/expertise in water on PPAC

Simpson /new business:

- Welcomed Tyler and Deanne; Larry noted thanks to Tyler for mapping work in Lexington County; and Tyler gave personal background information.
- Webb requested that Ken's presentation on "Storybook/Hurricane Florence" with graphics be presented at next meeting
- Where / When for next meeting? TBD;
- Face to face meetings are more effective/productive; all agreed
- Next meeting to be held at DNR's Parker Annex with walk-through/archaeology brief
- Chairman then asked to go into Executive Session; motion was made by James, seconded by Moss. Motion passed to move to Executive Session at 12:50pm.

Executive Session: Chair verified that all present had a copy of the list of those up for appointment/re-appointment, then opened for comments. Tyler verified all names on sheet are ready for vote to approve. Motion made by James to approve entire slate, second by Webb, all are in favor and entire slate approved; motion passed. Chair: is there a motion to return to regular session? Motion made by Webb to return to **regular session**, second by Dean, motion passed.

Regular Session: 1:00pm concluding with future meeting date in April at Parker Annex (DNR Archaeology) and make every effort to meet quarterly. Tyler to propose dates for future meetings and to inform all by email. Chairman Simpson thanked Committee members & DNR staff for their service. Meeting adjourned at 1:06pm.