

**Land, Water & Conservation Division  
Advisory Committee Minutes  
Dennis Building, Room 335  
Columbia, South Carolina  
Thursday, July 10, 2008**

**Present:**

William Simpson	Michael McShane
Lynn Youmans, Jr.	Lewis Walker
Charles Broadwell	Marvin Davant
Dean Moss	Larry Nates
Dr. Webb Smathers	Dr. Aziz
James McLeod	Tom Garrison
Steve Kinard	

**Guest:** Greg Henderson, SCACD President

**Staff:**

Steve de Kozlowski	Von Snelgrove
Mark Malsick	Sean Taylor
Bud Badr	Ann Nolte
Hank Stallworth	Marc Cribb
Erin Hudson	Barry Beasley
Dorothy Phillips	

**Call to Order/Welcome:** The July 10, 2008, meeting was called to order by Chairman William Simpson at 1:10 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 requested such notification.

**Approval of April 10, 2008, Minutes:** Motion was made by Mr. McLeod to approve the April 10, 2008, minutes and seconded by Mr. Youmans. The motion passed.

Steve de Kozlowski recognized Erin Hudson as the Division's Outstanding Employee of the Year. She is a cartographer for our Geologic Survey where she has taken geologic mapping into the digital age. She is an indispensable member of our team.

**Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation:** Mr. Simpson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Ann Nolte for her many years of service to the committee and its predecessors. Ms. Nolte is retiring from the LWC Division where she has served the committee for over 20 years.

**S.C. Association of Conservation Districts Budget Priorities:** Mr. Greg Henderson, SCACD President reviewed a letter he presented to Mr. Frampton concerning the conservation districts budget request for FY 09. Specific interests to conservation districts are aid to conservations districts and a state cost share program. Greg outlined the fact that the state is facing a disaster with a multiple year drought, crop failures, and

loss of natural resources especially in the 19 Piedmont counties. Aid to the districts and a state cost share program would help keep farmers in business and provide conservation benefits.

We were challenged last year on this budget proposal. The state was going to adopt a state cost share program because the district commissioners wanted it. We just didn't have the money. If we are going to be successful in getting a state cost share program this year we need to convince our legislature and the governor. North Carolina has an excellent cost share program, and one we should model ours after. We have to take a small step first to prove that it is viable and we have to find revenue sources that will sustain it.

***Archeology Projects Update (Kolb Site):*** Sean Taylor, SCDNR Archaeologist discussed ongoing management of Cultural Heritage Preserves highlighting three of the 17 preserves under the care of Brian Long and himself as well as ongoing historic preservation work at Botany Bay WMA and archaeological research at Woodbury WMA and the Great Pee Dee HP . At Poinsett Bridge HP (Greenville County) ongoing work is focused on the installation of a parking lot, safe public access route and erosion control. At Congaree Creek HP (Lexington County) discussion focused on the annual trail day cleanup and canoe trail clearing in Congaree Creek. At South Bluff HP recent installation of a parking lot and trail system were discussed. A description of the historic resources at Botany Bay WMA included Bleak Hall's out buildings and Fig Island shell rings. Recent work to open up the understory at Fort Lamar HP was described. Discussion of ongoing archaeological research included the search for one of Francis Marion's camps thought to be located on the Woodbury WMA near Dunham's Bluff.

A detailed discussion of the 12<sup>th</sup> field season of the Johannes Kolb Archaeological and Education Project was given. The 12<sup>th</sup> field season was a success, between 200 and 300 people visited the site over the two weeks, approximately 125 volunteers worked over the two weeks, COSCAPA (Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists ) held their spring quarterly meeting on site, the MCDC (Marlboro, Chesterfield, Darlington, County) Pee Dee Indian Tribe cooked a great lunch on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>, SCETV filmed for their show on the Pee Dee's history, and approximately 25 boy scouts earned their archaeological badges. This year's work focused heavily on education, evening lectures were given to volunteers and guest on the history of the project, prehistoric pottery manufacture and firing, and stone tools. These lectures were beneficial to all for developing a better understanding of the human activities artifacts represent. A four meter block was excavated in hopes of defining a Woodland period house, post holes belong to at least one structure were identified. Two spectacular finds included a Dalton point (approximately 10,500 years old Late Paleo Indian) and a spoon with the initials ELB etched in the handle. It is believed to have belonged to Elizabeth Kimbrough; she was the granddaughter of Johannes Kolb and married Lemurel Benton, a Colonial in the Marion's Brigade and a representative to the US House from 1793 to 1799.

***Drought Update:*** Mr. Mark Malsick, Severe Weather Climatologist with the State Climate Office, provided an update on the drought and referred to handouts. On June 30

the drought response committee elevated the drought status to extreme for five upstate counties. Drought status for 14 other Piedmont counties was upgraded to severe. The current drought is best reflected in the rainfall deficits with Greenville 11.97 inches below normal this year and over 30 inches below normal since the start of the drought during January 2007. Mark noted that although the current weather pattern has allowed scattered afternoon rain showers, there has been no major changes in the present or forecast pattern that would provide significant drought relief through October of this year.

***Savannah River Committee Updates:*** Dean Moss, the General Manager, Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, updated the committee on the activities of the Governors Joint Savannah River Committee and the June 5 meeting in Aiken. Progress is being made on both the ground water issue in the Savannah area and the TMDL water quality issue in the Savannah River. Technical staff from state agencies are answering questions and solving problems trying to come up with technical solutions that need to be in place before we can deal with the political challenges. Georgia is ready to adopt new water quality standards for the lower Savannah River which will be consistent with SC's standards. For the first time in history, we will have one water quality standard. This will have a big impact on waste load allocations in the river.

South Carolina has made proposals as to how we should move forward on these matters and we are engaged with staff from both state agencies (DNR, DHEC, GA EPD). We also have the Corp of Engineers involved and want to have Duke Energy involved as well. FERC relicensing on the Keowee Toxaway System is just about to start, so there is an enormous amount of resources that Duke could provide in terms of data collection and data management that we can take advantage of. Our conversations with Carol Crouch, Director of GA EPD, indicates to us that there is opportunity to fashion an agreement between the states. We have about 2 ½ more years left in the administrations of Governor Perdue and Governor Sanford and there is a desire in both of the administrations to get some agreements in place. Those agreements may not take us as far as South Carolina wants to go, but if we do it right it can give us the foundation to move forward.

***Scenic River Resolution:*** Mr. Jim McLeod submitted a resolution from four conservation districts (Kershaw, Sumter, Richland, and Calhoun) requesting that the DNR consider the Wateree River including the upper Santee River in the State Scenic River Program. Mr. McLeod said that a lot of effort and focus has been on the Catawba River which was just approved as a State Scenic River, but the Wateree River, which is a continuation of the Catawba River, is just as important a resource. This area is very special and unique. It flows through the Cowasee Focus Area and supports an important and recovering striped bass fishery.

The committee discussed the need for additional staff and funding to conduct the study. Mr. McLeod said that DNR has lost personnel who are directly involved in the Scenic Rivers program. We need to be a bit more aggressive in managing our river systems. He further stated that the Advisory Committee and DNR Board need to collectively join together to make a major impact legislatively on budgets for DNR. We suffer every time

there is a cut back and we never seem to be able to gain that back. Our administrative staff is never able to go back to where it should have been and that is in every division. We have 230 conservation district commissioners, and several advisory committees within DNR, and we need to begin a process before January 2009 to put this collective body together under DNR and go to the legislature with an impact to have our budget addressed and address the Scenic River shortfalls.

Mr. Youmans made a motion in response to the resolution, for the board to approve the implementation of the study predicated upon availability of manpower and money. Seconded by Mr. McLeod. An amendment by Dr. Smathers, that Steve de Kozlowski be directed to seek funding for staff as opposed to when staff becomes available. Mr. Moss re-phrased, DNR be directed to seek resources for manpower to do the study. The motion passed without opposition.

***Interim Deputy Director's Report:*** Steve reported that DNR has to man the state Emergency Operation Center during hurricane events as well as the agency's emergency operation center. Several DNR personnel will be attending a three day incident command training. Steve informed the committee about the July 22 Conservation Districts Commissioners meeting. This year's focus will be on the surface water withdrawal permitting bill. Steve informed the committee that the agency is reviewing its Operational Plan and that Von Snelgrove and Bill Clendenin will be working with the section chiefs to update the plan. Steve informed the committee that the agency has lost two staff from the Scenic Rivers Program. The agency has had a 2.2% budget cut from last year and a 5% mid-year budget cut, and this is limiting DNR's ability to manage scenic river projects and other services. These cuts have come after the approval of two new scenic rivers, and by law, each scenic river advisory committee has to have a DNR employee. Further discussion of budget cuts led to motion concerning the Conservation Districts.

Dean Moss made a motion that the LWC Advisory Committee, after reviewing the budgetary challenges facing the division this fiscal year, recommends that a letter be sent to each Conservation District Chairman explaining the significant budget challenges and asking each Conservation District to voluntarily reduce their state appropriated allocation by \$1,000 (approximately 6.7%) to help minimize state budget cuts to the division and demonstrate the Districts strong support of and partnership with their state conservation agency.

Mr. Lynn Youmans seconded the motion.  
The motion passed with Mr. Nates voting in opposition.

***Executive Session:*** At 3:40 p.m. Mr. Moss moved that the committee go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues with second by Mr. McLeod. All were in favor.

At 4:15 p.m. Mr. Garrison moved to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Youmans. All were in favor. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Mr. McLeod motioned to approve the following conservation district commissioner re-appointments: Mr. Thomas W. McElmurray, Aiken; Mr. James Riley Hill, Jr., Barnwell; Mr. Alton B. Jeffords, Darlington; Mr. S. Frank Stephens, Jr., Dillon; Mr. Malcolm J. O'Neal, Edgefield; Mr. Mickey D. Lankford, Jr., Georgetown; Mr. English Warren Dixon, Horry; Mr. Alexander P. Ramsay, Oconee; Mr. William A. Whitfield, Saluda, Mr. James J. Dukes, Jr., Williamsburg. Mr. Youmans seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McLeod motioned to approve the following conservation district commissioner new appointments: Mr. Randell Ewing, Darlington; Ms. Helen M. Dills-Pittman, Jasper. Mr. Youmans seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Moss motioned to approve the reappointment of Ms. Amanda Bauknight, Pickens County. Mr. Youmans seconded. The motion was not approved.

***Next Meeting Date:*** October 9, 2008.

***Adjournment:*** Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kinard, seconded by Mr. Moss. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. All were in favor to adjourn.

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Dorothy Phillips  
Recording Secretary