

**Land, Water & Conservation Division: Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Harbison State Forest, Columbia, SC**  
**Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

**Present:** Bill Simpson Webb Smathers  
Larry Nates Marvin Davant  
William Glenn (call-in) Diane Edwins

**Staff:** Bill Marshall; Keith Bradley; Joe Lemeris; Brooke Myres; Deanne Myrick

**Call to Order/Welcome:** The **May 18, 2021** meeting was called to order by Chairman Simpson at 10:14am. 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.

- **Diane Edwins** delivered invocation.
- **Brooke Myres** introduced guests and informed all of changes to agenda, due to unforeseen circumstances, including Ken Rentiers' report (will be sent in written form to Members following the meeting); and Lorianne Riggin will give her report at the next meeting of the Committee (due to car trouble on the way to this meeting)
- **Chairman recommended all business matters requiring votes be done following LWC Section Reports and members agreed.**

**Deputy Director's Report; Ken Rentiers:** to be delivered by email due to his absence; Ken sends his regrets and regards to all.

**LWC Section Reports/Presentations:**

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Chairman called on **Bill Marshall** for "River Conservation Program" report:

- We serve as advocates for and stewards of streams and rivers in SC (we have roughly 30,000 miles of streams in SC); details on river plans and guides have been published by DNR and the most recent is the *Black Scenic River Management Plan*, which addresses:
  1. Water Quality
  2. Streamflow
  3. Land use, development
  4. Habitat Conservation
  5. Wildlife & Fisheries
  6. Recreational use, access
  7. Safety
  8. Cultural Resources
  9. Aesthetics
- Also discussed Watersheds and provided maps and related information
- Habitat Diversity / Species Diversity in stream corridors include:

1. Wildlife
  2. Rare Species plants and animals
  3. Fish
- River Water uses including:
    1. Recreation
    2. Drinking water suppliers
    3. Fishing
    4. Fish and Wildlife
    5. Wastewater dischargers
    6. Irrigators/agriculture
    7. Manufacturing industry
    8. Electrical power producers
  - SC Scenic Rivers Act
  - Beach Sweep River Sweep
  - Water Trails & Blueways
  - SC Water Plan & the importance of planning: Planning Process Advisory Committee; Edisto River Basin Council, more to come.
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Chairman called on **Keith Bradley** for “Botany Program” report:

- Expanded on why it is important to study, preserve, care for and extend SC-native plants; some grow nowhere else on earth/ we address extinction risk, etc... with the upgrading of our data systems and the information available in collaboration with partners.
  - Plant Conservation at DNR includes and expands upon:
    1. Rare Plant Tracking List & Data Management
    2. Conservation in Heritage Preserves
    3. Land Acquisition
    4. Habitat Enhancement
    5. Reintroductions
    6. Rare Plant Rescues
    7. Invasive Species
    8. Endangered Ecosystems & Landscapes
    9. Science
  - Heritage Trust “Tracked Plant List”
  - The future of the Botany & Plant Conservation Program:
    1. Vegetation monitoring
    2. Rare species monitoring
    3. Volunteer network
    4. Hands-on Management
    5. Plant Taxonomy
    6. Land Acquisition Identification
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Chairman called on **Joe Lemeris** for “SC Natural Heritage Data” report:

- Leveraging new GIS technologies to improve collection, sharing and protecting of information on species of concern in SC
- As part of “NatureServe” working with partners and members to organize network of heritage programs across the Western Hemisphere
- Will maintain comprehensive datasets and designate conservation ranks for SC species of concern
- Data is used internally by DNR; also shared w/ state & federal partner agencies and environmental consultants to conduct environmental reviews for development projects to evaluate potential impacts of species of concern
- Data is used as primary source for USFWS ESA additions/changes for SC species; to model potential distribution/habitat; & to determine threats
- Link from [heritagetrust.dnr.sc.gov](http://heritagetrust.dnr.sc.gov) includes “information about hundreds of rare species and natural communities within SC” / “Natural Heritage for Environmental Professionals” / “Tracked species by county” with profile information available
- Data is managed to allow access to those who use it for research/regulatory purposes and hopefully additional safeguards will be in place soon to help protect landowner privacy and conserve imperiled species.

***Chairman: Thank you for the participation and the presentations. On to Conservation Districts Report/ in Tyler’s absence, reporting for him is Brooke Myres.***

**Brooke Myres** reporting on Tyler’s behalf pointed to the issues of SC Wildlife Magazine and the articles in each issue provided/written by Conservation Districts staff. Next on agenda is Envirothon report, with explanation of the 2021 virtual competition and winning teams from Spartanburg High School, who placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Nation Ford (York, SC) Future Farmers of America team, which is new to the competition and placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, a new team from Charleston competed, the Charleston Charter School for Math and Science.

***Chairman: Thank you and moving to business of Conservation District Commissioner Appointments: Any questions/further/additional discussion before we move to business on the agenda? Any further discussion?***

***Hearing none, please review the list provided of Commissioner appointments and re-appointments before we consider them; Chairman called on staff and members for any comments; Brooke commented (on Tyler’s behalf) to make all aware of a Commissioner Appointment on the list, Mr. Matthew Scales, who works for SCDNR, and is hoping to backfill his deceased father’s Commissioner appointment, and assured all that per Tyler Brown, there is no ethical or legal conflict in him serving in this position. Details of this have been considered and have been signed off on favorably by ‘legal’ and ‘ethics’ at state level, and paperwork indicating was included in the packet with Matthew Scales’ application.***

List as presented in the spreadsheet (everyone has a copy which was sent prior to the meeting for review) is self-explanatory.

Chairman read aloud the names of each new appointee & re-appointee; and recommends a separate reading of emeritus nominations list. Motion made by Davant moving to approve/accept entire list of new appointees and re-appointees as read by the Chairman. Motion seconded by Nates followed by vote of Members, all of whom voted in favor and motion passed.

Chairman read aloud the list of Commissioner Emeritus nominees. Motion made by Nates to approve/accept list as read by the Chairman. Motion seconded by Edwins followed by vote of Members, all of whom voted in favor and motion passed.

Chairman asked staff to forward the approved list onward to the DNR Board for their consideration at the next meeting.

Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes as typed and presented from the meeting of the LWC AC on February 16, 2021. Motion made by Glenn to approve/accept minutes as presented in advance/ copies in folders and motion was seconded by Nates with all voting in favor motion passed.

***Chairman: This concludes business unless anyone has additional comments or discussion? Are there any other comments or concerns for discussion? Hearing none, the Chairman thanked all for being at the meeting then adjourned the meeting at 12:06 pm. \*followed by boxed lunches to eat outdoors and/or on the screened porch attached to the meeting room\****