

**Land, Water & Conservation Division
Advisory Committee Minutes
Dennis Building, Room 205
Columbia, South Carolina
Tuesday, September 2, 2014**

Present Bill Simpson Webb Smathers
 Larry Nates Charles Broadwell
 Trish Hartung Marvin Davant

Staff: Ken Rentiers Marc Cribb
 Dorothy Phillips

Call to Order/Welcome: The **September 2, 2014** meeting was called to order by Chairman William Simpson at 10:05 a.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.

Approval of April 21, 2014 Minutes: Trish Hartung made a motion to approve the April 21, 2014 Minutes and seconded by Webb Smathers, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Deputy Director's Report: The Committee was briefed on the Basin Modeling project and was informed that the bid contract was awarded to CDM Smith Contractors. The first 2 basins to be modeled will be the Saluda and the Edisto basins. The committee was also informed that stakeholder outreach appropriation \$100,000 and bids were being sent. The Division also received a \$200,000 grant from the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management for sand deposit study. Ken informed the committee that the Liberty Hill land acquisition was approved and that the Haile Gold Mine was on schedule to be permitted; but there might be legal challenges from environmental groups. The Keowee-Toxaway FERC relicensing agreement is nearing completion.

Conservation Districts Report: Marc updated the Committee on the status of the district appropriation funds – 50% have been received and completed. The upcoming elections were discussed and that 2 conservation commissioners will be elected in each district. There will be 8 districts with write-in candidates.

The status of the new hire was discussed; that the process for applicants has begun. The committee was also informed that 3 new NRCS contribution agreements have been signed and that his would help keep 3 grant positions filled to provide technical assistance land owners. The Farm Bill will include a

new grant program entitled Regional Conservation Partnership. NRCS is contracting out technical assistance work; this will be a 5 year grant program. Dr. Chastain from Clemson University and Marc Cribb have completed and submitted the first proposal to complete phase 1 and are working on the second proposal to be submitted in October.

The committee was updated on the Conservation District Association meeting in Kentucky, the Association Committee meeting on September 24th at Sandhill and the Annual Partnership Conference at Marriott Columbia, February 2015.

Committee Comments: Trish Hartung asked Marc about how the Envirothon was publicized. He informed her that there was an Envirothon website; the district offices promote the event to schools and environmental education association, which are good contacts for school science teachers. The Committee members discussed the importance of increasing environmental awareness among students.

Executive Session: At 10:55 a.m. Larry Nates motioned to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues with a second by Broadwell. All were in favor.

At 11:10 a.m. Larry Nates made a motion to return from Executive Session, all were in favor.

Larry Nates motioned that the Conservation District Commissioner re-appointments be approved and the motion was seconded by Webb Smathers, all were in favor. The Conservation District Commissioner re-appointments were approved as follows: Fred Raines, Abbeville; Diane Bosler, Allendale; Alan Ulmer, Beaufort; Claude McLeod, Beaufort; Allen Beer, Chester; William Harrington, Clarendon; Neal Rogers, Dillon; Douglas Reeves, Dorchester; Joe Derrick, Edgefield; Sabie Cathcart, Fairfield; Benjamin Hardee, Horry; William Ardrey, Lancaster; John Wiggins, Marion; and James Shealy, Newberry.

Trish Hartung made a motion that the new Conservation District Commissioners be approved and seconded by Marvin Davant, all were in favor. The new appointments were approved and are as follows: Julie M. Davis, McCormick.

Next Meeting Date: TBD for November.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made at 11:30; all were in favor to adjourn.

Dorothy L. Phillips