

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, March 26, 2021 10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting Via GoToMeeting

MAC Members Present: D. Swygert, E. Holder, C. Woods, P. Brown, P. Keener, B. Rose, J. Massey

MAC Members Absent: R. Dukes

DNR Staff: Maier, Keppler, Denson, F. Sanders, Kendrick, Perkinson, Jenkins, Darden, Snoots, Binz, Ingle, Weeks, A. Watson, E. Levesque, D. Sanger, PKS, Ballenger, Broach, Reichert, Sasson, Smart, Ingle

Guests: Chaplain Jeff Shealy

1. Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert called the meeting to order

2. Housekeeping- Tim Snoots:

Tim reviewed the processes for those attending via Virtual Meeting.

3. Invocation- Pastor Jeff Shealy:

Pastor Shealy led the Invocation for the meeting.

4. Pledge of Allegiance- Phil Maier:

Deputy Director Maier led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes: Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes (December 2020) E. Holder made a motion to approve the minutes, C. Woods 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

6. Introduction of Guests/Public Comments: Julie Binz: N/A

7. Reports:

- Blaik Keppler gave a report on MRD's Coastal Managed Lands- specifically the nature-based recreational opportunities for the public and the habitats they offer for many diverse marine and shorebird species
- Felicia Sanders piggybacked on Blaik's presentation and gave an in-depth presentation on the on the Atlantic shorebirds and seabirds that rely on our Coastal Managed Lands for nesting, roosting and migration. SCDNR is working towards better protecting shorebirds on our beaches while maintaining or improving the visitor experience.
- Wally Jenkins gave an overview of the Multi-Jurisdictional Marine Fisheries Management in South Carolina. It is a complex matrix of agencies, both State and Federal that work to achieve sound fisheries management of Saltwater fishes.

8. Deputy Director Comments – Phil Maier:

D.D. Maier's comments included:

- Staff are back to work and continuing to follow social distancing protocols.
- We are refining our reporting to the DNR Board and how we share with the MAC as well and welcome the Committee's thoughts on that.
- Oliva Bueno with the Coastal Reserves and Outreach section of MRD was named Employee of the Year for the Division.
- Legislative update including the Flounder bill moving forward with continuing discussion and Cobia bill moved through the house and Senate Subcommittee.
- Budget report that MRD is stable due to increased license sales during the pandemic. We are looking at some one-time funds to deal with infrastructure such as pond repairs at Waddell and shoreline stabilization. We are seeking assistance for vessel replacement of the Lady Lisa.

9. Date, Place & Time of Next Meeting – Chairman Swygert:

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is Friday, June 25th place TBD.

10. Adjourn – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert adjourned the meeting at 11:42.