

**South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee
March 4, 2021, Minutes
Rembert Dennis Building, Room 335
Columbia, SC 29201**

Members Present:

Chairman Mike Hutchins, Vice Chairman Cleveland Smith, Stan Halliday, Eddie Kinsey, Martha Herbert, Will Shirley, Mac Baughman, and Trey Watford.

Members Absent

Jonathan Rabon and Titus Duren.

Staff Present:

Emily Cope, Ken Prosser, Billy Dukes, Sam Chappelle, Tom Swaynham, Will Dillman, Ross Self, Lynn Quattro, Willie Simmons, Hunter Young, and Shelley Ivester.

Staff attending via teleconference:

Kaley Lawrimore

Others Present:

There were no constituents present.

Chairman Hutchins called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the October 27, 2020, meeting was approved as submitted.

Chairman Hutchins welcomed two new advisory committee members, Mr. Mac Baughman from Summerville, South Carolina and Mr. Trey Watford from Cameron, South Carolina.

2020-2021 Waterfowl Season Report

Will Dillman, Assistant Chief of Wildlife, reviewed adult and youth waterfowl results and shared a SCDNR Facebook video interviewing youth hunters after their waterfowl hunts.

ACTION ITEM - 2021-2022 Migratory Bird Season Recommendations

Will Dillman presented the 2021-2022 Migratory Bird staff recommendations for committee review (Exhibit A attached to the original minutes). The federal frameworks were very similar to last year (Exhibit B attached to the original minutes). As an Action Item, the staff recommendations were approved unanimously by the committee.

Gopher Tortoise Work at Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve

Hunter Young, Region III Heritage Preserve Coordinator, presented a power point presentation of the work being done to protect and enhance the habitat of the gopher tortoise on Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve in Aiken, South Carolina.

Overview of Hatchery Infrastructure

Ross Self, Chief of Fisheries, gave an overview of SCDNR's hatchery infrastructure and improvements that need to be made to each hatchery.

WMA Sunday Hunting Update

Emily Cope, Deputy Director of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, provided an update on Sunday hunting: SCDNR is partnering with Clemson University to poll user groups and gather opinions and information on the topic. The report is due August 1, 2021.

Legislative Update

Emily Cope presented legislative updates that included blue catfish limits, shooting areas for pen raised mallards, non-game fishing devices, live transport of swine, and a proposed expanded year-long trapping season.

Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Committee will be held at 10:00 am, June 24, 2021, SCDNR Columbia location, 1000 Assembly Street, Rembert Dennis building, room 305.

Chairman Hutchins adjourned the meeting.