

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee
November 13, 2018 Meeting
Samworth WMA
420 Dirleton Rd., Georgetown, SC 29440

Members Present:

Chairman Michael Hutchins, Vice Chairman Cleveland Smith, Titus Duren, Bobby Garmany, Martha Herbert and Jonathan Rabon.

Members Absent:

Stan Halliday, Sam Hiott and Stephen Thomas.

Staff Present:

Emily Cope, Ken Prosser, Billy Dukes, Will Dillman, Sam Chappelle, Shelley Ivester, Jay Butfiloski, Ross Self, Lynn Quattro, Ellen Waldrop, Achi Treptow, Molly Kneece, Alicia Farrell and David Lucas.

Others Present:

There were no constituents present, but several SCDNR Techs that work at Samworth and Santee Delta WMA's were present.

Chairman Hutchins opened the meeting.

The minutes of the August 22, 2018 minutes were approved as submitted.

Potential Legislation Affecting Wildlife Rehabbers, Educators, Sanctuaries, Researchers and Private Possession

Jay Butfiloski, SCDNR Furbearer Project Leader, gave a slide show presentation on the potential legislation affecting wildlife rehabbers. Mr. Butfiloski is holding 3 public meetings (Greenville in October, Columbia in November and Charleston in December) to educate the public and rehabbers about the potential changes. SCDNR hopes to play a more prominent role in permitting of rehabbers and the protection of our wildlife. The Agency hopes to educate rehabbers, reduce the hoarding of wildlife and ensure wildlife is being rehabbed in safe, sanitary conditions, and being released when possible.

Sturgeon Research in the Winyah Bay System

Ellen Waldrop, SCDNR Assistant Diadromous Fisheries Coordinator at MRRI in Charleston, gave a slide show overview of the sturgeon research being conducted in the Winyah Bay System. The research taking place includes Shortnose and Atlantic Sturgeon. The fish are tagged with acoustic transmitters and then DNR documents their movement with stationary receiver array equipment. The study hopes to improve the understanding of Sturgeon habitat use patterns and the potential impacts of barriers to migration of the sturgeon in the system.

Upper Coastal Waterfowl Update

Achi Treptow, Upper Coastal Waterfowl Project Leader, gave a superb power point presentation, incorporating the use of a drone, to show the updates and improvements made to Santee Coastal,

Santee Delta and Samworth WMAs. The improvements made over the past year were applauded by all in attendance.

Legislative Update

As reported by Deputy Director Emily Cope, turkey legislation, captive wildlife legislation and reptile and amphibians regulations are on the agenda, in addition to reinstating the blue catfish regulations that sunsetted.

Advisory Committee Member Comments

Bobby Garmany commented on the great job that SCDNR has done at Samworth. Jonathan Rabon praised the great attitudes and enthusiasm of SCDNR personnel who assist with waterfowl hunts. Martha Herbert thanked SCDNR personnel for all the hard work and upgrades to the waterfowl sites, and expressed special thanks to Achi Treptow for the drone presentation.

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held February 26, 2019 in Columbia. Location to be announced.