

**Land, Water & Conservation Division
Advisory Committee Minutes
Dennis Building, Room 357
Columbia, South Carolina
Wednesday, March 9, 2011**

CONFERENCE CALL

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| <i>Present</i> | Bill Simpson Larry Nates Tom Garrison Marvin Davant | Lynn Youmans Patricia Hartung Webb Smathers |
| <i>Staff:</i> | Ken Rentiers Dorothy Phillips | Marc Cribb |

Call to Order/Welcome: The March 9, 2011, **Conference Call** meeting was called to order by Chairman William Simpson at 1:10 p.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. Absent from the meeting, Nadim Aziz, Frank Murray, Oscar Stevens, Jim McLeod, Charles Broadwell, Lewis Walker, Steven Kinard, and Dean Moss.

Approval of November 17, 2010 Minutes: Pat Hartung made a motion to approve the November 17, 2010 Minutes and seconded by Webb Smathers, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Deputy Director's Report: Ken updated the Committee on the current budget situation and the outlook for the next fiscal year.

Ken gave the Committee an update on the status of the State Water Plan and the Corps of Engineers Savannah River Comprehensive Study. Updating the State Water Plan will be a high priority for LWC and finding additional funding will also be a high priority

Rebuilding the Conservation District program would be another priority, and looking to Marc Cribb for leadership in this matter. He makes the connection; he has the knowledge of the history of the Conservation Districts program. Marc was awarded the SCACD President's Award at the SCACD Legislative Dinner in February. Ken also informed the committee that Marc was LWC's 2009 Employee of the Year. The committee members congratulated Marc and thanked him for his years of service. LWC has approximately 35 employees at present. The agency has lost many employees due to reduced state appropriated funding, losing many years of experience and knowledge due to these budget cuts.

Ken also gave a brief review of the agency Climate Change Project headed by Dr. Hope Mizzell and Bob Perry. The project will be going live with a page on DNR website in approximately 2 weeks. Ken asked the committee members if they had any ideas for possible future projects.

Committee Comments: Committee members would like to be included in regular weather updates and the long term weather reports.

Ken read the wording of the draft certificate of appreciation for Chairman McShane and committee members agreed that the wording sounded fine. The certificate will be edited and prepared for signatures; and then it will be printed and mailed to the co-chairmen for their signatures.

Webb Smathers is preparing to leave on a trip to South Africa for 2 weeks. All committee members wished him safe travels.

Executive Session: At 1:35 p.m. Tom Garrison motioned to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues with a second by Larry Nates. All were in favor.

At 1:45 p.m. Larry Nates made a motion to return from Executive Session, seconded by Tom Garrison and all were in favor.

Pat Hartung motioned that the Conservation District Commissioner re-appointment be approved and seconded by Larry Nates, all were in favor. The Conservation District Commissioner re-appointment was approved as follows: Mr. Norris Fowler, Union County.

Webb Smathers made a motion that the new Conservation District Commissioner appointments be approved and seconded by Larry Nates, all were in favor. The new appointments were approved and are as follows: Mr. Thomas H. Coward, Aiken County; Ms. Yvonne Kling, Aiken County; Mr. James L. Boone, Allendale County; Mr. Willie D. Sarratt, Cherokee County and Mr. Henry Gettys, Cherokee County.

Tom Garrison made a motion that the appointments for Commissioner Emeritus be approved and seconded by Larry Nates, all were in favor. The commissioner emeritus appointments were approved and are as follows: Mr. Julian D. Wiles, Calhoun County and Mr. Vincent Caggiano, Cherokee County.

Next Meeting Date: Next meeting date will be determined. Possible date in late June early July was discussed.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Simpson. All were in favor to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Dorothy L. Phillips