

SOUTH CAROLINA BOUNDARY COMMISSION
REPORT for FY 2012-13

South Carolina – North Carolina Boundary

When issues arose regarding the state boundary between York County, SC and Gaston County, NC in the early 1990s, the SC Geodetic Survey and the NC Geodetic Survey signed a Memorandum of Agreement in April 1993 to cooperatively re-establish the South Carolina – North Carolina boundary. The intent was to avoid a litigious dispute, such as occurred between South Carolina and Georgia regarding their boundary in the Lower Savannah River area. This contentious dispute cost the state \$10 million and 26 years of litigation and negotiation, that involved the U.S. Supreme Court and Congress, to resolve 25 miles of boundary.

The effort to technically re-establish the 334-mile-long South Carolina – North Carolina boundary that was begun in 1995 was completed on May 3, 2013 when the NC – SC Joint Boundary Commission approved the technical work for the last 91 miles.

To be completed are the efforts to reduce and/or eliminate impacts to those property owners whose residency or business would move from South Carolina to North Carolina, or vice versa, because of the re-established state boundary. The SC and NC Attorney General offices are preparing legislation to be introduced into the SC and NC legislatures. When the legislation is enacted by both states, those sections of the SC – NC boundary that have not yet been approved legislatively in South Carolina will be submitted to the General Assembly.

South Carolina Boundary Commission Members

Sidney C. Miller, Joint Boundary Commission Co-chairman, retired chief of the SC Geodetic Survey
Bobby M. Bowers, Director of the Office of Research & Statistics, SC Budget & Control Board
Don Winslow, SC Department of Natural Resources
Robert W. Hayes, Jr., SC Senate
Kent M. Williams, SC Senate
Liston D. Barfield, SC House of Representatives
Dwight A. Loftis, SC House of Representatives

Activities in 2012-13

North Carolina – South Carolina Joint Boundary Commission

The Joint Boundary Commission met May 3, 2013 at the Cone University Center of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The two main agenda items were 1. the work accomplished to complete the technical re-establishment of the South Carolina – North Carolina boundary, and 2. the status of the work by the South Carolina and North Carolina Attorney General offices regarding the legislation reducing impacts to those property owners whose residency or business would move from South Carolina to North Carolina, or vice versa, because of the re-established state boundary.

Boundary between “Corner Stone” (Marlboro County) southeast to the Marlboro-Dillon county boundary, SC

This 18-mile section between Marlboro County, SC and Scotland County, NC, originally surveyed in 1737, was resurveyed in 1905. The original "monuments" in 1735-37 were blazed trees. In 1905, 22 granite posts were set mainly where dirt roads and railroads crossed the boundary.

Ten of the 22 monuments were recovered. Coordinates for these monuments were determined either by a survey-grade GPS project or a terrestrial survey tied to geodetic control. Coordinates for the missing 1905 SC-NC monument on the Marlboro-Dillon boundary were calculated using old survey plats on which the 1905 monument was documented relative to still-existing objects.

The technical work for this section was tentatively approved by the Joint Boundary Commission, May 3, 2013.

Boundary between Dillon County, SC and Robeson County, NC

There has been no resurvey of the 31-mile section of the SC-NC boundary between Dillon County, SC and Robeson County, NC since 1735-37, when it was originally surveyed. The original "monuments" in 1735-37 were blazed trees – long-gone. Land records research to determine the oldest and most accurate historical points marking the boundary and field work locating these points were completed in April 2013.

The technical work for this section was tentatively approved by the Joint Boundary Commission, May 3, 2013.

Boundary between Horry County, SC and Columbus and Brunswick counties, NC

This 42-mile section of the boundary was also originally surveyed and marked by blazed trees in 1735-37. A resurvey of this section was accomplished in 1928 when 49 granite post monuments were set. Of these monuments, 37 have been found, for which coordinates were determined either by a survey-grade GPS project or a terrestrial survey tied to geodetic control.

The 1928 monument set on the north bank of the Waccamaw River was found in the river bed at low water. The north bank – a cut bank - had eroded and the monument had fallen into the river. When water levels permit, this monument will be reset on the state boundary and its coordinates will be determined.

In addition to the 1928 monuments, the monument established on Bird Island, as part of the joint effort to establish the seaward boundary between South Carolina and North Carolina in 1977, has been incorporated on the boundary plat.

The technical work for this section was tentatively approved by the Joint Boundary Commission, May 3, 2013.

Impact studies of potentially affected property owners

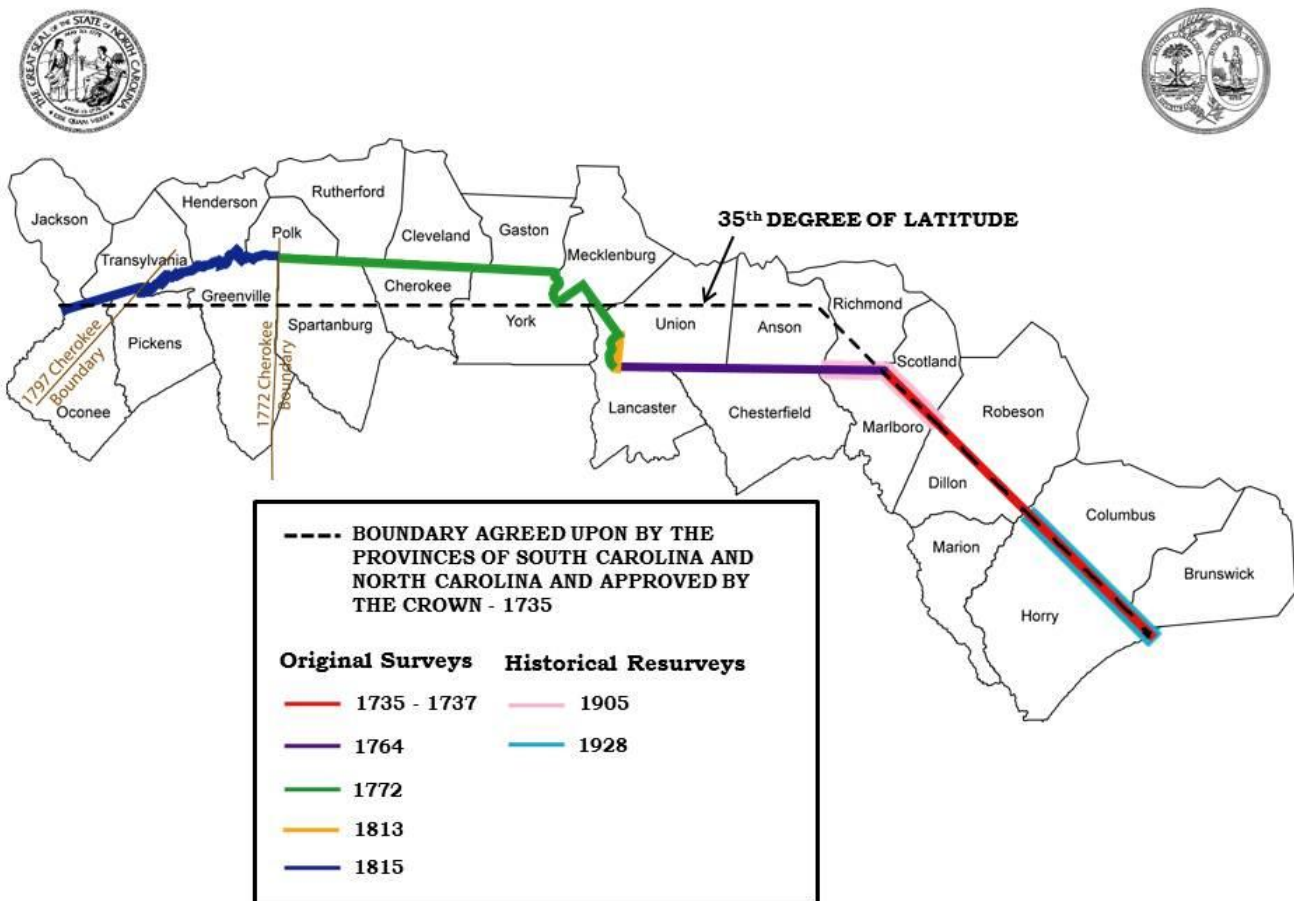
Sid Miller, Chairperson of the SC Boundary Commission, reviewed the office and field efforts of the impact studies for the above three sections of the boundary. Letters will be mailed to 30 property owners who might be adversely affected due to the re-establishment of the state boundary.

Emory Smith (SC Attorney General’s Office) and Scott Conklin (North Carolina Attorney General’s Office) spoke about issues that would need to be addressed by South Carolina and North Carolina agencies or the two states’ legislatures, or both. The main issues are on taxes and education. A meeting of the NC – SC Joint Boundary Commission is tentatively scheduled for October 29, 2013 by which time draft legislation should be ready for review. All issues may not possibly be dealt with by identical legislation, because of state constitutional differences.

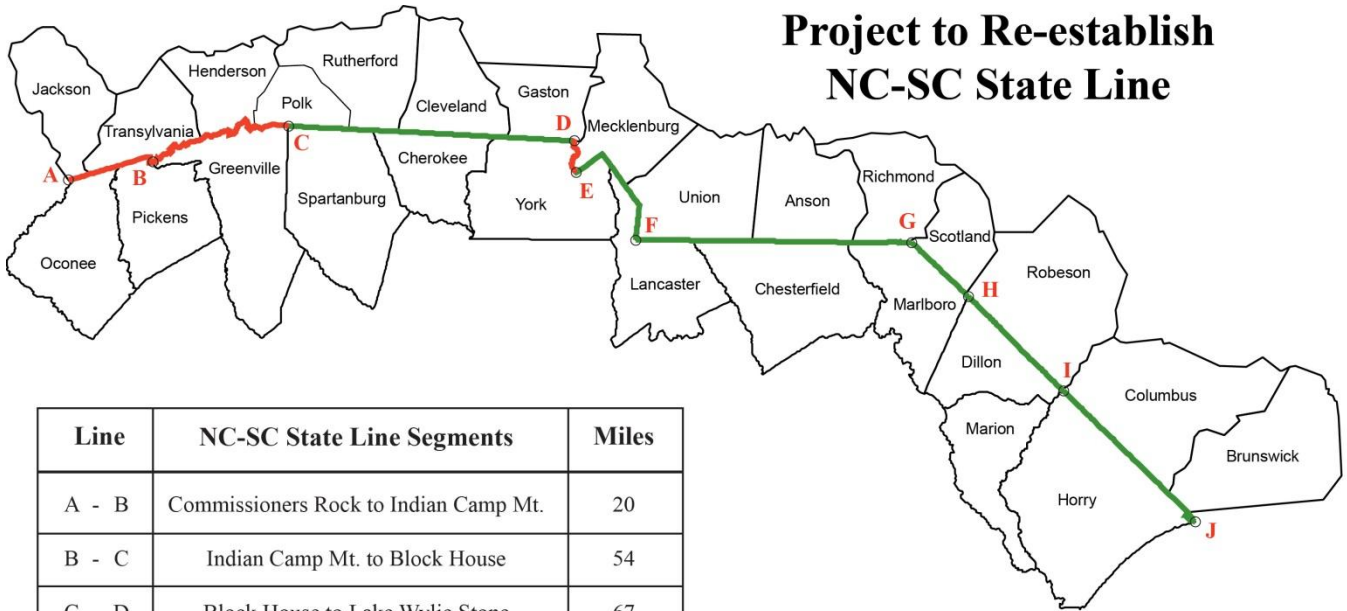
Mr. Smith and Mr. Conklin also spoke about issues that would need to be addressed at the county/municipal level, such as zoning and emergency response, and issues that might need to be addressed by the private sector, such as utilities.

Sam Bass, an attorney representing Dr. Berlinger of Columbus, NC; and Lewis Efird, United Oil of the Carolinas, presented their concerns about being situated in a different state.

SURVEY HISTORY OF SOUTH CAROLINA – NORTH CAROLINA BOUNDARY



PRESENT EFFORT TO RE-ESTABLISH THE SOUTH CAROLINA – NORTH CAROLINA BOUNDARY



Project to Re-establish NC-SC State Line

Line	NC-SC State Line Segments	Miles
A - B	Commissioners Rock to Indian Camp Mt.	20
B - C	Indian Camp Mt. to Block House	54
C - D	Block House to Lake Wylie Stone	67
D - E	Center Line of Old Catawba River Bed	8
E - F	Lake Wylie to North Corner	30
F - G	North Corner to 1905 Marlboro County Break Point Monument	64
G - H	Marlboro County SE - NW Line	18
H - I	Dillon County Line	31
I - J	Horry County Line	42

Total 334 miles

May 6, 2013 Status

- Re-established boundary approved by the NC-SC Joint Boundary Commission 82 miles
- Re-established boundary tentatively approved by the NC-SC Joint Boundary Commission 252 miles