

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

November 3, 2017



DNR

Alvin A. Taylor
Director

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Edward R. Tallon Sr., Chairman
Legislative Oversight Committee Subcommittee
418 Blatt Building
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Follow-up from Subcommittee's October 17, 2017, meetings with the SC Department of Natural Resources

Dear Chairman Tallon:

In response to your letter dated October 23, 2017, the SC Department of Natural Resources has compiled the additional information sought by the committee as part of the oversight process of our agency. Answers are compiled in the body of this letter, as well as several attachments, Exhibits A-E.

If additional information is needed, please let me know.

Aquatic Plant Management Council

1. Please provide the following information related to the council:

a. Council Rules

- See attached Exhibit A-By *Laws of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council (pages 1-3)*.

b. Council Regulations

- **SECTION 49-6-30.** Aquatic Plant Management Council; membership; duties.

There is hereby established the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council, hereinafter referred to as the council, which shall be composed of ten members as follows:

1. The council shall include one representative from each of the following agencies, to be appointed to the chief executive officer of each agency:
 - (a) Water Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources;

- (b) South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control;
- (c) Wildlife and Freshwater Fish Division of the Department of Natural Resources;
- (d) South Carolina Department of Agriculture;
- (e) Coastal Division of the Department of Health and Environmental Control;
- (f) South Carolina Public Service Authority;
- (g) Land Resources and Conservation Districts Division of the Department of Natural Resources;
- (h) South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism;
- (i) Clemson University, Department of Fertilizer and Pesticide Control.

The representative of the Water Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources shall serve as chairman of the council and shall be a voting member of the council.

The council shall provide interagency coordination and serve as the principal advisory body to the department on all aspects of aquatic plant management and research. The council shall establish management plans, and advise the department on research priorities.

c. List of Council Members with the date they began serving on the council and attendance at council meetings from that time to the present.

- See attached Exhibit B-*Aquatic Plant Management Council Attendance (1/2007-Current)*.

Heritage Trust

2. Please provide the last three monthly financial statements related to the Heritage Trust.

See attached Exhibit C-*South Caroline Heritage Trust Fund-Document Stamp Receipts & Investment Earning*.

Soil and Water Conservation District

- 3. Please provide the form each district must complete on a monthly basis. If there is no specific form related to the monthly report received by the agency, please provide one to three sample monthly reports which will show the type of information districts include in monthly reports.**
- The Monthly Report includes the activities of the DNR-Conservation Districts Program staff and the activities of the individual conservation districts. There is not a specific form for the conservation districts to submit. The format is a narrative of the district's activities during the month.
 - See attached Exhibit D-*Soil and Water Conservation Districts-September 2017 Monthly Report Examples (Pages 1-6)*.
- 4. Does the agency have the ability to determine what percentage of the districts activities are related to the farm bill? If so, please provide this percentage.**

While each conservation district is involved in Farm Bill activities, to answer this question would require input from each district as there are many variables in Farm Bill activity percentage levels.

Flood Insurance Policy Surcharge

- 5. Please provide the following information about the flood insurance policy surcharge:**
- a. Who Receives the funds;**
 - b. Annual amount received each of the last two years; and**
 - c. How DNR would utilize the funds if they were directed to the agency's flood mitigation unit.**
- After researching this issue with the Department of Revenue and the Department of Insurance, it appears that this surcharge is no longer being collected in South Carolina. This is a surcharge that is allowed by FEMA but not required. Most States that collect the surcharge fee use it to help support their Flood Mitigation Program and staff.
 - If the one dollar policy fee was to be redirected to the SCDNR Flood Mitigation Program it would be allocated to enhance the programs efforts to relay the true level of flood risk of the citizens of South Carolina. The funding would be allocated on an as-needed basis to enhance the following programs. First, the funding would be used to increase and enhance the outreach and education efforts that are part of the State Coordinating office requirements. Under the Community Assistance Program-State Support Services Element grant FEMA funds outreach

through teaching of classes and audits of communities floodplain management programs. However, funding is limited and results in a gap in addressing specific needs of communities. Second, the funding would be used to enhance the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Currently, with no state funding the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) program is tied to FEMA's metrics and funding level. The funding would allow flexibility to address needs or deficiencies identified that FEMA funding does not cover. Also, this funding would allow the CTP program to identify the funding as cash match which increases the availability of additional funding under the current CTP grant structure. Third, the funding would be used to segment the SC Flood Inundation Mapping and Alert system that is being developed by the Flood Mitigation program with a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant. The SC Flood Inundation and Alert system is being created to assist the following, but not limited to local governments, citizens and law enforcement with understanding flood risk. The information can be used to relay true flood risk for a property, planning, evacuations and rescues. The HMGP grant has only funded two sites within the state to develop and deploy flood inundation mapping and warning. The funding would be used to create the data needed to provide inundation mapping to additional sites of the state. Finally, the funding would be used to cover disaster costs incurred while assisting communities during and following flooding events. These costs are not reimbursable under the Public Assistance program as they are considered increased administrative cost. However, it is critical that local governments receive assistance as soon as possible to ensure they assist their citizens correctly and efficiently; while also staying in compliance with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Scenic Rivers

6. Please provide the criteria for designating a river as a scenic river.

See attached Exhibit E-*Criteria for Eligibility and Classification of South Carolina State Scenic Rivers-October 2017 (Pages 1-3)*.

7. Please list the benefits for a river being designated a scenic river.

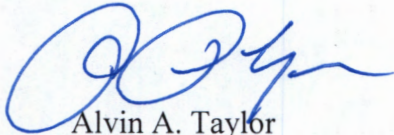
- Increased recognition and awareness of the river and its significant attributes.
- Partnerships for river conservation and management enabled through a local Scenic River Advisory Council which is established by the SC Department of Natural Resources.
- Additional tax benefits to landowners who may elect to donate conservation easements to the state on lands adjacent to scenic rivers.

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- Increase level of state review of permit applications for construction (e.g. docks) within the waters of scenic rivers.

Thank you for your comments and suggestions in helping our agency improve to provide exceptional outdoor experiences for the citizens of South Carolina.

Sincerely,



Alvin A. Taylor
Director

cc: The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton (Without Attachments)
The Honorable Katherine E. "Katie" Arrington (Without Attachments)
The Honorable William M. "Bill" Hixon (Without Attachments)
The Honorable J. Todd Rutherford (Without Attachments)

Exhibit A

BY-LAWS

OF THE

SOUTH CAROLINA

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SECTION I

Name

The name of this Council shall be the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council. The Council membership and Chairperson shall be as enumerated in Section 49-6-30, S.C. Code of Laws (1976, as amended). Each member agency may designate an alternate who may vote only in the absence of the member.

SECTION II

Principal Office

The principal office of the Council shall be the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources at Rembert C. Dennis Building, 1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

SECTION III

Meetings

(a) Quorum. A majority of at least six (6) of the members of this Council, when present at any meeting, shall constitute a quorum, and in case there are less than this number, the presiding officer may adjourn from time to time until a quorum is present.

(b) Order of business. The order of business at all meeting shall be as follows:

1. Call to order and introduction
2. Review of minutes of previous meeting
3. Committee reports
4. Special items for discussion
5. Unfinished business
6. New business

Exhibit A

7. Adjournment

The order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present. The usual parliamentary rules as laid down in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern, when not in conflict with these by-laws.

(c) Council meetings may be called at any time by the Council Chairperson and must be called at any time by the Chairperson on the written request of a majority of the Council members. Five (5) day notice of any Council meeting must be provided to the Council members.

(d) All Council meetings shall be advertised in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, Section 30-4-80, S.C. Code of Laws (1976, as amended).

SECTION IV

Officers

(a) Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be the chief officer of the Council.

He/she shall be a member ex-officio of all committees and shall assign duties and tasks to the respective committees. He/she shall communicate to the Council such matters and make such suggestions as may in his/her opinion tend to promote the welfare and increase the usefulness of the Council, and shall perform such other duties as necessarily incident to the office. He/she shall be a voting member of the Council.

(b) Secretary. The secretary shall be appointed by the Chairperson and shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of the Council's activities.

SECTION V

Committees

Committees may be established from time to time by a majority vote of the Council.

(a) Selection of Committees. The Chairperson of the Council shall appoint committee members. The appointments shall be effective immediately and committee members shall serve for a term of one (1) year and until successors are duly appointed. Vacancies that occur for whatever reason may be filled by the Chairperson of the Council for the unexpired term.

(b) Chairpersons. The Chairperson of each committee shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Council. He/she shall be responsible for directing and coordinating the affairs of the committee.

Exhibit A

(c) Meetings. Committee meetings may be called at any time by the Committee Chairperson and must be called at any time by the Chairperson on the written request of a majority of the committee members. Five (5) day notice of any committee meeting must be given to the committee members.

SECTION VI

Voting

In all meetings of the Council as a whole and of the committees, questions shall be resolved by majority vote of those members present, except that approval of the Council's management plan and its amendments and priorities shall require a two-thirds vote of those members present. The vote on a particular matter shall be tabulated by a roll call upon a motion to that effect being seconded by one (1) member.

SECTION VIII

Mail Vote

When, in the judgment of the Council Chairperson, any questions, shall arise that should be put to a vote of the members, and when he/she deems it inexpedient to call a special meeting for that purpose, he/she may, unless otherwise required by these by-laws, submit the matter to the members in writing by mail (paper or electronic) for vote and decision, and the question thus presented shall be determined according to a majority of the votes received by mail (paper or electronic) within ten (10) days after such submission to the members, provided that, in each case, votes of at least six (6) of the members shall be received. Actions taken in this manner shall be ratified and included as a part of the minutes of the next regular meeting.

SECTION VIII

Amendments

These by-laws may be amended, repealed or altered, in whole or in part, by a two-third vote at any regular meeting of the Council.

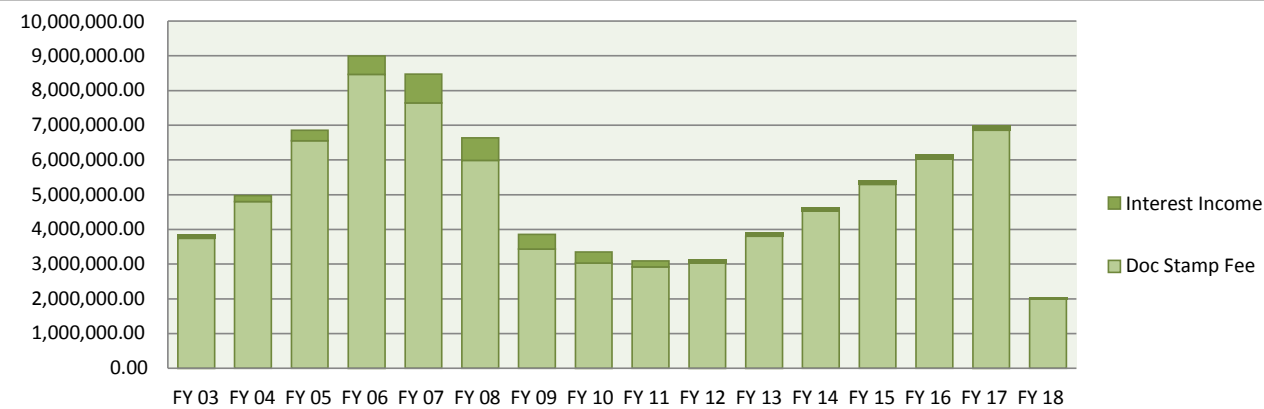
Exhibit B

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ATTENDANCE (1/2007 - CURRENT)[illegible]

Exhibit C																
SOUTH CAROLINA HERITAGE TRUST FUND																
Document Stamp Receipts & Investment Earnings																
Month	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
JUL	329,707.98	373,110.32	571,280.05	753,805.98	827,148.28	677,543.15	449,049.58	269,007.88	333,635.70	276,947.08	322,761.93	386,838.21	462,984.31	587,026.86	698,791.27	736,417.55
AUG	343,014.39	409,744.33	509,626.72	725,473.38	688,066.58	623,756.35	451,871.65	288,884.93	265,466.77	238,835.10	327,861.41	419,247.23	476,362.41	550,610.50	553,409.23	602,902.86
SEP	339,892.22	398,305.14	532,815.37	796,556.60	729,588.20	624,033.13	379,202.05	256,598.84	213,928.79	262,802.29	332,044.47	429,787.90	481,566.81	551,378.55	624,699.35	664,624.02
OCT	301,397.95	397,079.83	525,258.11	733,958.82	600,740.48	513,810.80	330,001.32	273,377.68	255,988.13	259,083.88	263,589.62	378,045.17	409,996.98	520,277.18	600,038.15	
NOV	302,485.85	439,219.11	483,134.94	576,236.85	636,106.66	583,778.75	314,041.14	259,240.59	214,636.06	238,024.56	305,086.93	389,791.81	467,035.58	469,647.85	567,305.81	
DEC	259,974.02	320,048.90	397,378.94	765,211.59	574,185.82	485,100.57	224,297.75	229,662.35	218,203.21	214,771.97	329,847.40	323,496.92	379,936.42	405,361.34	498,776.19	
JAN	344,578.35	463,719.31	668,978.20	707,574.37	684,600.93	483,521.10	282,186.20	334,559.62	300,511.14	288,537.58	402,397.74	486,460.08	542,734.41	546,401.95	629,683.16	
FEB	276,426.74	315,464.47	394,345.65	531,011.44	524,996.35	370,348.10	177,990.22	180,251.81	196,233.59	197,114.39	264,383.09	292,320.88	319,063.32	378,700.64	448,571.63	
MAR	235,920.17	289,253.85	515,686.91	626,766.04	505,140.11	350,036.95	175,001.76	179,008.82	191,097.66	199,232.93	234,826.28	267,078.33	331,263.34	456,544.11	369,190.75	
APR	307,170.67	438,779.99	514,107.58	737,609.20	630,910.52	434,809.26	209,640.66	241,568.91	239,948.37	264,082.39	276,218.09	361,736.85	455,072.02	504,848.30	595,856.88	
MAY	340,536.71	472,261.05	754,018.88	688,877.97	605,564.65	425,011.61	210,795.14	228,118.04	220,081.90	269,720.25	348,056.38	376,112.75	469,915.41	517,731.92	621,923.55	
JUN	359,857.54	483,148.75	683,370.28	818,994.43	635,630.66	414,731.97	230,149.99	295,423.59	265,918.50	319,895.95	394,567.41	425,542.25	498,716.27	554,924.85	646,392.64	
Document Stamp Fee	3,740,962.59	4,800,135.05	6,550,001.63	8,462,076.67	7,642,679.24	5,986,481.74	3,434,227.46	3,035,703.06	2,915,649.82	3,029,048.37	3,801,640.75	4,536,458.38	5,294,647.28	6,043,454.05	6,854,638.61	2,003,944.43
Change vs Pre	12.8%	28.3%	36.5%	29.2%	-9.7%	-21.7%	-42.6%	-11.6%	-4.0%	3.9%	25.5%	19.3%	16.7%	14.1%	13.4%	
JUL	2,448.72	9,330.06	19,459.76	33,190.75	31,156.79	53,584.81	34,131.44	20,344.48	20,170.68	8,685.17	6,922.68	6,923.87	6,038.30	6,731.28	6,732.47	7,622.39
AUG	4,552.01	12,782.07	26,593.31	46,061.39	74,984.64	72,728.53	48,238.46	31,379.94	17,153.46	7,881.70	6,775.05	6,191.81	6,050.21	6,931.65	5,799.42	12,672.47
SEP	4,132.91	8,147.64	18,258.00	28,609.64	60,632.02	77,811.34	51,137.91	37,042.46	22,602.27	12,053.91	10,836.32	10,396.46	8,707.88	9,089.26	7,426.82	13,411.57
OCT	4,067.39	7,607.73	19,573.70	34,172.52	57,918.40	69,173.04	53,073.25	26,905.93	17,812.57	7,567.22	7,344.28	6,796.73	5,898.83	5,847.95	4,903.38	
NOV	6,915.00	16,293.23	26,635.83	65,407.95	74,212.85	79,198.53	33,176.46	33,397.03	14,909.85	5,444.66	7,584.78	6,559.87	5,543.03	6,934.04	12,767.23	
DEC	7,429.27	16,073.96	26,312.19	43,993.09	64,843.06	44,739.86	28,113.03	21,823.70	11,893.73	6,168.68	6,775.46	9,297.84	7,158.35	7,817.44	10,994.72	
JAN	5,894.51	19,244.13	27,913.35	52,969.04	58,031.48	46,281.52	26,313.23	21,840.42	11,439.74	5,329.12	7,060.69	5,900.51	5,875.04	7,333.92	8,681.81	
FEB	6,574.44	16,924.77	31,039.28	56,023.44	96,910.89	51,400.33	26,809.78	23,196.28	10,706.65	6,808.86	5,280.19	5,746.94	5,608.18	6,924.30	9,270.74	
MAR	7,775.00	15,753.94	27,840.04	37,552.31	88,404.56	35,159.20	43,871.79	28,139.74	16,610.41	9,495.22	9,424.79	10,554.41	9,952.12	10,393.40	13,740.24	
APR	6,532.70	8,870.07	20,651.45	25,103.99	60,396.08	36,760.47	25,739.65	20,500.74	10,651.41	7,612.03	7,164.18	6,315.34	7,261.18	20,295.21	6,978.08	
MAY	25,550.25	21,384.05	45,328.43	73,133.82	95,782.33	45,130.57	29,424.56	24,983.91	11,746.57	7,565.02	6,870.19	5,898.53	6,806.06	9,127.69	18,257.62	
JUN	7,560.47	23,379.27	18,647.34	37,669.82	63,983.91	38,808.86	23,233.87	21,565.78	9,324.84	7,244.76	7,451.10	7,823.82	9,322.23	9,834.06	-	
Investment Earnings	89,432.67	175,790.92	308,252.68	533,887.76	827,257.01	650,777.06	423,263.43	311,120.41	175,022.18	91,856.35	89,489.71	88,406.13	84,221.41	107,260.20	105,552.53	33,706.43
Change vs Previ	15.4%	96.6%	75.4%	73.2%	54.9%	-21.3%	-35.0%	-26.5%	-43.7%	-47.5%	-2.6%	-1.2%	-4.7%	27.4%	-1.6%	
TOTAL ALL REVENUE	3,830,395.26	4,975,925.97	6,858,254.31	8,995,964.43	8,469,936.25	6,637,258.80	3,857,490.89	3,346,823.47	3,090,672.00	3,120,904.72	3,891,130.46	4,624,864.51	5,378,868.69	6,150,714.25	6,960,191.14	2,037,650.86
Change vs Pre	12.9%	29.9%	37.8%	31.2%	-5.8%	-21.6%	-41.9%	-13.2%	-7.7%	1.0%	24.7%	18.9%	16.3%	14.3%	13.2%	
Jul-May	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
Document Stamp	1,012,614.59	1,181,159.79	1,613,722.14	2,275,835.96	2,244,803.06	1,925,332.63	1,280,123.28	814,491.65	813,031.26	778,584.47	982,667.81	1,235,873.34	1,420,913.53	1,689,015.91	1,876,899.85	2,003,944.43
Investment Earn	11,133.64	30,259.77	64,311.07	107,861.78	166,773.45	204,124.68	133,507.81	88,766.88	59,926.41	28,620.78	24,534.05	23,512.14	20,796.39	22,752.19	19,958.71	33,706.43
Comp Revenue	1,023,748.23	1,211,419.56	1,678,033.21	2,383,697.74	2,411,576.51	2,129,457.31	1,413,631.09	903,258.53	872,957.67	807,205.25	1,007,201.86	1,259,385.48	1,441,709.92	1,711,768.10	1,896,858.56	2,037,650.86
Comp Per Chg	58.1%	18.3%	38.5%	42.1%	1.2%	-11.7%	-33.6%	-36.1%	-3.4%	-7.5%	24.8%	25.0%	14.5%	18.7%	10.8%	7.4%

Exhibit C

Document Stamp Receipts & Investment Earnings for FY 2003-2018
Period: Complete Fiscal Years and Current Year through September



Document Stamp Receipts & Investment Earnings for FY 2003-2018
Comparable Period: September

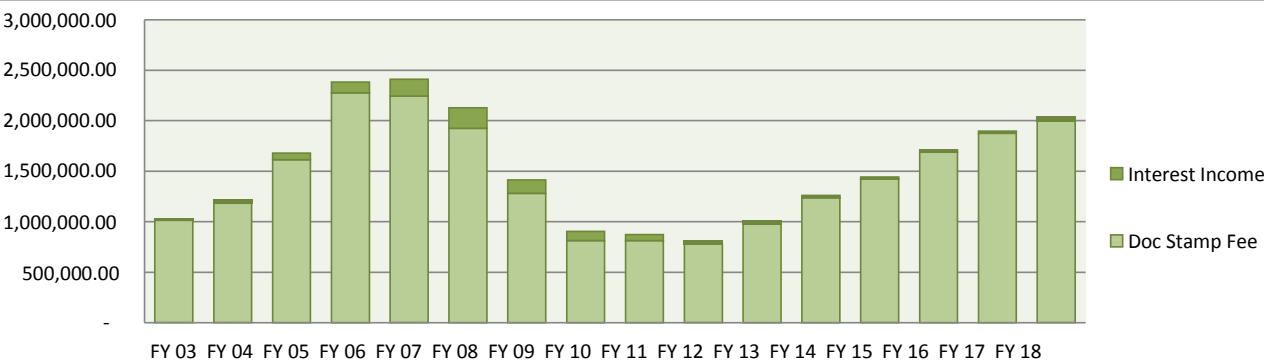


Exhibit D

Soil and Water Conservation Districts-September 2017 Monthly Report Examples

Statewide Projects

DNR staff participated in the Annual Meeting of the **National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA)**. Marc Cribb serves as NASCA President and Chris Workman made presentations at the field staff sessions on 2 unique projects in South Carolina. This meeting was held in conjunction with the **National Watershed Coalition** and was attended by state conservation agency managers and watershed managers from around the country. Staff met with the SC Association of Conservation Districts Executive Committee. Staff participated in the East Piedmont Area Conservation Districts meeting, hosted by the **Lancaster District**. The meeting was held at the Haile Gold Mine and featured a tour of the mine. DNR's Lorianne Riffin spoke on DNR's mitigation and protection of threatened and endangered species. Staff participated in the Edisto-Savannah Valley Area Conservation Districts meeting, hosted by the **Aiken District** and the Pee Dee Area hosted by the **Horry District**. Staff participated on the Annual State Meeting of the SC District Employees' Association.

Technical

DNR staff completed highly erodible land determinations in **Aiken, Greenville, Spartanburg, Edgefield, and Cherokee Districts**; provided assistance on multiple Farm Bill contracts in **Greenville District**. Provided a new **Saluda District** landowner with assistance and information on Farm Bill programs and the application process. Contacted and scheduled producers for on Farm Energy Assessments and performed Energy Audits in **Orangeburg District**. Staff performed easement inspections in **Abbeville, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Fairfield, Georgetown, and Sumter Districts**. Staff participated in the Annual Exotic Pest Plant Council meeting. Staff certified Best Management Practices in **Aiken and Lexington Districts** and performed a spot check on a Wetlands Reserve Program site in **Orangeburg District**. Staff continue to work on high tunnel housing in **Dorchester, Hampton, Orangeburg and Clarendon Districts**. Staff assisted NRCS and met with producers to discuss invasive weed control efforts on their land. Prepared sod samples for the rainfall simulator demonstration at the **Greenville District's** exhibit for goat and sheep workshop and prepared root boxes with winter cover crops for future rainfall simulator demonstrations.

Outreach

DNR staff participated in events in the **Aiken, Lancaster, Greenville, and Horry Districts**.

Conservation Districts

Aiken District hosted the Edisto-Savannah Valley Area Conservation Districts Meeting. Representatives and staff from six Edisto-Savannah Valley Area districts, NRCS partners, and SCACD representatives toured Walther Farms in Windsor, SC and learned of SCACD and NACD updates. The Aiken Board of Commissioners presented Jeremy Walther and his team with an award to recognize their outstanding commitment to soil and water conservation during

the meeting. District staff and SCDNR staff made a presentation about soil health and quality to 50 college students at Piedmont Technical College. District staff along with Greenville District staff coordinated the SC Conservation District Employee Association Annual training in Greenville. The district employees learned of several free and low-cost educational resources available to conservation district employees. Attendees also enjoyed an eco-tour at Lake Jocassee and received updates from our partners at the partnership dinner. District staff assisted in the processing of EQIP Farm Bill applications and scheduled field visits. Staff also assisted in the processing of payments, mailing out customer folders, and mailing out annual letters.

Bamberg District hosted its annual Local Work Group Meeting to set local resource priorities for USDA Farm Bill programs. There were some great suggestions brought to the table.

Beaufort District worked with Jasper District to host the Local Work Group Meeting to set the Farm Bill resource concerns and priorities for the counties. The meeting was held at the Blue Heron Nature Center. Trail coordinators and staff have been working with several partners to apply for a SCPRT grant to build a kayak launch at the Whale Branch Fishing Pier. This is the fourth kayak trail for Beaufort Blueways. It has been mapped with GPS coordinates and helpful hints are posted on line at <http://beaufortblueways.info/WhaleBranch.html>. Educators are meeting with teachers and arranging programming for the school year and presented 4 soil tunnel programs.

Berkeley District is working with County officials to compose a draft of Community Wildfire Protection Plan. District is working with NRCS and County officials in fulfilling an Emergency Watershed Program contract to help with damage from the 2015 flooding in several areas of the county. Staff and Commissioners seeking to further a habitat restoration project by looking for partners and funding through grants. Monthly **berkeleybees** meeting was held with the subject of “robbing behaviors in honeybees.” Staff conducted two community education programs on honeybees and pollination. Staff and Commissioners working on application for one of our Blueways paddling trails to be listed on the National Trail Designation. Associate Commissioner attended several festivals, along with other outreach events to promote the Berkeley Blueways Paddling Trails. Staff attended a Healthy Pond Seminar hosted by Clemson Extension. The district’s Feral Hog Project in conjunction with APHIS and Farm Bureau has started and we have 4 landowners currently on the list for service for trapping of hogs on their property. Berkeley District hosted the Local Work Group meeting with NRCS for local farmers, landowners and stakeholders to voice their needs from the District and NRCS and Farm Bill for financial and technical assistance. Staff working on fall newsletter.

Charleston District is planning a Soil Heath Day Workshop. The district will partner this event with Clemson Extension and the Beginning Farmer Program. The district is also planning outreach programs for Arbor Day to be held in December. The District has sponsored 3 Pet Waste Dispensers to promote and support “Keep Charleston Beautiful.”

Cherokee District has been busy getting rental equipment ready for the planting season. Thorough maintenance and parts replacement has been completed on the equipment. The District, in conjunction with Thicketty Creek Watershed District has been working to identify the inundation areas and completing emergency action plans for the 6 watershed dams in

the county. DHEC completed inspections on the dams in early September. Chairman Sarratt, Commissioner Gettys, Commissioner Jane Waters, District Coordinator Allen, and District Conservationist Barrington attended the East Piedmont Area Meeting. Karen Allen attended the SCCDEA meeting in Greenville.

Chesterfield District, cooperating with the Sandhill's Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership, received confirmation of their fifth grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to assist landowners establish and maintain longleaf pines. Since 2010, the District has assisted NRCS and the Sandhill's Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership establish over 15,000 acres of longleaf on private lands. The program is supported with Farm Bill funding. The District and Partnership are now focusing on education and promoting the use of prescribed fire as a management tool for landowners. The District has made prescribed fire possible for many landowners by its purchase of equipment needed to safely apply fire. This equipment is made available to landowners who wish to burn their own property.

Clarendon District staff visited all the schools in Clarendon County to promote the education programs for this school year (contests, Envirothon, Youth Commissioners, scholarships). The District has assisted NRCS with obligating 2017 Farm Bill program contracts. The District also inspected the Pocotaligo Channel to ensure proper maintenance. District staff attended the SCCDEA training. The district employees and Commissioner Richburg attended the Pee Dee area meeting. The District has partnered with NRCS in conducting a 3 year study on the effects of cover crop and soil biology. Clarendon County Council signed a Prescribe Burning Resolution.

Colleton District printed fliers for the Annual Conservation Poster and Essay Contests. The topic for both contest is "Watersheds - Our Water, Our Home". Rev. Gerald Mabry attended the Edisto/Savannah Area Meeting at Walther Farms. Commissioner I.M. Benton attended a Cattleman's Meeting and a Young Farmers Meeting.

Darlington District is currently organizing a Project Wet Training Class. The training will be for Darlington County Teachers so they can earn Continuing Education Credits. . The class will be held at Kamia Gardens with Duke Progress Energy funding the costs of the training manuals. The District will provide funds for the teaching tools/goodie bags for the attendees. District staff continues to provide Farm Bill program assistance.

Dorchester District held a Local Work Group meeting held annually to discuss Farm Bill resource concerns within the county. The District held its monthly regular business meeting right after the local work group. Clemson agent Jacqueline Forsyth with the Forestry and Clemson agent Parker Johnson attended the meeting along with Clemson row crop agent Jonathan Croft. The District has kicked off its yearly photo contest with all letters and info being mailed to the public and private schools in our county.

Edgefield and Aiken Districts are working with the City of Aiken and other partners on a water quality grant to address non-point source pollution in the Shaw's Creek watershed. This grant will be addressing water quality and agricultural runoff in the 54,297 acre watershed that encompasses portions of Edgefield and Aiken Counties. Shaw's Creek is the primary source

water for one of the City of Aiken's water treatment plant. Edgefield District staff have assisted with Farm Bill programs measuring firebreaks, water bars, and field status reviews.

Fairfield District's NACD dues for 2017-18 have been paid. Information and reminders sent out to local schools regarding the Annual Photo Contest which runs from April 2017-April 2018. No-till drill has been in great demand the last few weeks. Continue to partner with NRCS regarding sign-ups for the Farm Bill conservation programs. NRCS personnel is meeting with landowners in the district office providing technical assistance.

Georgetown District met with the new FFA teacher, Cody Floyd, at Georgetown High School and provided him with educational material. The District sponsored Andrews High School student, Lane Phillips, to attend the Aim-At-Ag Competition at the Back Woods Quail Club. The District also sponsored ten FFA students from Carver's Bay High School to attend a Chapter Officer Workshop at the Florence Recreation Center. Commissioners and staff attended the Pee Dee Area Meeting and tour of the L. W. Paul Living History Farm in Conway. Staff provided Farm Bill assistance to landowners.

Greenville District taught at two Project WET workshops in September. One was at Sandhill for all state 4H coordinators and 32 attended and the other was at Winthrop University. The Greenville District delivered books and introduced them to the program with a few activities. Staff continues to work on the Reedy River Water Quality Group (RRWQG) Public Outreach Committee, updating the RRWQG website and Facebook, meeting with the Public Outreach committee and interfacing with the other committees and the public. Greenville staff helped host the South Carolina Conservation District Employees Association meeting. There was a Partnership meeting during the conference attended by Kenny Mullis, President of SCACD, Marc Cribb and Chris Workman of DNR. Staff attended the South Carolina Forage and Grazing Lands Coalition Board meeting in Blackville. Staff also ran the rainfall simulator and spoke about cover crops to the Southeast Goat and Sheep Symposium. The District Engineer worked on survey and design of a trout habitat project with NRCS in the Middle Saluda River. Staff continues to provide technical support on stormwater problems to County residents.

Horry District held a meeting to publicly announce the Little Pee Dee - Chinnners Creek 319 grant that will help improve water quality along the Little Pee Dee River watershed. This meeting was well attended by local septic tank installers, DHEC personnel, and the local media. For more information read the article found in the local paper the Horry Independent https://www.myhorrynews.com/news/new-grant-helps-landowners-improve-water-quality/article_d4789fa4-9fe0-11e7-870d-5b2c7de59c9a.html. The Horry County Local Workgroup meeting was held to discuss the natural resources issues in our county and to determine Farm Bill program priorities. Horry District hosted the Pee Dee Area Meeting and the meeting started with a tour of the LW Paul Living History Farm in Conway. The tour moved to the Johnny Shelley Agricultural Facility where State Representative Jeff Johnson updated the group on farm issues, SCACD President Mullins updated on SCACD, ending with DNR and NRCS representatives giving updates from the field. The District also is working to extend their USDA-NRCS grant for Cover Crop education and demonstrations and the USDA-NRCS contribution agreement to provide Farm Bill assistance. Planning is underway for the 40th Horry County Awards Banquet, 2018 Essay Contest, as well as assist in county storm water projects and customer service to land users around our county.

At the Blue Heron Nature Center, the **Jasper District** hosted a meeting of the Jasper County Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee Public Meeting with 47 attendees. This meeting was for the public to express their concerns /suggestions for the growth of Jasper County. The public expressed their concerns of our natural resources and land use. The Local Work Group of Beaufort/Jasper Conservation Districts annual meeting focused on significant factors of determining how Farm Bill funds will be distributed to applicants in the Salkehatchie Watershed. The Jasper Farm Bureau held their annual meeting at the Nature Center. The Jasper County Chamber of Commerce awarded our Director, Lyn Tindal and the Jasper District with the Business Education Partner of the Year award. Tindal also partnered with Jasper County Schools for the District as a Stakeholder for the District to offer in class programs, field trips and recycling programs.

Lee District helped install a high tunnel greenhouse for a local farmer. The district completed the annual budget and during the board meeting, discussed ways to pursue more funding, as well as what other district employees received in ways of benefits. District employee Megan Skinner will attend the Soil Health Field Day in Richland. The district continues to work closely with NRCS on contracting and ongoing projects.

Lexington District Manager Oxner met with teachers and maintenance personnel to spot the location of the Observation Bee Hive to be placed at Irmo High School. Oxner conducted a rain barrel workshop for the community, there were ten participants at Gibson Park in Lexington. Commissioners Nates and Padgett, Manager Oxner and Administrative Assistant Blum attended the East Piedmont Area meeting and toured the OceanaGold/Haile Operation in Kershaw. Lexington Commissioners discussed the SC Conservation Bank and its future funding. The district supports the Bank and its role in land protection around the state. NRCS District Conservationist Rafael Mendez presented the 2018 Farm Bill Local Work Group Resource Concerns for animal waste, cropland, forestland, and pastureland. Oxner attended the State Beekeepers Association Meeting, SC Fertilizer and AgChem meeting, DHEC meeting for the Western Capacity Water Area, and weekly Lexington County Department Head meetings.

McCormick District is working on an appreciation dinner to be held October 5 and is also working with Clemson Extension on Farm City Day to be held October 10 for 3rd grade students and it will be held at John DeLaHowe School.

Oconee District closed on another conservation easement of 95 acres protecting prime and statewide soils within a natural belt of some of the best soils in the state. This project continues to encourage landowners to preserve our best working soils in the county. The District donated two rain barrels to the Oconee Cultivation Project, a soil to table educational program teaching high school students seed to harvest farming techniques and self-sustainability. The district manager presented a series called Environment and Health to 9th grade health classes. The intent was to link environment and health and show how one's health can be improved by a healthy environment and the steps necessary to implement a clean environmental mindset. District personnel have helped Clemson Extension prepare for the upcoming South Carolina Heritage Fair. This fair intends to be the classic event with farm and live animal displays and judging; food contests, and agricultural education.

Richland District conducted ten forestry and soil science class presentations for 181 students at four schools and hosted a conservation education exhibit at the Summer Celebration of Water. The District partnered with USDA-NRCS to host a Farm Bill Local Work Group meeting. One livestock farmer committed to participate in the Twenty-five Mile Creek Watershed 319 program by installing stream exclusion fencing, alternate water sources, and cross fencing for rotational grazing. Staff and commissioners participated in the SCACD East Piedmont Regional Meeting, SCCDEA Employee Workshop, SC Forage and Grazing Lands Coalition board meeting, Environmental Education Association of SC board meeting, and SC Green Steps Schools Training. Staff provided technical assistance for an erosion issue at one school.

Spartanburg District staff completed the fall issue of the *Conservation Chronicle* Newsletter. Landowners are renting the district's no-till drill for fall planting. The district supplied plants and soil for a butterfly and pollinator garden at Campobello Gramling School. Under the EQIP Farm Bill Program, 469 acres are under contract in 2017 to address forestry, cropland, and pastureland conservation. Eleven Farm Bill Conservation Stewardship Program contracts have been completed by NRCS. DNR's Drew Williams is assisting with Highly Erodible Land determinations.

York District Commissioners Senn, Copeland and Palmer attended the East Piedmont tour and dinner and Coordinator O'Connell attended the SCCDEA conference in Greenville. Senn, Palmer and O'Connell attended meetings of the Agri-Tourism committee investigating the possibility of establishing a facility in York County. Coordinator O'Connell conducted the September lesson in the school garden series for 18 classes of first graders. Preparations have begun for the District's annual legislative dinner held in partnership with York County Farm Bureau, scheduled for October 12.

Exhibit E

Criteria for Eligibility and Classification of South Carolina State Scenic Rivers

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Scenic Rivers Program

October 2017

Introduction

The South Carolina Scenic Rivers Act in Section 49-29-70 says eligible rivers for State Scenic River designation must possess unique or outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, botanical, fish, wildlife, historic, or cultural values. To determine if a proposed river or river segment possesses any or all of these characteristics, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) conducts a study to assess the river's eligibility and classification under the Scenic Rivers Program. The study of scenic river eligibility considers a geographic area referred to as a "river corridor" which includes the riverine-aquatic environments and the adjacent riparian-wetland-terrestrial environments associated with rivers.

Eligibility Criteria for South Carolina Scenic Rivers

The following list presents a description of criteria used by the SCDNR for evaluating the eligibility of rivers in South Carolina for designation as State Scenic Rivers.

Land Use and Ownership Patterns

Land use and ownership patterns affect the character and quality of rivers and present different management alternatives for the Scenic Rivers Program. Land use and ownership patterns can be important factors affecting scenic quality, wildlife habitat, and water quality.

Two measures of land use on the river are taken: First, the acreages of general land use categories within the river corridor are measured (corridor defined by at least one-half mile on either side of river channel). Second, the river mileage that is visually affected by human development is estimated and compared to the river mileage that remains visually natural.

Ownership patterns are assessed by considering the size and distribution of land parcels along the river or within a defined river corridor.

Note: Land use conditions in the river corridor are the determining factor for how a river is classified within State Scenic River Program. After the river is determined eligible, it is classified according to the category (natural, scenic, or recreational rivers per Section 49-29-40) that best fits each eligible river segment. Classification is based on the degree of naturalness and

extent of development on the river and adjacent lands at the time of the study.

Scenic Characteristics

Evaluating the scenic resources of a river involves consideration of the overall impression created by characteristics such as landforms, vegetative diversity, natural colors in the landscape, diversity of views, human effects, and special features considered unique, outstanding, or notable as a scenic resource.

The inventory of land use and human development, described above, is considered for scenic characteristics; in particular, a comparison of river miles visually affected by human development versus river miles that remain visually natural is a measure related to scenic character.

Recreational Values

The recreational values are assessed by considering the importance of existing and potential recreational uses of the river and adjacent lands, and features considered unique, outstanding, or notable as a recreational resource. Other factors considered are river access facilities and proximity to population centers. Recreation information sources include the South Carolina Rivers Assessment, SCDNR creel surveys, SCPRT's SC Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP) and related surveys, river guide books, local outfitters and county recreation officials.

Geological Resources

The geologic resources of interest on scenic rivers are features, processes, or phenomena that are considered unique, outstanding, or notable. These could include features of rare or unusual geologic composition or appearance, such as waterfalls, bluffs, unusual rock formations and outcrops, or river features/formations such as oxbow lakes and braided channels.

Botanical Values

Botanical values are assessed by considering the natural communities and species that exist within the river corridor. The extent of high quality natural communities, communities of special significance, such as unusual or diverse plant communities, and threatened or endangered species habitat are considered.

Fish and Wildlife Values

Fish and wildlife values are assessed by considering the habitat qualities and wildlife populations in the river corridor. Habitats of special significance for both game and non-game species, habitats for threatened or endangered species, and the abundance and diversity of habitats and species are considered.

Historic and Cultural Values

The historic and cultural values of the river are assessed by considering the importance of

historical and prehistorical events, uses, structures, and artifacts and other features of the river corridor that may be considered unique, outstanding, or notable as a historic or cultural resource.

Water Quality

To assess water quality, the river's water classification, water quality trends, and related water quality problems are considered. The water quality in scenic rivers should meet or exceed the relevant state water quality standards.

Streamflow

To assess streamflow, the issues of minimum flow, navigation, and natural stream conditions are considered. There should be a sufficient flow during normal rain years to support the traditional instream uses and expected aquatic-life uses of the stream. The impact of dams and water diversions on stream flow should be considered. When navigational use is important, the streamflow should be sufficient for safe navigation.

Classification of State Scenic Rivers

After a river is determined to be eligible for State Scenic River designation, it is classified as *natural*, *scenic*, or *recreational*, according to the type(s) that best fit the river; one or more classification types may be determined along the length of a given river. Land use conditions are the determining factor for how a river is classified within State Scenic River Program.

Classification is based on the degree of naturalness and extent of development on the river and adjacent lands at the time of the study. The general descriptions for the three river classifications are as follows:

- *Natural rivers* -- free flowing (without impoundment, diversion, or other modification to the waterway), generally inaccessible except by trail or river, with essentially undeveloped shorelines and unpolluted waters.
- *Scenic rivers* -- essentially free flowing with largely undeveloped shorelines and limited road access; adjacent lands are used for dispersed human activities, such as agriculture, silviculture, and others, which do not disturb the natural character of the river.
- *Recreational rivers* -- have more access and development along the shoreline and should possess outstanding river-related recreational opportunities.