





Beaufort-Hampton-Jasper County Line Tullfinny River to Pocotaligo River to Combahee River (along CSX Railroad)



THE MEETING WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 9:30AM



David Ballard, PLS Revenue and Fiscal Affairs SC Geodetic Survey









Beaufort-Hampton-Jasper County Line Tullfinny River to Pocotaligo River to Combahee River (along CSX Railroad)





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Overview

- Reason for boundary clarification
- Why is the SC Geodetic Survey the chosen agency
- The requirements and duties of the SC Geodetic Survey
- Explanation of our methods
- Boundary clarification procedure
- Legal process for individuals disagreeing with SCGS findings
- Statutory description of county boundary
- Research and findings
- Monumentation and Survey
- Conclusion



The Reason...

- Passage of time and growth has led to confusion over statutory county descriptions and the locations of county boundary lines
- Exact and precise locations and boundaries of state's political subdivisions are critical for services, enforcement of property rights and election of public officials.
- Technology exists now to cost-effectively provide definite and permanent markers of boundary lines
- Necessary for state government and political subdivisions



Why the SC Geodetic Survey?

- Over the last 30+ years, the South Carolina Geodetic Survey has worked with South Carolina counties to help resolve some of the ambiguities present in the current Code of Law
- SC Geodetic Survey was also used in the clarification of the NC/SC boundary
- In the early 90's Greenville and Spartanburg counties asked the Geodetic Survey to help them work out the location of their Statutory Boundary. Their boundary was clarified and placed into law.
- After it's completion the General Assembly decided to enact legislation assigning the SC Geodetic Survey as the mediator to resolve disputes between counties.



The duties of the SC Geodetic Survey (SCGS) with respect to determining county boundaries

<u>SC Code of Laws §27-2-105</u> Act No. 262 of 2014

- (1994) Dispute between two or more counties- SCGS will act as mediator to resolve the dispute
- (1994/2014) SCGS to assist counties in defining and monumenting the locations of county boundaries and positioning the monuments using geodetic surveys where counties are ill-defined, unmarked, or poorly marked
- (2014) SCGS will clarify county boundaries as defined in Chapter 3, Title 4
- (2014) SCGS will analyze archival and other evidence and perform field surveys to position geographically all county boundaries in accordance with statutory descriptions
- (2014) To amend section 27-2-105, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to the duties of the South Carolina Geodetic Survey (SCGS) with respect to determining county boundaries, so as to authorize and direct the SCGS to clarify county boundaries and mediate boundary disputes between counties by providing a procedure allowing the SCGS administratively to adjust county boundaries, to provide the procedures including notice that SCGS must follow in making such adjustments, to provide that affected parties may appeal these adjustments to the Administrative Law Court in a de novo hearing, to provide the method of determining the effective date of these administrative county boundary adjustments and the notice requirements for these adjustments to be effective and to provide that nothing contained in this administrative process restricts the authority of the General Assembly by legislative enactment to adjust or otherwise clarify county boundaries by legislative enactment.



MONUMENTS VS MONUMENTS







Geodetic Surveys & Common Geographic Coordinate Systems Why we use them for boundary surveys.











Steps for Clarifying Boundaries SC Code of Law SECTION 27-2-105

SCGS Requirements:

- Upon reestablishing county boundary, SCGS shall certify its work and within 30 days of certification:
 - Provide copies to the administrator of each affected county;
 - Provide written notification to affected parties
 - Provide notice and copies to the public through its official website and or other means it considers appropriate; and
 - Notify as it determines appropriate, other affected state and federal agencies
- (Initiates 60 Day Appeal Process)
- Certified Surveys submitted to Secretary of State, Register of Deeds Offices, and South Carolina Department of Archives with Cover Letter
- Date of the cover letter is the date the surveys become effective
- Introduce Legislation to update Code of Law to reflect clarified boundary with State Plane Coordinates



SCGS Steps for Clarifying Boundaries

- Notify County Administrators in advance of planned work
- Conduct historical research for documentary evidence of boundaries*
- Perform field work to locate monuments and corroborating evidence and position on State Plane Coordinates*
- Share preliminary findings with county officials for impact analysis and to plan public meetings
- Hold public meeting
- Receive feedback and input from local officials and public
- Review and update findings, as appropriate
- Certify plats*
- Send out mailings to affected parties along boundary*
- 60day window for appeals*
- Record/File plats*



SC Code of Law SECTION 27-2-105

• Affected Parties Disagreeing with SCGS:

- May file request for a contested case hearing with the SC Administrative Law Court
- This decision may be appealed
- "Affected Party"
 - Governing body of an affected county
 - Governing body of a political subdivision of this State
 - An elected official, other than a statewide elected official
 - A property owner or an individual residing in the certification zone
 - A business entity located in the certification zone
 - A nonresident individual who owns or leases real property situated in the certification zone



Chapter 5, Title 4

• Change of Boundaries

- S.C. Code § 4-5-120: Procedure for annexing part of county- governing body or 10 percent of registered voters petition in writing, shall deposit with the clerk of court an amount of money sufficient to cover the expenses of surveys, plats, annexation commission and the election to be held to determine whether the proposed annexation shall be effected and then file such resolution or petition in the office of the clerk of court
- S.C. Code § 4-5-130: Appointment of Commission for annexation- once presented to the governor then within 30 days the governor shall appoint a commission of four persons
- S.C. Code § 4-5-140: Employment of Surveyors- commission may contract for survey and location of the proposed change of line and for such purpose may employ 3 surveyors
- S.C. Code § 4-5-170: Governor shall order election; voting place; eligible electors- to be held in an area sought to be transferred and an election to be held in the county to which the area is proposed to be transferred
- Propose and adopt Legislation



Public Meeting Notification (Example)



January 6, 2023

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Re: Re-establishment of the Charleston-Dorchester County Boundary

Dear Sir or Madam,

The 5.C. Geodetic Survey (SCGS), a section within the 5.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, has begun a systematic program to reestablish South Carolina's county boundaries. As part of this initiative, the Charleston-Dordert County boundary is one of the projects that has been clarified and re-established to properly reflect the description in state law.

The purpose of this letter is to officially notify you that our office has clarified the statutory boundary between these <u>counties</u> and we will be presenting the survey and information at a public meeting. The meeting will be held in-person and broadcast <u>virtually</u> on Wednesday February 8th at 600pur, See Detail Included will this Letter for Meeting Information. Information shout this project can be found on the SCGS website at https://fn.sc.gov/programs-services/geoddtc/county/charleston_dorchester-ashlevtosavmill. If you own several parcels along the clarified boundary, you may receive a letter from our agency for each separate parcel.

The goal of this process is to provide correct information for the proper administration of government. Our office is committed to accurately determining the location of the statutory boundary as defined in South Carolina law, positioning found monuments, marking the boundary with proper/additional monuments, and referencing it to geographic coordinates to better preserve the integrity and accuracy of the boundary.

This determination, which identifies the location of the county boundary pursuant to Chapter 3, Title 4 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, follows extensive research, fieldwork, together with conversations and meetings involving our office and local officials over the past several months. The role of SCGS is, in this instance, to clear up any uncertainty about the location of statutory county boundaries that are poorly marked or ill-defined. Should you have historical or legal information that conflicts with the location of the clarified county boundary, you have a right, as explained further, to appeal and contest the determination by SCGS.

You will receive additional notice when the plat of boundary is certified and pursuant to Section 27-2-105 of the S.C. Code of Laws, you may appeal the determination of the clarified boundary as described in the certified plat within 60 days. The appeal must be made to the S.C. Administrative Law Court by filing a "Request for Contested Case Hearing" form and paying the appropriate filing fee. In your appeal, please include a copy of the certified plat and any evidence to refute the findings in the re-establishment survey. Flease understand that the issue here is the location of the boundary line which has been identified according to the applicable state statutes describing the boundary. If there are issues relating to zoning, planning, school attendance and taxes, you will need to contact and work with the appropriate county government.

For your information, we have enclosed an aerial photograph showing your property, the parcel (property) lines used by each county, and the clarified county boundary, in <u>order for</u> you to understand how the determination may affect you. This effect is not part of the appeal process, but the information is being provided to help with any administrative changes that may result.

If you are not the current owner of this property, are leasing this property, or if you have any questions, please contact us at (603) 734-3793. Any assistance you can provide in helping identify the current owner or lesses is appreciated.

Cordially.

David K. Ballard, PLS Manager, County Boundary Program SC Geodetic Survey 1000 Assembly St, Suite 421 Email: <u>boundary@rfs.sc.gov</u> Columbia, SC 29201

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Meeting Information:

In-Person:

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m. Location: Dorchester County Council Chambers 500 N. Main Street Summerville, SC 29483

Virtual:

If you plan to attend virtually, your microphone will be muted. Parcel owners may submit questions about the boundary line project prior to the meeting or questions may be typed into the 'Comments' section during the meeting. The submissions must be sent via email to <u>boundary@ifa.sc.gov</u> or via regular mail to the address in the signature block and must be received at least three days prior to the meeting. Questions received prior to the meeting will be answered during the virtual meeting or may have been addressed individually beforehand.

Join by Internet: Please click or type the following in your internet address bar to join the webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85776537685?pwd=RjNEMjJ5NFJrODFoUUFTZFZORWhkdz09

Passcode: 559746

** If you would like the above link provided via email, please contact <u>boundary@rfa.sc.gov</u> and request the Virtual meeting invite for the "Charleston-Dorchester County" Line project**

Or Join by Phone:

Dial: (646) 931-<u>3860 or</u> + (301) 715-8592 or (305) 224-1968 or (309) 205-3325 or (312) 626-6799

Webinar ID: 857 7653 7685

Passcode: 559746



Public Meeting Notification (Example)







Project Area









Lines are Established by Legislative Acts

1976 South Carolina Code of Laws Unannotated Updated through the end of the 2019 Session

Title 4 - Counties

CHAPTER 3.

BOUNDARIES OF EXISTING COUNTIES



SECTION 4-3-320. Jasper County

"...thence southeastward following the center line of the Coosawhatchie River to its intersection with the center line of the Tulifinny River; thence southeastward following the center line of the Tulifinny River to its intersection with the western side of the right-of-way of the CSX Corporation's railroad track; thence northeastward following the western side of said right-of-way to its intersection with the center line of the Pocotaligo River..."



SECTION 4-3-300. Hampton County

"...on the southwest by the Savannah River which separates it from the state of Georgia and on the southeast by the counties of Jasper and Beaufort."



SECTION 4-3-70. Beaufort County

"...thence westward from said point following the center line of the Coosaw River to its intersection with the center line of the Combahee River; thence northwestward following the center line of the Combahee River to its intersection with the center line of the railroad track of CSX Corporation; thence southwestward following the center line of said railroad track to its intersection with the center line of the Pocotaligo River... "



Survey Update

- Field Work is at 100% Complete, monuments have been set.
- We have not encountered any boundary problems outside the "expected" normal that is seen in tracing a 40 plus year old line.











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South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office















Hampton County / Jasper County Tie Monument Monument A-1



























WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

-PUBLIC MEETING -CERTIFICATION OF PLAT -NOTIFY AFFECTED PARTIES -60 DAY APPEAL WINDOW -RECORD/FILE PLAT UNDER COVER LETTER -DATE OF LETTER IS THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE BOUNDARY



Project Page:

https://rfa.sc.gov/programs-services/geodetic/county/BEAU-HAMP-JASP

QUESTIONS?

Or Information You Would Like to Provide?

PLEASE CALL: 803-734-3793

or EMAIL: boundary@rfa.sc.gov

We Will Work to Address Questions Promptly or Direct Questions to the Appropriate Agency or Jurisdictional Entity

