

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING Keowee-Toxaway State Park Training Center

April 16, 1976

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at the Keowee-Toxaway State Park Training Center near Pickens, South Carolina at 10:00 am, April 16, 1976 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Rhame, Harris, Glenn and Lumpkin. Others present were Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Dr. Laurent, Pat Ryan, Larry Cartee, A. S. Lachicotte, John Evans, John B. Reeves, Ned Pendarvis, Brock Conrad, Bob Campbell, Ed Latimer, and various other staff members. Dr. Lamar Robinette, Director of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Mr. Walter Lubkin, Jr., Coastal Seafood Company, Mr. Edwin Johnson, former Chairman of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission, and staff from W-FBC Radio and Television Station were present at the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: The Minutes of the March Commission Meeting were approved as they were mailed out with no corrections or additions.

COMMENTS

Chairman Hudson recognized all guests in attendance at the meeting and welcomed them.

Dr. Timmerman commented that the grievances that were brought up through staff, State Grievance Committee and on to the Budget and Control Board were replied to by letter from State Personnel which stated that these were not legitimate grievances.

Also reported by Dr. Timmerman was disciplinary action was taken on two officers in Saluda County and they were treated fairly and put on a months suspension without pay, six months probation, an entire year without any promotions as far as normal increment increases, and they have been demoted in rank.

A letter from Allen Spence of the Motor Vehicle Division commending the Department on the Motor Vehicle Management Plan that we submitted was received.

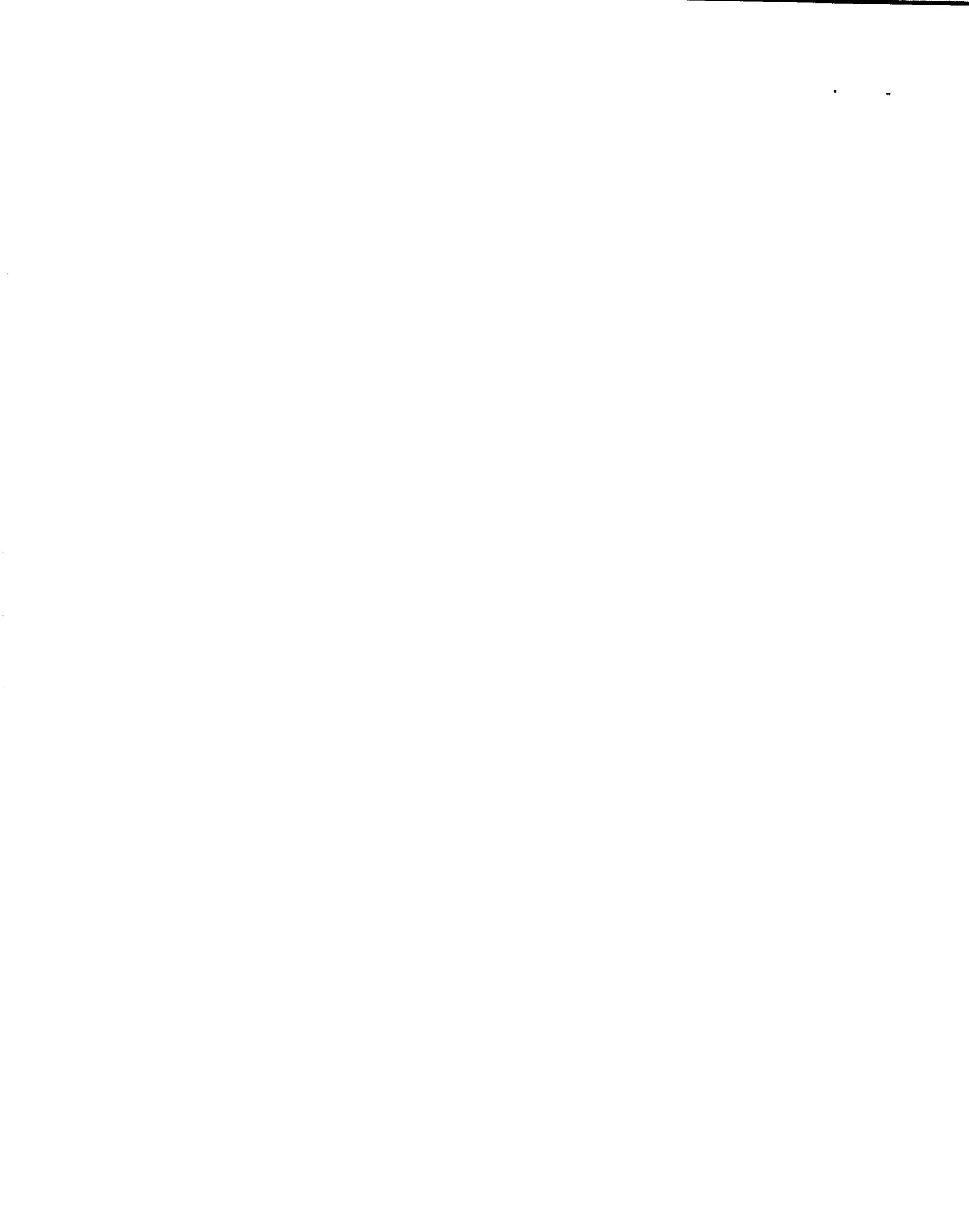
Dr. Timmerman noted that Mac Flood, with the help of A. S. Lachicotte and others constructed a boat dock at the Santee Coastal Reserve for substantially less than it would have cost to have gone out for contractual services.

Dr. Timmerman reported that our Department expenditures in Administrative Services are in line with the expenditures of the other states in the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners in proportion to the total budget.

A job description of each employee has just been completed to make sure that the particular job is properly classified. This will ensure that the department is getting 100% out of every employee. Effective April the department has less people employed in full time positions than we did a year ago.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the Department is operating within their budget this year and the overall revenue looks good for this year. Benny Reeves reported to the Commission on what justifications are being given from each Division in regard to the 1977-78 Budget Request. A copy of this will be given to each Commissioner.

The Commission approved a position in District Nine for a Lieutenant to be located north of Charleston. This position has been received and approved with Law Enforcement and Personnel Divisions fully evaluating all individuals and Mr. Wheeler is going to be recommended for the Lieutenant position. This has been established



by State Personnel and the individual will be notified.

Commissioner Harris noted that there are several projects that we must find funding for and asked how the staff plans to come up with the funds for these projects. Timmerman stated that staff plans to establish funding for these project in the July 1st funding.

Commissioner Glenn asked whether or not a cost per mile per vehicle has ever been established. Benny Reeves replied that General Services gives a 14¢ per mile figure. We do have data on this and it runs very close to that figure. Chairman Hudson asked Reeves to present information on this subject at the next Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Glenn asked about the project of putting the Mintues of the Commission Meetings on the computer. Money was appropriated for this project of approximately \$1,500. Reeves stated that he would look into this project and see what has been done and what can be done and report to the Commission his findings at the next Commission Meeting.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. TURTLE ISLAND USE PLAN: Turtle Island was donated to the Department by Union Camp. Brock Conrad reported on staff's recommendation of a use plan for Turtle Island stating that the plan proposes to open the island for public use such as camping, beachcombing, hiking, birdwatching, etc. Also there are some natural ponds on the area that would be open for public dove hunting on a first come, first served basis two days per week, morning hunting only. In the 1977 Budget we are requesting approximately \$29,000 which part of this would be to dike in a portion on the north end which would provide a good impoundment for waterfowl and also non-game species and part of the money would be to build a boat dock. Action on this proposal will be delayed until the next Commission Meeting thus giving the Game and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board an opportunity to discuss the proposal and offer their recommendation. A copy of this proposal was mailed out to the Commission prior to today's meeting.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PERSONAL APPEARANCE BY MR. WALTER LUBKIN, JR. CONCERNING REVOCATION OF OYSTER LEASE #46: Commissioner Glenn introduced Mr. Walter Lubkin, operator of Coastal Seafood in Beaufort. Commissioner Lumpkin stated that Mr. Lubkin appeared before the Marine Advisory Committee and appealed the above mentioned revocation of Oyster Lease #46. Commissioner Lumpkin stated that Oyster Lease #46 totaling 90 acres held by Coastal Seafood Company has been abused. This lease has not been planted with shell or seed oysters in 1974 and 1975. South Carolina law requires that each lessee plant 60 one-half bushels of seed oyster or shell for each acre on the lease. Oysters have been harvested from the lease during both years. Mr. Walter Lubkin representing Coastal Seafoods Company had appeared upon request before the Marine Advisory Committee at the February 1975 meeting in Beaufort to show cause as to why no planting was done on this lease in 1974. Following consideration, the Marine Advisory Board recommended no action be taken at that time allowing until the end of the year for lessee to satisfactorily plant the lease. As mentioned, no shell or seed was planted on the lease in 1975. Mr. Lubkin was again notified and advised that the matter would be taken up by



the Marine Advisory Committee. At the March 1976 meeting in McClellanville, Mr. Lubkin appeared and made a statement concerning the circumstances involved with respect to his failure to plant the lease. A statement was also made by the Marine Resources Division recommending that the lease be cancelled. Following deliberation of the matter in Executive Session the Marine Advisory Committee reached an agreement that the lease should be cancelled and that it be held by the State and not re-leased for an indefinite period. The Advisory Committee agreed that this recommendation should be made to the full Commission for consideration and that Mr. Lubkin be asked to appear before the Commission to show cause as to why the lease should not be cancelled. Mr. Lubkin stated that in 1974 the greatest portion of his lease was closed for pollution and the other portion, according to the Health Department, was threatened to be closed. The area was opened back up in November and shell planting season was over then. Also, the company was led to believe they could use a mechanical clam harvester to remove seed oysters and then were not able to use the harvester. In 1975, the company had made arrangements to pick the steam oysters and sell them to a cannery in Virginia and due to the severe recession in 1975 the deal fell through. After thorough discussion regarding this matter, Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion that Mr. Lubkin be allowed to continue to operate the Mary Jenkins Creek portion of the lease provided he plants it this summer and that the Eddings Point portion of the lease be revoked and not reassigned and Lubkin would be on probation for two (2) years. Lubkin will be allowed to plant the Eddings Point portion if he so desires during the two (2) year probationary period, however, he will not be required to plant. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion and it was passed.

B. PROPOSED PLAQUES FOR DISPLAY AT MARINE CENTER: Commissioner Glenn stated that the new lab at the Marine Resources Center is just about completed and he suggested that we have a plaque put on the wall honoring the Commission since it was under their regime that the lab was built. In addition, he suggested that a second plaque be put up honoring Dr. James A. Timmerman for his guiding hand in the creation of the project. Glenn stated that he wrote Larry Cartee and asked him to suggest the proper wording which he has done. Commissioner Glenn made this statement in the form of a motion with the request that this proposition be adopted and that a committee of the senior members of the Commission along with the Chairman review these things and adopt what they think is the proper wording to be submitted at the next Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Commissioner Glenn added that each Commissioner and Dr. Timmerman be given a replica of the plaques. There will be dedication of the building at a later date. The committee for this project will be composed of Hudson, Rhame, Glenn and Harris.

C. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Administratives Services: Commissioner Glenn asked Benny Reeves to report on the Revenue Status Report that was submitted to the Commission. Reeves went over this report with the Commission and there was some discussion on the format used for the report. Reeves will work on a better format of presenting this information so that it will be more clear.

2. Game and Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to add to the written report.

3. Information & Public Affairs: There was nothing further to add to the written report. (Reeves added that the magazine is not self-sustaining and



there will be an override in the magazine cost, however that Division as a whole will be within their budget as it looks now.)

4. Law Enforcement & Boating: Pat Ryan commented that his staff deserves some recognition in the fact that license sales for hunting and fishing and fines are up due to intensive work by the Law Enforcement staff in checking licenses. Also, this division is well within the guidelines on their budget at this time.

5. Marine Resources: Ed Joseph commented that the Santee Clam Beds were closed yesterday for the remainder of the season. Since December 8th approximately 25,000 bags of clams have been harvested worth approximately a quarter of a million dollars. Over the season as a whole clams are worth about \$10 per bag at dockside. The opening of the shrimp season will be approximately May 15th. The wasted fish problem is presently under study by staff.

6. Natural Area and Resource Planning: Dr. Laurent reported that the Heritage Trust Bill is moving now and staff expects the Bill to go to House by next Wednesday. The Coastal Bill ran into some problems in the House and they voted to send it back to Conference without giving a reason why.

D. SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Dr. Timmerman reported that all increment increases have been reviewed and they all are in order. This report will be turned over to the Chairman of the Commission.

E. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS:

1. Marine Resources: Commission Lumpkin had nothing to report at this time.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Harris stated that his Committee will meet next week and a report will be made at the May meeting. The meeting will be a joint meeting between Game & Freshwater Fisheries and Law Enforcement. All Commissioners are invited to attend this meeting and should let Commissioner Harris or Rhame know if they do plan to attend.

3. Game & Freshwater Fisheries: Nothing further to add at this time except that the Turkey Advisory Group will meet with these two Committees.

4. Heritage Trust: Timmerman reported that the Advisory Committee has not met because they have been seeking Legislation which Dr. Laurent has reported on. Dr. Laurent reported that staff is in the process of working something out with Hitchcock Woods. He has met with the Foundation and they have not come to a decision at this time.

F. APPOINTMENTS: Dr. Timmerman reported that all appointments have been mailed out to the Commission for their action. Commissioner Rhame made a motion to approved the recommendations subject to the approval of the resident Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lumpkin and passed.

FINAL COMMENTS: Dr. Timmerman reported that the Architects have submitted the plan for the Dennis Center that burned some months ago. Bids have been advertised in the paper and assuming we have a low bid at the end of thirty days we will be ready to start building. We do not have any bonding money, but do feel that the insurance money will be enough to cover the building. We will get from \$20,000 - \$40,000 from the Federal Government which would allow us to complete the facility. We do not have the equipment money however there are certain emergency appropriations that we will have to go through if necessary. Lockwood-Greene Engineers are the Architects on this project.



Commissioner Glenn recognized Dr. Lamar Robinette, a member of the Board of Directors of The South Carolina Wildlife Federation, who was present at the meeting representing the Federation and welcomed him to the meeting.

Commissioner Harris expressed concern over the bass boats with big motors making a race track out of the twelve mile Diversion Canal between Lake Marion and Moultrie. It is dangerous, rude and spoils the recreational activities of 70% of the people. Harris has asked Pat Ryan to send someone down there to make a study of the problem and see what should be done about the problem. Feels that publicity should be given to the fact that the Commission has given consideration to the problem. Feels that notice should be given to these people that action is going to be taken if these people do not stop this wreckless handling of boats in that area. Staff will look into this problem.

There being no further business to be brought before the meeting, a motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Stapleton

(Miss) Chris Stapleton,
Commission Secretary

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