

MINUTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING**

Webb Wildlife Center
Garnett, S. C.
April 16, 1993
11:00 a.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, April 16, 1993, at the Webb Wildlife Center in Garnett, S. C., with Chairman Burnside presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Burnside, Miller, Haynsworth, Pendarvis, Poston, Graham, Rasor, and Leary. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Paul Sandifer, Brock Conrad, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed all guests to the meeting.

ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 26, 1993 Commission Meeting as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we are working with the Senate Finance Committee on the Department's budget and the Subcommittees are currently working on the Department's budget and provisos. He noted that the Subcommittee members consisted of Senators Leventis, Peeler, McGill and Reese, and he encouraged any Commissioners that had contact with these individuals to discuss our budget needs with them.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the restructuring legislation is currently in the Senate and that it is not likely that the Senate will adopt this legislation this year. Dr. Timmerman went over the Department's involvement with restructuring in the Senate, and he noted that the Senate is currently holding a number of hearings regarding the restructuring legislation.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the quarterly vehicle accident report to the Commissioners for their information.



ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dan Dobbins distributed a new legislative report to the Commission for their information and went over this report briefly. Mr. Dobbins noted that S.472 has passed the Senate and is currently in the House, and this Bill would prohibit the use of airboats on the waters of the Waccamaw, the Great Pee Dee, the Little Pee Dee, the Black, and the Sampit Rivers in Georgetown and Horry counties. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to support this legislation as written.

ITEM IV - OLD BUSINESS

A. Up-Date on Richard B. Russell Pumpback Test - Gerrit Jobsis presented an up-date on the tests at the Richard B. Russell Dam Pumpback Project. He noted that tests were conducted in late March and early April, and he distributed information concerning the results from these tests (copy attached to original Commission minutes). Mr. Jobsis presented a video to the Commission on these tests and noted that we would continue to follow the testing very closely on the pumpback project.

ITEM V - NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Easement - Styx Fish Hatchery: Benny Reeves noted that a proposed easement at the Styx Fish Hatchery had been sent to the Commission for their consideration (copy attached to the original Commission Minutes). Following discussion of this proposed easement, the Commission adopted a motion to approve these as submitted and Mr. Reeves noted that such would be presented to the State Budget and Control Board for approval.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that the Game Section had recently completed a hunter survey and Derrell Shipes went over the results of this survey with the Commission and presented a slide show on this matter.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing further to report.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer noted that a notice had been sent to the Commission regarding the opening of the shrimp season at the radar line on April 20. He also noted that on April 26 there will be a conference at the Marine Center as it relates to disabled scientists, and meetings have recently been held on shrimp baiting issues.



C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Haynsworth noted that the Board meet last week and discussed the Bill introduced by Representative Hodges which would take away the Commission's authority in Game Zones 2 and 4. He noted that the Board is opposed to the Bill, but they will report back later to the Commission concerning this matter. Commissioner Miller asked that the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board review Representative Alexander's Bill, H.3771, and make recommendations as deemed appropriate.

2. Conservation Education & Communications:

Commissioner Graham noted that the Board met on March 26, 1993 in Columbia, and that three new members were present at the Board meeting. He went over the items discussed at the meeting, including the proviso on the magazine and by-products as well as the Board's support for the Publications Review Committee efforts (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

3. Marine Recreational Fisheries Advisory Board:

Russell Patterson, Chairman of the Board, presented an overview of the Board and its actions on proposed projects and the use of Marine Recreational Fishing Stamp funds collected over the past two years. He noted that a detailed proposal and review process has been devised and he asked for any input from the Commission on proposed projects and expenditure of these funds by May 4, 1993.

D. OTHER REMARKS: Dr. Timmerman noted that a reduction in the Documentary Stamp Tax Funds had been made recently by the SC Tax Commission and Check-Off Funds for the nongame and endangered species programs had been dwindling as new check-offs had been included on the state tax form. He informed the Commission that a proviso has been included in the budget whereby ten percent of the Documentary Stamp funds could be used for management purposes rather than exclusively for land acquisition.

Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Poston seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside noted that, at this time, the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting.



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The Commission adopted a motion to approve the staff recommendations for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers.

The Commission adopted a motion to approve awarding the Certificate of Meritorious Service to Mr. Roger Jenkins.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic was recently a tremendous success and he commended Larry Cartee and the staff for doing an excellent job on this event.

E. Appointments: This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia, on May 21, 1993 at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM VI - ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was adopted to adjourn the meeting.

