

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dennis Wildlife Center
Bonneau, South Carolina

April 21, 1978

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at the Dennis Wildlife Center in Bonneau, South Carolina at 10:00 a.m. on April 21, 1978 with Vice-Chairman Lumpkin presiding. Other Commissioners present were Boykin, Buchanan, Shuler, Edens and Trask. Directors and staff members present were Dr. Timmerman, John Reeves, Jeff Fuller, John Culler, Dr. Wayne Beam, Larry Cartee, Ned Pendarvis, Fred Zeigler, Terry Hughey, Brock Conrad, Jack Bayless, Bill Mahan, Dr. Ed Joseph, David Cupka, Dan Dobbins, Dr. Vic Burrell, Dr. Paul Sandifer, Pat Ryan, Pete Laurie, Ben Campbell and various others. Guests present were Frank Caggiano, Director of Research and Administration of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Mike Copeland of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee, J. C. Boles, Bernard Goette and Gilbert Bristow of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Lumpkin called the meeting to order.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no call for Executive Session.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Edens made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 1978 Commission Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman stated that in the future any information on matters to be discussed in the regular meeting of the Commission should be furnished to members of the news media prior to the meeting so they will be fully aware of any action being taken.

It was also noted that Ducks Unlimited will hold their Annual Meeting in Winnipeg, Canada May 21st and 22nd. Dr. Timmerman stated that he will be unable to attend that meeting but urged any Commission Members who could to attend to represent the Department. He also stated that the Ducks Unlimited meeting will be held in South Carolina in 1979.

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will hold it's 32nd Conference on November 5th through the 8th in Hotsprings, Virginia.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of vehicle needs in the Department and noted that funds for such are being sought from the Supplemental Appropriations Bill. It was also noted that the Appropriation Bill has passed the House. Approval of



the upgrading of Conservation Officers and funds necessary was obtained. A position for an Internal Auditor was also approved by the House. The House did not approve the Furbearing and Small Game Programs. These positions will be sought through other sources.

Dr. Timmerman passed out an administrative policy on employee political activities for the Commission's information. This will not be implemented until after the May Commission meeting.

John Reeves reported on the Department's vehicle management noting that the fleet has been reduced by 125 vehicles. Commissioner Edens made a motion that an appropriate press release be put out on this matter. The motion was seconded and passed.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a legislative update and discussed it briefly.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recommendations on Bow and Arrow Hunting During Two-Week Closed Season in the Central Piedmont: Brock Conrad recommended that archery hunting be allowed from November 27th through December 9th with a bag limit of one (1) deer, either sex, for the Central and Western Piedmont Hunt Units. Primitive weapons hunting was not recommended for this time period. Commissioner Edens stated that the Advisory Board approves this recommendation. Commissioner Buchanan made a motion to adopt this modification to the regulations that have already been set. The motion was seconded and passed.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: No report.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller read a letter to the Commission from Governor Edwards commending David Baumann for his actions of April 1 for a fellow state employee that sustained burns when a vehicle exploded in the field. Commissioner Trask made a motion that the Commission go on record as unanimously commending Mr. Baumann for his actions and that a resolution for such be made a part of the record. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.
3. Information & Public Affairs: John Culler noted that they have received their first qualification for the Carolina Slam. The Commission expressed their desire that a letter be sent from the Commission congratulating this individual. Commissioner Edens recommended that the Commission reconsider their position on "The Resource". Dr. Timmerman recommended that such be held in abeyance until the July Commission meeting, after the study group makes their recommendations in June.
4. Law Enforcement & Boating: No report.
5. Marine Resources: No report.
6. Natural Area Acquisition and Resources Planning: Dr. Wayne Beam



reported that Fred Ziegler will be preparing documents in the very near future conveying the deed that will place Capers Island in the corpus of the Heritage Trust and would like for this to be considered by the Commission at the next meeting.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

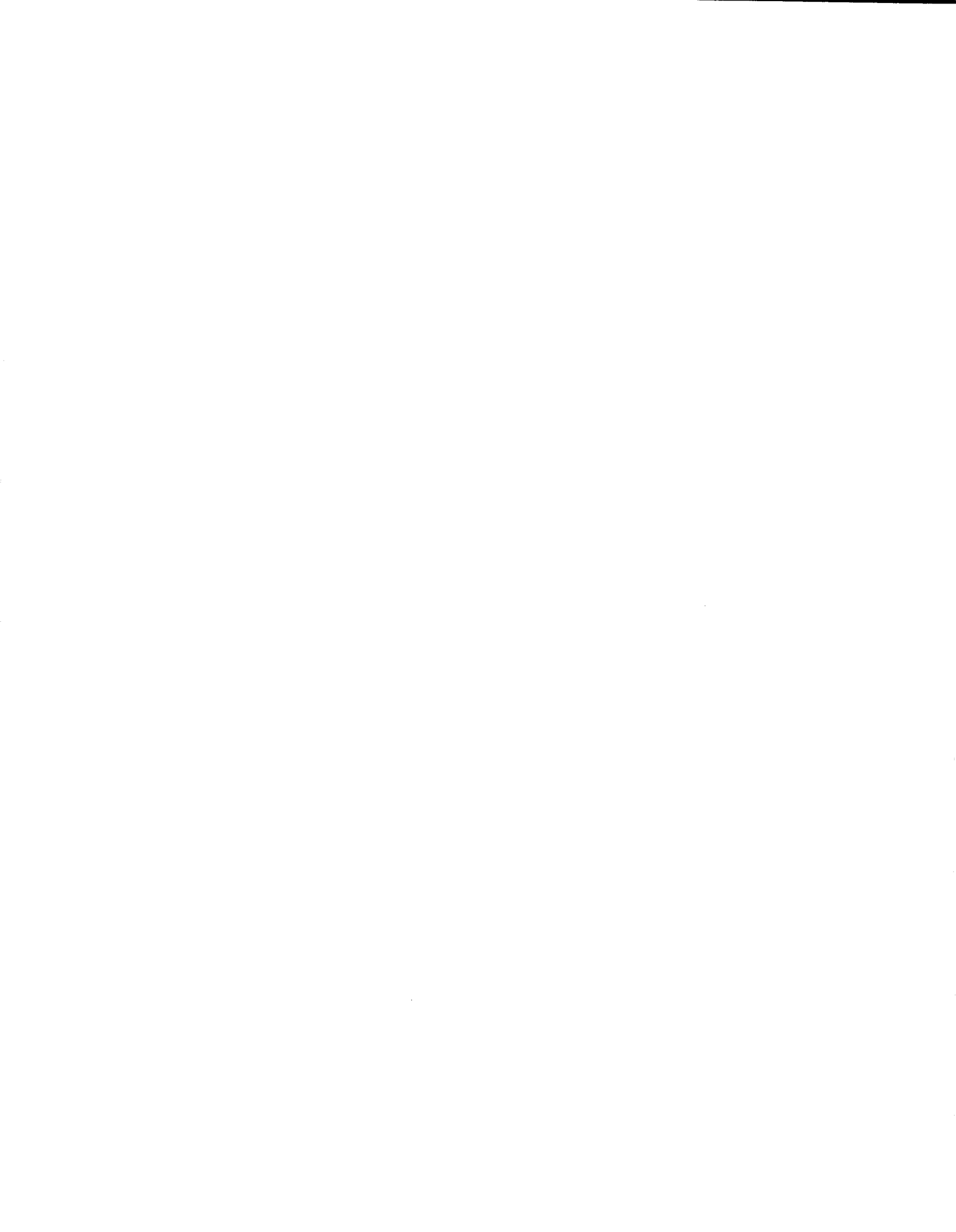
1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Edens reported that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board Minutes have been mailed and stated that he would report on commercial fishing recommendations at the May meeting and asked that this be put on the Agenda for that meeting. The Board recommended the attached regulations on the harvest of American eels. Jack Bayless discussed these regulations, pointing out changes, and the Commission made a motion to approve the implementation of these regulations. The motion was seconded and passed. (Copy of regulations was passed out at the meeting, therefore, a copy will only be attached to the original of these Minutes and a copy mailed to those Commissioners not present at the meeting)

Dr. Timmerman discussed a recent court order on the use of electric seines noting that such had been overturned temporarily. This action has been going on since 1973. Following some discussion, the Commission adopted a motion that the staff investigate the possibility of filing a countersuit and report back at the May Commission meeting.

Ken Stansell recommended the attached regulation pertaining to the American alligator. The proposed Rule and Regulation would provide additional protection for the American alligator; also, it would provide the Department with permitting authority in the event that harvesting studies were to be made by the Department. In addition, this Rule and Regulation would be a compliment to the Game Management Program and would aid in enforcement. A motion was made to approve the proposed Rule and Regulation. Commissioner Edens stated that the Advisory Board unanimously approved this proposal. The motion was seconded and passed. (Copy of regulations will be attached to the original of these Minutes, as those present at the meeting received a copy; copies will be mailed to those absent)

Commissioner Edens reported that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board had received the recommendations on the small game program, revised somewhat, and adopted. The furbearer program recommendations will be presented at the next meeting. Commissioner Edens recommended that the small game program and the furbearer program be approved in principle with further discussion later. This would support Dr. Timmerman and staff in obtaining funding for the projects. A motion was made to adopt this recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed. Commissioner Edens asked the Commission to accept the Minutes of the April 13th Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board meeting as information and approve such at the May meeting.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Boykin reported that the Advisory Board met April 14th. There are no recommendations at this time from that Board. One item discussed at the meeting was the possibility of increasing the price of a combination license to approximately \$20. It was reported that this matter has been under study and their findings will be presented in the near future.



3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Lumpkin asked Dr. Joseph to present this report to the Commission. Dr. Joseph reported that the Marine Advisory Board met on April 14th in Charleston. He reported that our Department has received a great deal of assistance from the Florida Department of Natural Resources and the Gulf and South Atlanta Fisheries Development Foundation. We are trying to do some promotional work on rock shrimp, as our white shrimp fishery is going to be out of commission again this spring. The Florida Department reprinted a great deal of their promotional materials on rock shrimp putting our name and taking theirs out. The SAFDF paid the entire bill on this work. The Advisory Board felt that it would be appropriate for the Commission to send a letter of thanks to these two organizations. Florida DNR sent several of their people up to Charleston to make several tv spots and tapes that we will be able to use later this spring in promotional work - and all at no cost to the Department. Dr. Joseph stated that staff would be happy to draft letters and submit them for signature, if the Commission so desires. A motion was made to approve this recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed. The Advisory Board recommended to the Commission that they go on record as supporting S-823, except that they oppose the amendment to prohibit commercial crabbing in Pocotaligo and Coosawhatchie Creeks in Jasper County. A motion was made to approve this recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed. In addition, Dr. Joseph and Ken Stansell discussed proposed changes in the September 1977 Minutes, page six, to amend the action on rules and regulations for the loggerhead sea turtle to give such threatened status rather than placing on the state's endangered species list. Following some discussion, Commissioner Boykin made a motion that the Commission go on record to amend the Minutes of the September 1977 meeting, page six, to give the Atlantic loggerhead sea turtle proposed threatened status and to have the regulations amended to reflect that status and delete the sentence pertaining to placing such on the state's endangered species list. The motion was seconded and passed.

Fred Zeigler noted that a final hearing has been held on the Bull's Bay oyster lease. However, two attorneys for the client desire a chance to argue their case before the Commission. Following some discussion, a motion was made to allow such a hearing before the Commission. The motion was seconded and passed.

4. Heritage Trust: Dr. Wayne Beam reported that the Board did not meet however, they will meet in June or July.

C. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that this report is in order with one outstanding review. A copy of this report was handed to the Vice-Chairman for the Commission file.

D. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of appointments and re-appointments. These were all approved by the Commission in regular session with the exception of Clint R. Myers of which the Commission approve a motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss. The Commission also approved the appointment of Henry Scott Buchanan of Georgetown as a deputy wildlife conservation officer. This was "hand carried" to the Commission meeting by Dr. Timmerman.

E. Other Remarks: Frank Caggiano noted that Commissioner Bennett has asked that all recommendations for conservation officer vacancies be sent to all



SCW&MRC
MINUTES
4/21/78
Page Five

legislators in a county or district rather than just the House District where the individual resides. Dr. Timmerman noted that this will be on the agenda at the May meeting.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting at this time, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine S. Murray

(Mrs.) Christine S. Murray
Commission Secretary

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