

MEETING

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

APRIL 26, 1973

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Charleston at the Marine Center on Thursday, April 26, 1973, with Chairman J. W. Hudson, presiding. Also in attendance were Commissioners Eltzroth, Williams, Rhame, Marett and Major Cantey along with General Harris, Executive Director Webb, Wash Belangia, Dr. Timmerman, Mr. Ryan, Dr. Joseph, Charlie Bearden, Joe Logan, Brock Conrad, Jeff Fuller, John Culler, Bill Chastain, Andy Laurent, Honorable Alex Sanders and Jim Quackenbush.

Commissioner Eltzroth introduced Mr. Dan Marrett, who is Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and Conservation and replaces the late Carlyle Goodman as a member of the Commission.

Chairman Hudson also introduced the Honorable Alex Sanders who had been invited to attend this Commission Meeting by previous action of the Commission.

The first order of business was the reading of the Action Report of the March meeting. The following items were taken up:

JACK'S HOLE: Mr. Webb reported that everything had been worked out with the contractors and work would commence as soon as the water went down.

NIGHT HUNTING BILL: A report on this was included in the Legislative Report given to the Commissioners.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES: Dr. Timmerman reported that the negotiations are going along well, there seems to be no problem with revenue funding for this and everything is in order.

THE MARSHLAND HOUSE: Contracts have been awarded for the scraping and painting of the house and work should begin immediately.

USE OF THE ELECTRIC SEINE: Mr. Alex Sanders was present at the meeting and this was deferred until later in the meeting when Mr. Sanders would speak to the Commission regarding the use of the electric seine.



LEASE - CITY OF BENNETTSVILLE: This lease has been properly executed by the Department with the City of Bennettsville.

SAILING COURSE ON LAKE MURRAY: Mr. Ryan recommended to the Commission that this group under Dr. Davis be allowed to establish courses for the two three-day events that are scheduled provided the courses are lighted at night. In any event, the markers shall not remain up more than three days. Commissioner Eltzroth moved that this matter be deferred until the next meeting.

FIELD TRIALS: Chairman Hudson reported that he had contacted Mr. Crouch and this matter had been taken care of.

LAKE EDWIN JOHNSON: The Spartanburg County Delegation was informed of Commission's action on this.

RESOLUTION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT PAY: Resolution was written and sent to Governor West supporting minimum beginning salary of \$6500 for all state law enforcement officers. Copies of the Resolution were sent to Senator Rembert C. Dennis, Honorable R. J. Aycock, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Honorable Solomon Blatt and Lt. Governor Earle Morris.

OLD BUSINESS

DENNIS WILDLIFE CENTER: Mr. Webb reported that the contracts for the construction of the lakes has been awarded. The building is approaching completion.

NEW BUSINESS

GAME AND FRESHWATER FISH REPORT: Mr. Ryan presented highlights of his written report which is attached and made a part of these minutes. In regard to the leased land for game management areas, Commissioner Eltzroth suggested that the staff give serious consideration to reducing the 30% that comes back to the Department for administrative costs and possibly raising the percentage of return to the landowner.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: This was presented by Wash Belangia and discussion followed concerning pending legislation.

FINANCE REPORT: The Finance Report was accepted as presented.

John Culler handed out an explanation of the financial situation of the South Carolina Wildlife Magazine for the information of the Commissioners.



MARINE RESOURCES REPORT: This was presented by Dr. Timmerman and is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. Dr. Timmerman gave a brief report on the proposed new facilities for the Marine Center.

Dr. Timmerman requested approval of the Commission for the State Archeologist to make an on-site inspection of the property at Fort Johnson at a cost of approximately \$2,500. Commissioner Williams moved that the Commission approve this request. This was seconded by Commissioner Rhame and carried unanimously.

Dr. Joseph presented his report for the Marine Laboratory. He reported that the Center would receive approximately \$250,000 this year under the Sea Grants program. This was an increase over last year which figure was \$212,000 received from the Sea Grant program.

Charlie Bearden brought two recommendations to the Commission on two Oyster Leases #20 and #21. Commissioner Rhame recommended that the Commission refer these recommendations to the Marine Sub-Committee and grant the Sub-Committee authority to take whatever action is necessary to implement these recommendations. This was seconded by Commissioner Williams and the motion carried unanimously.

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Hudson introduced the Honorable Alex Sanders. Mr. Sanders explained that he was there to discuss the use of the electric seine. Mr. Jim Quackenbush, attorney for the commercial fishermen, had asked Mr. Sanders to try to determine whether or not the electric seine was harmful to the fish.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Eltzroth recommended that the commercial fishermen choose one scientist, the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department choose one scientist and those two scientists choose a third scientist to investigate Jack Bayless' work and the Department will abide by the decision of these three scientists. This recommendation was seconded by Mr. Rhame. Mr. Quackenbush stated that this was most fair and he would relay this to the commercial fishermen. John Culler was requested to prepare a news release along these lines.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Commissioner Eltzroth made a recommendation, as Chairman of the Committee on Law Enforcement, that Unit Leaders salaries be increased to a minimum of \$8,441. This would raise the Unit Leaders to a point higher than the highest paid Conservation Officer in their unit. Commissioner Rhame seconded this and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rhame stated that the Game and Freshwater Fish Liaison Committee had met and minutes of the meeting were available if any of the Commissioners would like to review them.



UNCLASSIFIED ITEMS: Executive Director Webb brought a request from the South Carolina Highway Department to tie into the Department's water system in Greenville County for a weigh station facility. Commissioner Eltzroth moved that the request be approved. This was seconded by Commissioner Williams and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ryan presented a Rule and Regulation adopting certain Rules and Regulations concerning accident reports of vessels. Mr. Rhame moved that the Commission accept this Rule and Regulation, this was seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Another Rule and Regulation was presented pertaining to fishing in Draytons Mountain Lake, Cherokee County. Mr. Rhame moved that this Rule and Regulation be accepted for one year. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Ryan suggested that the Department have a ribbon-cutting ceremony and name this lake. He was given permission to proceed with plans for this and instructed to meet with Mr. Williams to give recommendations to the Commission regarding naming of the lake.

Commissioner Eltzroth moved the acceptance of the hunt schedule of the Game Management Areas, as amended, for the 1973-1974 season. This was seconded by Commissioner Rhame. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hudson asked John Culler to investigate the possibility of appointing someone in the Information and Education Section available to answer all the inquiries which the Commissioners are getting regarding hunting and fishing and to report at the next meeting.

All Appointments as previously mailed out by Mr. Webb were approved subject to those within the Districts of Commissioners who were not at this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 P. M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Peggy A. Lowman, Secretary
Wildlife and Marine Resources
Commission

