

## MINUTES

### S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

#### HICKORY KNOB STATE PARK

April 26, 1974

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Hickory Knob State Park on April 26, 1974 at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioner Lumpkin presiding in Chairman Hudson's absence. Also present were Commissioners Rhame, Harris, Marett, Dennis and Thompson; Advisor Cantey; also in attendance was Mr. Webb, Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Wash Belangia, John Culler, Jeff Fuller, Dr. Burrell, Dr. Laurent, Ed Latimer, Al Courie, Ned Pendarvis, Bill Cotty, Bobby Gifford, Joe Logan, Billy DuRant, Charlie Bearden, Wanda Ayer and other staff members.

#### CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as they were mailed out.

#### ITEM II. DIVISION REPORTS

1. Game and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller reported that the Striped Bass Hatchery has been in operation for about one month. First part of week 45 million fish were produced. Off slightly this year. Should pick up the other third of what we need by end of the month. His division report was mailed out prior to this meeting.

Commissioner Rhame asked about the status of Lake Long. Mr. Webb reported that the plans have been completed and will be ready, as soon as the Forest Service and engineers give final approval, to advertise for bids. \$96,000 was put in Appropriation Bill last year for purpose of construction. Will be matched with other funds.

2. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph reported that the annual Sea Grant Site Review meeting was held since our last meeting. Still do not have details of outcome, but we are assured of some significant increase of funding over last year. Also announced opening of the shrimp season. Charlie Bearden reported that the shrimp season was opened early this year due to early spring and high population of white shrimp. Also extended oyster season to May 15th and this has been cleared with Department of Health and Environmental Control. Dr. Joseph reported that we took delivery on a new 50 foot fibre glass trawler that the Department had constructed in Florida. Will have to make a few slight changes on the rigging. Marine Resources Advisory Board will meet in Beaufort May 8th. Some things to be discussed at that meeting will be stricter guidelines as far as oyster leasing, shrimp activities, and regulations on set nets. Also have had a request from Legal Council for S. C. Shrimpers Association to appear before Commission. They have been sent the guidelines for set nets. Commission instructed Dr. Timmerman to arrange for them to appear before Commission. Report was mailed out.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Bobby Gifford reported in Chief Chastain's absence. Written report was mailed out prior to meeting. Commissioner Harris has not set the date for the Advisory Board Meeting, but will do so before next Commission meeting. Plans to have it at Belmont.



4. Information and Public Affairs: John Culler reported that the bids have been let on the booklets the Commission approved \$5,000 for a few months ago. Should have first of these out in about one month. Reported that we received a \$5,500 grant from the Barruch Foundation for our Environmental Institute that we have each summer at the Citadel, Clemson, and USC. Still asking for donations in addition to grant. Also Conservation Camp is set for week of June 16th this year. Anyone interested is invited to come up and see what the children do. Near Cheraw in State Park. The Wildlife Federation Awards Banquet will be held April 27th at Sheraton Inn in Columbia; cocktail hour at 7:00 and dinner at 8:00 pm. Announced that Chairman Hudson has been named Conservationist of the Year, Dr. Timmerman, Water Conservationist of the Year, Commissioner Dennis, Legislative Conservationist of the Year, and Walt Schrader, Wildlife Conservationist of the Year. Tickets are available to anyone who would like to attend. Written report mailed out prior to meeting.

S. C. HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM: Dr. Laurent reported on the progress of the program and that they are in process of working out various phases of work to be done in the next few years. Working with part of Archives and History and PRT as to who is going to take responsibility for various things.

5. Administrative Services: Wash Belangia reported that the final draft on the purchasing and personnel manuals has been completed. This has been passed out to Commission. Would like all changes in my end of next week in order to implement procedures by July 1, 1974. Still working with Arthur Andersen & Co. and Dr. Laurent setting up accounting and physical operation for Heritage Program. Budget looks good and we should break even by the end of year. House, Ways and Means Committee Report is out and on way to printers and should be delivered to the House by Tuesday. Division Reports are in a new booklet this month and would like to have comments on this procedure.

x COMMISSIONERS' EXPENSES AND REPORTING: Wash Belangia explained to the Commission the recent ruling by the Budget & Control Board in regard to expense reporting. There was much discussion and it was the feeling of the Commission that the present system is inadequate for our Commission. It was suggested that we go to a voucher system to simplify trip reporting. Commissioner Dennis made the motion that we should ask the Budget and Control Board for an Appropriation to handle our own expense system and accounting system. The motion was seconded and passed.

x DEVEAUX BANKS, CHARLESTON, S. C. - NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY-ALEXANDER SPRUNT SANCTUARY: Mr. Webb mailed the Commission prior to this meeting a copy of the Agreement, dated January 8, 1974, between the S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Department and the National Audubon Society, Inc. and requests authorization to commission a conservation officer in accordance with the terms of the said Agreement, which is that the officer would be non-pay commission and paid by the Audubon Society to enforce the laws in that area. Also requested approval of the proposed Rule and Regulation designating the DeVeaux Banks area as the "Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Wildlife Refuge and Sanctuary" and otherwise regulating the said area. A motion was made and seconded and passed to approve this request.



PROGRESS ON DEPARTMENT IMPROVEMENT/CONSTRUCTION: Mr. Webb went over the report that was distributed to the Commission on these facilities. He will keep the Commission informed on the progress.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS: Bobby Gifford briefed the Commission on the two different systems the department is looking into. One is a high band system which he should have definite details on within the next two weeks, and the other is a microwave system which would be used in addition to present system. Cost is not available at this time and will continue to investigate matter and get back to Commission with more detail information.

JACK'S HOLE: Dr. Timmerman reported that they have asked Civil Engineers to make soundings, and to get the curvature of the land and depths of it. Tentative plans have been worked out for the boathouse by Lockwood & Greene and put into blue prints and specs at no cost since they are already employed by the Department. A reduced copy of prints was passed out. Cost is estimated to be between \$5 and \$7 thousand dollars. Will have to get Santee Public Service Commission approval and Corp of Engineers approval before bids can be let on this. Should be able to award contracts around first of June. Pat Ryan and Tommy Welch have asked a committee of three to come up with a plan to be put in effect during bad weather for safety until this project is completed. Senator Dennis stated that Mr. Webb has been furnished with applications for Conservation Officers in this area and asks that he be authorized to go ahead and select the two best qualified and put them to work as soon as possible. Motion was made, seconded and passed.

RECOMMENDATIONS INCREASED FINES: Illegal fur trapping and other items: Wash Belangia reported this involves Administration, Law Enforcement, Licensing, and the Attorney General's Office. Bill Cotty has arranged a meeting for May 6th at 10:00 am at the Brown Building with representatives from these departments to go over this and decide what changes need to be made and how to go about it. Will take one case and work with it and see how to proceed on this. After internal changes have been made and with enforcing the laws as they are now, we can then come back to the Legislature with a more valid reason for increasing the fines. Will keep the Commission informed as to progress.

FUEL SUPPLY FOR DENNIS CENTER: Ned Pendarvis reported that the Law Enforcement and Game & Freshwater Fisheries Division have plans to install two 10,000 gallon tanks at the Dennis Center and this should be adequate for them. In past the main fuel supply has been from the Highway Department. These tanks are in addition to the one at the supervisors residence which would be economically unfeasible to move.

POLICY OF TRESPASSING: Mr. Webb recommended that the Commission change the present policy regarding enforcement of trespass laws to permit our Law Enforcement Officers to write summons for trespassing where they are requested to do so by the landowner. These summons are the same as warrants and no other warrant is necessary. The landowner must agree to appear as a witness in the case, but will not be required to sign the warrant. With this procedure, all fines collected in such cases will come to this Department, but must be spent in the county in which it is collected, with the approval of the County Delegation. There was much discussion on this matter and General Harris requested that we carry it



to the next meeting until we can get back with the Advisory Board and Mr. Gaines Smith. General Harris also asked Ed Latimer to get in touch with Mr. Smith. The motion was made, seconded and passed. Major Cantey suggested that the Magistrates in the State be made aware of the seriousness of this offense.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN - WAGE SURVEY: Wash Belangia reported that he, Dr. Timmerman, and Don Dixon of Arthur Andersen have arranged a meeting for Monday with a tentative proposal and will be back to Commission with plan. Approach will be basically the same as the Purchasing and Receipting and at certain times they will check with the Personnel Division and make sure they are in concurrence with the Commission and Policies of the Department.

WEAPONS: Wash Belangia went over the Contract on the purchase of the new guns that was signed with Crowe Gun Shop. His store will sell the old weapons to the Conservation Officers at a price of \$31 each. If anyone else wants to purchase one of these weapons, they will purchase it through Crowe at a price he would determine. Checks will be made payable to Crowe. Our Department will be a collecting agency for him. Have had requests from County Delegation that since these guns were purchase out of county funds, that the money received should go back into county funds.

GENERAL SERVICES: Commissioner Dennis made the motion that we should apply to the Budget & Control Board to be allowed to take our new purchasing plan and advertise for our own bids instead of going through General Services. Motion was made, seconded and passed. *Sen. Dennis to bring up @ next B+C Board Meeting.*

PLAQUE FOR RETIRING CONSERVATION OFFICERS AND OTHER RETIREES: John Culler showed the Commission a plaque that has been designed for this purpose and the cost would be less than \$30 per plaque. It is a Distinguished Service Award. Commissioner Dennis made the motion that the officers pistol and holster should go along with the plaque. There was some discussion on whether or not we could do this legally, since this is property of the State. Therefore, the motion will be held in abeyance until further information is received.

AIRCRAFT - COASTAL AREA: Mr. Webb recommended that we delay the purchase of this plane long enough to see if the money is to be provided for in the Appropriation Bill. This plane should be used primarily in the coastal area, but based in Columbia in case of emergency. Motion made by Commissioner Harris and seconded. Commissioner Dennis requested that Mr. Webb get in touch with John Hamilton of the Aeronautics Commission in regard to joint request by Aeronautics Commission, SLED and this Commission for a helicopter to be used jointly when airplane could not be used.

MEMO NUMBER 16 - CONSULTANTS: Dr. Timmerman reported that Memo 16, dated 9-10-70 states concerning consultant work, that in future consultant work accepted by employees of appointees will be with the approval of the Commission and will not be for more than one day per week. Tommy Welch has asked for permission of Commission and it has been determined that it will not interfere with his work. Commissioner Dennis made the motion to approve this, it was seconded and passed.





APPOINTMENTS: All appointments were approved as mailed out. Motion was made, seconded and passed. Appointments not mailed out prior to meeting: Dr. Richard B. Dominick, McClellanville, non-pay; David Michael Warren, Georgetown, non-pay; Tommy Stevenson, Taylors, non-pay; and John Zimmerman Leigh, Greer, non-pay. These appointments were approved subject to approval of Commission in these areas. Appointment of Legare L. Wilson, Georgetown County, salaried, approved by Commission.

EXECUTIVE NEWSLETTER: Dr. Timmerman reported that the first one was mailed out and that Information and Public Affairs and the Commissions office would like to have comments on this.

REGULATIONS ON GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS: Sam Crouch proposed to Commission some changed in the rules and regulations during deer hunting and rabbit hunting season. After much discussion on this matter, it was decided that the Advisory Board should investigate into this matter further and submit new recommendations at the next Commission meeting.

SHOOTING HOURS ON DUCKS: Commissioner Rhame recommends that the person attending the Flyway Council meeting push changing the shooting hours back to one-half hour before sunrise. The motion was made, seconded and passed.

FISHING GUIDES ON LAKES: Commissioner Rhame suggested looking into registering or licensing of guides. Commissioner Dennis asked that the Advisory Board give recommendations on this at the next meeting.

GAME & FISH BOOKLET: Jeff Fuller explained this project to the Commission and asked for consideration to publish these booklets to be sold at cost. Need money. After some discussion, it was decided that this matter be referred to the Executive Office for recommendations.

CATAWBA FISH KILL: No further information at this time.

There being no further business the motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chris Stapleton*

Chris Stapleton, Secretary  
COMMISSION

