

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

AUGUST 17, 1973

The regular monthly meeting of the Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held on Friday, August 17, 1973, in the Conference Room in the Eltzroth Building at Fort Johnson, Chairman J.W. Hudson presiding. Also in attendance were Commissioners Dennis, Glenn, Harris, Lumpkin, Marett, Rhame and Williams along with Executive Director Webb, Dr. Timmerman, Pat Ryan, Wash Belangia, Jeff Fuller, Charlie Bearden, John Culler, Bill Chastain, Tommy Welch, Fred Ramage, Dr. Joseph, Bob Joyner, Terry Huey, Dr. Laurent, Pat Robertson, Bill Cotty, Dr. Culp, Dr. Sandifer and Mr. Hamrick of the Charleston Evening Post.

Items from the Action Report from the July meeting were taken up:

National Marine Fisheries: Dr. Timmerman reported that the leasing agreement was at present being reviewed by officials of the National Marine Fisheries in Maryland and that a finalized proposal should be ready for consideration soon.

Policy on Accident Responsibility for Department Employees: Dr. Timmerman and Mr. Ryan were asked to submit a recommended policy statement on this matter through Mr. Webb to the Commission by the next meeting.

Uniforms for Department "Speakers": Terry Huey displayed a number of different makes of blazers, and the Commission, on the motion of Dr. Lumpkin, selected a wool-polyester one for use.

Distribution of Magazine Brochures in Highway Department Mailout: John Culler reported that the Highway Department has reversed its decision and advised that it will not include the Magazine brochure in its mailout. On the motion of Senator Dennis, the Commission agreed to send a resolution to the Highway Commission urging inclusion of this material in next year's license tag mailing.

Commercial Harvesting of Eels: Mr. Rhame stated that his Committee will have a report ready on this matter for the next Commission meeting. Dr. Laurent stated that a Panpanese airlines is sponsoring a seminar on the subject on August 23rd at the Mill's Hyatt House in Charleston.



Affirmative Action Plan: Wash Belangia presented the Department recommendation. One paragraph of this statement had been misprinted, and the Commission asked that the revised plan be printed and sent to each member. On the motion of Mr. Glenn, the Commission adopted the plan, and instructed that it be submitted to the Human Affairs Commission if no objection is received within ten days after the revised statement is sent out.

Housing of Department Aircraft: Mr. Webb stated that he felt that the planes could be better utilized and more properly controlled if they were all housed in Columbia. The Commission agreed that this would be the present policy.

Mr. Webb also stated that the bids on the new Department aircraft will be opened at the Offices of the General Services Division on August 28, 1973.

Surplus Equipment Disposition: Mr. Webb stated that he would have a report on this at the next Commission meeting.

The following items on the Agenda were then taken up:

Dennis Wildlife Center: Mr. Fuller reported that the G.&F personnel have already moved into the building and begun operations; however, the Law Enforcement personnel are not yet in as the radio communications system has not been completed.

Marine Resources Report: Dr. Joseph reported that the test team to evaluate the effects of the Department's use of the electric seine will begin meeting soon to determine the conditions, criteria and such under which the test will be administered next year. The Commission agreed that the test be conducted, and on the motion of Senator Dennis, that it include the affects on all adjacent fish populations.

Dr. Sandifer reported on the studies being conducted by his personnel at the Research Laboratory, and Dr. Laurent gave a status report on the base mapping project.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that the Governor is going to sign an Executive Order in the near future creating an Inter-agency Council on the Tidelands which will be chaired by Senator Waddell. He explained that this will allow the State to apply for Coastal Plains "planning" assistance, and he expressed the hope that we will be able to get approximately \$200,000-250,000. The Marine Resources staff will act as the core staff for the Inter-agency Council and assist in developing recommendations for tideland's usage.

Mr. Bearden reported on the activities of the OMSCS staff. He also stated that on September 12 there will be a demonstration of waste disposal and processing equipment at the Laboratory.

Dr. Laurent and Dr. Timmerman stated that the Marine Resources Staff is working with the G&F staff to come up with some guidelines for evaluating permit applications for dredging and such in the coastal areas.

Dr. Laurent also gave a status report on the mapping study being conducted to enable us to block out the wetland areas of the coast for usage in evaluating permit applications.

Equipment Operation Costs: Carl Wilks gave a report on system inventory evaluation being used and the present status of operational costs.

Game & Fresh-Water Fisheries Report: Mr. Ryan stated that we now have over 1,468,000 acres in the Game Management Area system. He invited the Commission to attend the opening day of deer season in the Central Piedmont Area, and said that on Oct 19 the Bowaters Corporation officials would like to meet with the Commission members there. Mr. Webb will send details on this to the members in the next month or so. Mr. Ryan presented a report on the activities of his staff during the past month.

On the subject of nighthunting, he stated that 51 cases had been made this year.

Appointments: Commissioner Rhame moved approval of all appointments as mailed out subject to approval of the Commissioner not present. The motion was carried unanimously.

Assistant Executive-Director: Mr. Webb stated that due to the large amount of work and correspondence in his office, he recommends that a position of Assistant Executive-Director be created. On the motion of Senator Dennis, the Commission adopted the recommendation that the position be created along with sufficient clerical assistance. Mr. Webb then recommended that Dr. Timmerman be appointed to the new position, that he be allowed to remain in Charleston until next summer while serving in a dual capacity as Assistant Executive-Director as well as Director of Marine Resources; and that at that time, he be transferred to Columbia. On a subsequent motion of Senator Dennis following a brief Executive Session, the Commission adopted Mr. Webb's recommendation.

Finance Report: Because of a delay in the receipt of the monthly report by Commission members, this item was put off for consideration until the next meeting.

Waterfowl Season: On the motion of Dr. Lumpkin, the Commission adopted Mr. Webb's recommendation that we have a 45 day season, with a limit of five ducks in the bag and one black duck, that it open on the 21st of November and close on the 1st of December, and reopen on the 17th of December and close on the 19th of January. They also adopted a goose season of fifty days to run from December 1 to January nineteenth.

Committee on 1974-75 Budget: Mr. Glenn presented the proposed budget, copy of which is attached. Senator Dennis recommended that the Capital Improvements requests be presented along with the regular budget request to the State



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Development Board. The Commission agreed and instructed Mr. Webb to so prepare it and have it ready to present to the Board. On the motion of Mr. Glenn, the Commission approved and accepted the operational budget.

Request for Use of Eutaw-Springs Facilities: Mr. Hudson stated that DUCKS UNLIMITED has requested to use this facility on the sixteenth and seventeenth of September for their annual meeting. On the motion of the Chairman, the Commission approved the request.

Use of Department Facilities and Services: Mr. Glenn moved that the Commission adopt a resolution stating that no equipment, facilities or personnel be used by any person except if such use is cleared through the Executive-Director whose office shall keep a record of such. The motion was adopted by the Commission.

Jackson's Creek Boating Ramp- On the motion of Mr. Rhame, the Commission approved the construction of this boating ramp.

Bonneau Ferry Deer Hunt, September 6 & 7: Mr. Ryan said an invitation has been received for twenty of the members of the Commission and the Department staff to attend a deer hunt at Bonneau Ferry on Sept. 6 & 7. Mr. Ryan asked the Commission members to let him know if they planned to attend.

Anti-Littering Signs: Dr. Lumpkin stated that since our Department is by State law the agency authorized to enforce the littering law on waters within the State, he feels that we should place signs on waterways and points of access warning the public that they may be fined up to \$200.00. On his motion, the Commission adopted a resolution to this effect.

Commission Committees: Chairman Hudson stated that he felt that a revision of the present system was needed in order to eliminate duplication of work and to expedite consideration of Commission matters. He stated that he thinks a small number of standing committees such as one for marine affairs, another for fish and game, one for finance and a fourth for policy matters would be sufficient to handle the great majority of the work. Mr. Hudson will present a recommendation on this matter to the Commission at the next meeting.

Appreciation Resolution for Mr. Eltzroth: The Commission adopted a resolution thanking Mr. Eltzroth for his help and assistance to the Department over the years and commending him on his leadership in the conservation and protection of our wildlife and marine resources.

Department Office Building: The Commission discussed the need to plan for upcoming office space needs when our present facility is torn down as a part of the Capital



Complex Plan. Mr. Webb stated that there were several sites available where the Department could locate. Senator Dennis asked that the Commission consider the retention of at least some administrative offices near the Capital and the Commission so agreed. Mr. Hudson said that in his recommendations regarding Commission Committees he would include this subject.

Budget: Mr. Glenn asked Senator Dennis and Rep. Marett if they would look over our finalized budget request and give advise to the Budget Committee.

Trousers & Turn-In Policy: Mr. Rhame moved that pants be deleted from the turn-in property policy since they still may be used for many purposes and would save wear & tear on additional pairs of trousers. The Commission adopted the motion.

Communications: Mr. Rhame asked that the members of the Commission be kept advised of major activities and/or changes in Department policy.

At this time Mr. F. Bartow Culp addressed the Commission on behalf of the S.C. Wildlife Federation. He commended Mr. Eltzroth on his fine contribution. He asked that Conservation Officers be given more extensive training, and be assigned to attend meetings with sportsmen throughout the State in order to better clarify the law to the public. He urged that the Wando and the Asheepoo River be protected from industrialization. In addition Mr. Culp asked that the Department join in the observance of the National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 22, and requested that Mr. Hudson serve as honorary Chairman of the State Committee. Lastly, he urged the adoption of a saltwater fishing license as well as licensing of all who fish in any manner; and he invited the Commission members to visit the Conservation Camp next summer during its twentieth anniversary.

Boating Regulation, Lake Wylie: Mr. Welch recommended that the Commission adopt a rule and regulation regarding the use of watercraft on Lake Wylie near Moore's Landing. On the motion of Mr. Hudson the Commission adopted the regulation.

Longer Night Radio-Watch: Mr. Rhame suggested that the department schedule longer night radio-watches when special night operations are being conducted. Mr. Webb and Mr. Ryan stated that this was the normal procedure used, but that they would reemphasize the need for complete radio-communications during night operations.

At this time General Harris moved for a short Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Cotty

