

MINUTES

COMMISSION MEETING

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

AUGUST 18, 1972

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was called to order by the Chairman in the Commission Room in Columbia at 10:00 A. M. Those in attendance in addition to Chairman Eltzroth were Commissioners Glenn, Williams, Hudson, Rhame, Dennis, Executive Director Webb, Pat Ryan, Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Charlie Bearden, General Harris, Major Cantey, John Culler, Joe Logan, Brock Conrad, Boy Joyner, Fred Ramage, T. C. Welch, Billy Ford from Ducks Unlimited, David Havird from The Columbia Record, Wash Belangia. Dr. Lumpkin arrived later in the day.

The Chairman explained that he would like to set the waterfowl seasons first and take this item out of order on the agenda since Mr. Billy Ford from Ducks Unlimited was present and could not stay for the whole meeting. Executive Director Webb presented the proposed seasons as follows:

TEAL: January 12 to January 20.

DUCKS, COOTS, and MERGANSERS: A split season was recommended - November 22 to December 2 and December 13 to January 20.

Mr. Hudson so moved, seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Commission accept the recommendations as set forth by Mr. Webb. The motion carried unanimously.

(A copy of the open season dates as mailed to the Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.)

Mr. Billy Ford was then recognized and he stated that since the last meeting of the Commission a survey had been made of the members of Ducks Unlimited and it revealed that over 90% of the membership was in favor of a split season.

At this point, Mr. Glenn suggested that he would like to have the Minutes of the previous meeting read and when the Secretary came to a paragraph where action was to be taken, to stop and inquire as to what action had



been taken. The Secretary read the Minutes and the following comments were given:

Bonneau Fish Hatchery - Mr. Webb reported that the building has been re-designed and will go out for bids next week. The architect is still working on the projects for the ponds.

Department Shoulder Patch - Mr. Webb reported that this Committee had met on August 16, 1972, to review some designs, and the Committee has requested some additional designs and revisions. The Committee has not had an opportunity to review the new designs.

Resolution was sent to Representative Goodman and his family expressing its sympathy in their bereavement.

Finance - The Budget Committee met on August 16, 1972, and will submit their report later in the meeting.

Game and Freshwater Fish Report - The report with the recommendations for the use of the lands owned by the Department for the public fishing lakes and fish hatcheries had been duplicated and was presented to each Commissioner at this meeting.

The lease agreement for three tracts of land within the AEC plant area for wild turkey trapping and re-stocking area has not yet been signed. The lease agreement came in and was sent back to the AEC Savannah River Plant. The attorney for the AEC was concerned about the liability part of the agreement. The AEC attorney and Assistant Attorney General Ed Latimer were to meet and make recommendations regarding this agreement and send the agreement back to Mr. Ryan.

Mr. Ryan reported that a plan for the use of approximately 6,000 acres that had been condemned by the GAS has now been completed and sent to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in Atlanta for their comments and recommendations.

Marine Resources Report - Dr. Joseph reported there had been no further contact from the colleges concerning the implementation of a Masters program. Mr. Eltzroth asked Dr. Joseph if he had checked with the other members comprising the consortium and if not, would he, and if it did not meet with the unanimous approval of the Presidents of the other colleges, please advise the Commission.

The Secretary wrote a letter of appreciation to Mrs. Doris Akers.



Unclassified Items

Mr. Welch reported that the Rule and Regulation requesting zoning of Wells Marina on Lake Murray has been implemented.

Mr. Ryan had not completed the Game Zone changes. The Chairman requested the report be ready by December and presented to Senator Dennis and Representative Goodman.

Fish Kill at Three and Twenty Creek - Mr. Latimer reported no action has been instituted in regard to the fish kill, but will be instituted immediately.

Mr. Glenn moved the adoption of the Minutes as read without objection. This action was so ordered.

HEARING - Oyster Lease (Jennings Thames)

Dr. Timmerman explained that Mr. Thames would like to assign his Oyster Lease Number 20 to the Carolina Seafood Corporation at McClellanville. The opposition had been notified of the hearing. The opposition was not represented at this hearing. The Chairman informed Mr. Thames that the Commission would reserve its decision until a later date and would advise him of their decision at some later date.

HEARING - Oyster Lease (Gerald Baker)

Mr. Latimer reported that he had attempted to serve a Rule to Show Cause on Gerald Baker but Mr. Baker had left the state. Mr. Latimer recommended that the Commission go forward with the cancellation of the Baker lease. Mr. Latimer stated that Gerald Baker had been put on notice by Registered Mail. The Chairman stated that the Commission would reserve a decision to be reached in the Executive Session.

Finance Report

A special meeting of the Budget Committee was held in Columbia on August 16, 1972. Minutes of this meeting were taken and distributed to each member of the Commission. A copy of these Minutes is attached hereto and made a part of the Commission Minutes.

Mr. Webb presented the monthly summary of the financial report. The Financial Summary is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

Senator Dennis moved that the Chairman appoint a Committee of the Commission to confer with the appropriate committees of the House and Senate to consider the possibilities of using County Funds and report the results of their meetings to the Commission. This motion was carried and the Chairman charged to appoint such a Committee.



Mr. Glenn recommended that the approval or disapproval of the proposed budget be withheld until Executive Session.

Marine Resources Report

Dr. Timmerman reported that Governor West had visited the Marine Center on July 26. After touring the facilities, he visited on a shrimp trawler. During his visit, he requested research be done on the beach erosion problem.

A meeting on beach erosion was held at the Marine Resources on August 10. A second meeting will be held sometime in November.

Dr. Timmerman reported that he had been elected Chairman of the Coastal States organization, a group that consisted of gubernatorially appointed delegates.

Dr. Timmerman has also been appointed a member of the Advisory Committee to the National Marine Fishery.

A copy of Dr. Timmerman's report is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes.

Charlie Bearden, Chief, OMCMS, reported that checks of the shrimp population in the sounds and bays of coastal South Carolina had been made, and the results of these samples indicated it was practical to allow three areas to open to trawling on the usual date of August 15. It was recommended that Winyah Bay and Santee Bay be kept closed. This recommendation was prompted by the presence of small shrimp. An order to this effect was approved by the Commission Chairman on August 11.

A copy of Mr. Bearden's report is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes.

Mr. Bearden was instructed to immediately relate proper information to Mr. Ryan when any order was released setting forth a particular season. Dr. Timmerman stated that this problem had been brought to his attention in a previous staff meeting, and he assured the Commission that all such information would be made available to Mr. Ryan.

Dr. Joseph made a report on behalf of the Marine Research Laboratory. He stated that at this time the Lab is approximately 75% operational, and research projects are being initiated and pursued as vigorously as possible. He stated that Dr. Mac Shealy has been added to the staff.

Dr. Joseph made note of the fact that the two appointments recently received by Dr. Timmerman are worthy of special note and that Dr. Timmerman should be congratulated on receiving these appointments.

A copy of Dr. Joseph's report is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes.



Appointments

Mr. Webb requested that these be taken up in Executive Session.

At this time, Senator Dennis asked to make a few comments. He stated that there was a rumor going around in the legislative halls that legislatively and commission-wise, the State is appropriating more money to marine resources than it is to game and freshwater fish. Senator Dennis said that he knew this was untrue but nevertheless, there was this rumor. He stated that this rumor needed to be dispelled. Chairman Eltzroth requested the Executive Director to have available at the next Commission meeting information prepared to present a realistic picture of things in the Department to show where the money is coming from and to know where it is going.

Game and Freshwater Fish

Mr. Ryan presented the report for his Division. He called special attention to the Boating Safety Survey which was conducted July 1 - 9, 1972. He stated that this had been a very successful endeavor on the part of the people involved and contributed largely to a very safe holiday. There was only one fatality reported.

Mr. Ryan reported that the Law Enforcement Section is now in the process of devising an outline detailed program for the Conservation Officers in the coastal counties teaching them problems of the marine areas and techniques of enforcement. This training program is expected to be at least a year in duration with periodic up dating.

Mr. Ryan complimented Mac Watson on compiling the Resources Management Plan which was presented to each Commissioner at the meeting.

The problem of littering has been brought to the attention of the Director of Game and Freshwater Fish and Joe Logan reported that he contacted all counties around the Santee-Cooper lakes to use their trucks to pick up this trash. He reported that one or two of the counties are helping with this problem and when trucks are available, possibly this problem will be taken care of.

General Harris inquired of Mr. Webb the status of the Jack's Hole project near Bonneau. Mr. Webb replied that he had filed a request for a lease on this property with the Public Service Authority but he has received no answer to this request.

Projects Report - Gerald Moore

Mr. Moore reported that he was involved in a project to determine the status of the deer in the coastal area and to use this as a basis for more sound resource management. He showed some interesting slides along with his presentation.



UNCLASSIFIED ITEMS

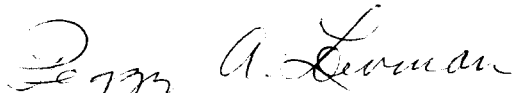
A motion was made by Senator Dennis that the charge for the South Carolina Wildlife magazine be changed to reflect the price of \$5.00 for three years in addition to the \$2.00 per year as previously voted on by the Commission. Mr. Glenn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Eltzroth reported that Father O'Sullivan and a group of boys will spend the weekend of September 22nd at Belmont. Several members of the staff will be present and Chairman Eltzroth invited all members of the Commission to attend, if possible.

Chairman Eltzroth suggested to the Commission that a Committee be appointed to work with Charlie Bearden and the Legislature toward the proposition of an acceptable Bait Shrimp Law that the Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission can get passed. Senator Dennis moved that the Saltwater Committee of the Commission consider this matter. This was seconded by Mr. Rhame. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 P. M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Peggy A. Lowman
Acting Secretary

Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission

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Aug 18, 1972

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission approved the budget as recommended by the Executive Director and staff subject to an amended budget being presented to the Budget and Control Board after September 15th and instructed the Executive Director to have his staff to present that revised budget to the Commission as soon as he possibly could.

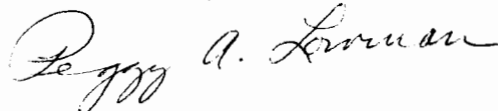
The Commission re-states its policy on Conservation Officers' age as employing no one who will be or was 40 years of age on his nearest birthday.

The Commission has directed the Chairman to contact the State Auditor, P. C. Smith, and request that his office review the accounting procedures of the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department and request any suggestions from his office as to changes that may be indicated.

The Commission agreed to request of the General Assembly capital improvement bond funding in the amount of \$600,000 for the second phase of the Bonneau project and also \$600,000 for the second phase of the Marine Resources Center project.

The Appointments as presented by the Executive Director for non-pay game wardens were approved. Three Conservation Officers were approved, including Amos L. Gourdine of Berkeley County.

Respectfully Submitted,



Peggy A. Lowman, Acting Secretary
Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission

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