

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
August 18, 1989
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., August 18, 1989 in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., with Chairman Burnside presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Burnside, Drummond, Compton, Pendarvis, Owen, Miller, Stokes, Thomason and Bennett. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Sonny Baines, Brock Conrad, Paul Sandifer and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed all guests to the meeting.

ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the July 21, 1989 regular Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commissioners that he had a nice trip to Africa and would share additional information with them in the future.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Department's Budget Hearing would be held on September 6, 1989, at 11:00 A.M., in Room 105 of the Gressette Building and he invited all of the Commissioners to attend this Budget Hearing.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Law Enforcement Awards Banquet would be held at 1:00 P.M., in Columbia at The Town House Hotel following the regular Commission Meeting on this date.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a letter to the Commission on the Conservation Officer hiring procedure from the Division of Human Resources Management who noted that we are following the proper procedures and recommended that we consider adding a minority to the Law Enforcement Hiring Panel.

Dr. Timmerman distributed to the Commission, a copy of the Vehicle Accident Report for their information.

ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins noted that the staff is preparing a document on a Legislative Plan which will be presented to the Commission at their next meeting. Mr. Dobbins also noted that an Ad Hoc Committee composed of members of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee and the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee has been appointed to review the proposed saltwater fishing license.

ITEM IV - OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Hunting Program for Sampson Island: Commissioner Owen noted that this matter would be deferred until the next Commission Meeting.

B. Conservation Officer Distribution Study: Larry Cartee presented an overview of the Conservation Officer Distribution Study to the Commission and noted that the Division of Research and Statistical Services had completed a report. Mr. George Fowler and Mr. Allen Spence of the Division of Research and Statistical Services went over this report and presented their findings to the Commission. Following discussion, Commissioner Drummond moved for the Commission to receive this report as information for additional work. The motion was seconded by the Commission and adopted. Dr. Timmerman noted that we need to take this study and come up with a list of priority needs for Conservation Officer positions in the near future.

ITEM V - NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed 1989-90 Waterfowl Hunting Season: Brock Conrad presented a video tape which provided an overview and outlook concerning the upcoming waterfowl season. Mr. Conrad noted that the outlook for the upcoming season is not very good and he went over various aspects of the upcoming season which were shown in the video. Mr. Conrad noted that the proposed 1989-90 waterfowl hunting season and regulations had been mailed to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad went over this proposal noting that we have gotten back the one-half hour shooting before sunrise which we did not have last year. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the 1989-90 waterfowl hunting season and regulations as presented by Mr. Conrad.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves discussed the Department's vacancy factor and noted that we have received a response from the State Budget and Control Board concerning this

matter. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have a complete freeze on hiring individuals on State funds.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that the DU Foundation has purchased The Cut and the Budget and Control Board has approved the Department purchasing this property from the DU Foundation.

Mr. Conrad also noted that engineering studies are being prepared for renovations on the Styx and Cheraw Fish Hatcheries.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was no report from this Division this month.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Linda Renshaw presented an update on the Outdoor Ethics Program and also informed the Commission that a recycling program is being started in the Columbia Office.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer invited the Commission to attend the Open House at the Marine Center on August 25th and also noted that the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fair will be held at the Marine Center on September 16-17. Dr. Sandifer also noted that the shrimp baiting season will open on September 15, 1989. Commissioner Pendarvis asked about the status of use of shrimp baiting funds for law enforcement and it was noted that a plan for the use of these funds is currently being prepared.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen went over the items discussed at the recent Advisory Board Meeting and noted that an item dealing with commercial bait had been referred to the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board for their action.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Stokes noted the Board met on August 10, 1989 and received a report from a Committee that had been reviewing the operation of personalized watercraft by minors. Commissioners Stokes noted that the Board recommended to the Commission that legislation be sought which would prohibit children under 12 years of age from operation a personalized watercraft unless the child is accompanied by and supervised by an adult 18 years or older, or unless the child has successfully completed a boating safety course approved by the Department. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion whereby the Chairman would appoint a Committee of the Commission to come up with proposed legislative guidelines concerning this matter.

Commissioner Stokes noted that the Board had discussed a proposal to extend for forty-five (45) days, the time that it is legal to

import and sell white perch in this state and he noted that the Board had recommended this proposal. Commissioner Stokes moved for the Commission to endorse this proposal and following discussion, the Commission noted that this matter should be reviewed further for any possible future action by the Commission.

3. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Thomason noted the Board met on June 30th at Camp Wildwood and he went over the items discussed at the Board Meeting. Don Winslow gave an update on the third phase of the Camp Wildwood program and he also informed the Commission that *PROJECT WILD* is doing extremely well in the Department.

4. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board met on August 4, 1989 and he went over the items discussed.

Commissioner Pendarvis noted the Board recommended the support of a Shrimpers' Association proposal to change the law to allow the sale of shrimp license year-round rather than just during the month of January.

Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board reviewed the nighttime finfish trawling matter as requested by the Law Enforcement Advisory Board and recommended that this be left as it currently is for one (1) year in order to study the matter. Commissioner Stokes noted that he would take this matter under consideration with the next meeting of the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board. Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the laws regarding the distance that trawlers for shrimping are allowed to be from the beach varies along the coast and he asked the Law Enforcement staff to review this matter to see if we can come up with some uniform laws and legislation concerning this variation.

5. Heritage Trust: Commissioner Compton noted that the Board met on August 10th, but he did not have any items to report for action.

D. Other Remarks: Chairman Burnside noted that various questions have developed concerning the radio system and that he was asking Commissioner Miller to study the radio system and answer some of the questions that have evolved.

Commissioner Pendarvis noted that he had received several complaints regarding professional hunting guides in South Carolina and he asked the staff to review this matter.

At this time, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside announced that at this time, the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the reappointments and appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers as presented (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) with the reappointments of Henry Cram and Woodrow Lewis being deleted, approving the appointment of Buford Mabry as a Conservation Officer, and approving the DWCO appointment of Virgil E. Dugan with statewide authority. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to authorize the establishment of a Conservation Officer Intelligence Position within the Division of Law Enforcement & Boating. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

E. Appointments: This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia on September 15, 1989.

ITEM VI - ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was adopted to adjourn the meeting.

