

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
August 19, 1982
1:30 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Room 335 of the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., at 1:30 p.m., on August 19, 1982, with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Webster, Compton, Harrelson, Owen, Quackenbush, Dawson, Stubbs, Altman and Dennis. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Dr. Joseph, Jeff Fuller, Pat Ryan, Sonny Baines and various other staff. Guests at the meeting included Ben Whetstone, George Ballentine and Chip Polk of the Land Resources Commission, Roy Faulks of the Marine Advisory Board, Al Dozier of the "Greenville Piedmont", Mike Rowe of the Governor's Office of Natural Resources and George W. Fletcher of Greenville.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and called for a moment of silent prayer remembering especially the late Chairman J. Drake Edens, Jr. Chairman Webster introduced and welcomed all guests at the meeting.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Compton moved to dispense with the reading of the regular and executive session minutes of the July 16, 1982 Commission meeting and approve them as submitted. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that Chairman William Webster has been appointed to the Commission by the Governor and we look forward to working with him as a Commission member and as Chairman.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the boat ramp at Santee Reserve has been used by club members and some hunters in getting to their property. He stated that letters were sent to various people last year to allow use of the ramp during the last duck season and efforts have been made by the Department to locate an alternate site to construct a ramp. A site for a ramp has been identified, but safety problems and inability to secure some adjacent property have precluded this site from being developed. Dr. Timmerman noted we are dealing with an attorney on one

individual wanting to continue using the ramp. Dr. Timmerman asked for the Commission's guidance and if they wanted to hear from any of the people that want to continue use of this ramp. Following discussion, the Commission noted the ramp will be closed unless anyone wants to appear before the Commission to justify their selective use of the ramp rather than it being open to the general public. Dr. Timmerman stated that he would contact the appropriate individuals regarding this matter.

Dr. Timmerman discussed various problems with the South Island Ferry, noting it has been out of operation for about two months. A bridge and various other options have been looked into regarding this problem. Commissioner Dennis noted he has talked to one or two other Commissioners about cutting timber on the property to build a bridge and he asked Chairman Webster to appoint a committee to look into this approach.

Dr. Timmerman noted the question was raised about memorializing the late Chairman J. Drake Edens, Jr. and he recommended that Chairman Webster appoint a committee to develop a recommendation. Chairman Webster appointed Commissioners Harrelson and Dawson to look into this matter and report back to the Commission at its September meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that at the last meeting, former Chairman Edens stated that he wanted the staff to look into the report concerning the recent Captain's resignation in District #5. Staff has looked at this closely and at this time or time in the future, no further administrative action is necessary. Dr. Timmerman stated that from an administrative standpoint, this matter is over and closed.

Dr. Timmerman expressed his appreciation for the Commission's attendance at the budget hearing earlier in the day. He noted that he felt our budget presentation was well received.

Dr. Timmerman expressed thanks to Commissioner Harrelson for welcome remarks he made at the recent meeting of the Atlantic Flyway Council meeting hosted by the Department in Charleston.

Dr. Timmerman requested that the budget be an item on the agenda for the next meeting in order to set priorities and seek guidance from the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that with anticipated budget cutbacks, some advice and guidance from the Commission is needed in order to prepare for implementation.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that we are hosting the IAFWA/AFS Conference from September 19-25, 1982, at Hilton Head and the Commissioners are invited to attend.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Division of General Services is looking at a new radio system and he suggested they be present at the September meeting to discuss this matter.

Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that an Executive Session will be held following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Appearance - Committee for Preservation of Lake Oak Grove:

Commissioner Stubbs noted that members of the Dove Creek Community Club have expressed an interest in getting the dam at Lake Oak Grove repaired. The Committee for Preservation of Lake Oak Grove has been formed and Mr. George Fletcher is present to make their recommendations to the Commission. Mr. George Fletcher presented an in-depth discussion of this matter and presented their recommendations to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Fletcher suggested that it would be beneficial to get the initial design and cost work done first. Dr. Timmerman noted that our primary interest in the lake is for fishing purposes and the county and other state agencies should be involved in the other recreational aspects of this proposal. He noted that we will be willing to work with other groups to develop a project in this area. Chairman Webster noted that the time has come for the Commission to say what can and cannot be done.

B. Impoundment Committee Report: Commissioner Compton noted this committee has been working since February and new guidelines have been developed to be used in the place of previous criteria used to evaluate impoundments in the Department. Commissioner Compton distributed these proposed guidelines to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Dawson moved for the Commission to adopt these impoundment guidelines as recommended. Commissioner Altman seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

C. Commission Policies: Dr. Timmerman noted that the proposed changes in various Commission policies were distributed at the last meeting. Larry Cartee discussed this matter with the Commission, noting these changes would help in developing an updated Commission policy manual. (Copy of proposed changes in Commission policies attached to original Commission Minutes.) On the DWCO policy dated

January 1, 1977, page 2 of 3, item #1, line 4, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the word "shall" to be changed to "may". Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Following other discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt the proposed change in Commission policies as recommended and as amended by the previous motion. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed 1982-83 Waterfowl Seasons: Brock Conrad noted the proposed 1982-83 waterfowl regulations and seasons had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). These were discussed by the Commission and Commissioner Dawson suggested some study be given on mottled ducks to determine where we are going. Dr. Timmerman noted that the duck stamp money could be used for such a study. Following other discussion, Commissioner Dawson moved for the Commission to adopt these seasons and regulations as recommended. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Bobby Gifford informed the Commission that the luncheon for the Conservation Officer of the Year Awards will be on October 15th at the Carolina Inn in Columbia.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we are having some maintenance and repair problems with our aircraft and this will be discussed and reported upon at the next Commission meeting. Dr. Timmerman also suggested that some legislation be developed to dispose of confiscated planes, boats, etc., and use the funds for special law enforcement and security needs in association with SLED, Governor's Conference, etc. Commissioner Dennis noted that he and Commissioner Altman will be glad to pursue this on behalf of the Commission when such legislation is developed.

4. Information and Public Affairs: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: There was nothing further to report.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted the Board met recently and he went over the minutes of the meeting. Jeff Fuller stated the Board discussed the concept of combining the GMA brochure and the Hunting and Fishing Regulations into one pamphlet,

rather than two separate brochures. Commissioner Quackenbush noted the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board has approved this concept and he moved for the Commission to adopt this concept. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush noted the Board met on August 15th and he went over items discussed at the meeting. One item discussed was "Operation Game Thief" and information on this was distributed to the Commission. Following discussion, Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to adopt this concept with a refined program to be developed by the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board to be brought back to the Commission for consideration. Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted that the Board met recently in Charleston and Dr. Joseph went over the various items discussed at the meeting.

4. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the Board this month.

D. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman noted this report is in order and a copy has been forwarded to the Chairman.

E. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to carry this matter over into Executive Session.

F. Other Remarks: Commissioner Dawson requested the Commissioners contribute to pay a bill for flowers recently ordered on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Owen asked about the Commission's policy on gun control noting a bill (S.1030) on such by McClure and others is being considered in the Congress. Larry Cartee noted that the Commission adopted a policy on gun control in June 1968. Dr. Timmerman stated the staff will review this and prepare a letter on behalf of the Commission's policy in order to protect the hunter's rights.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting on September 17, 1982, in Columbia.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting, the Commission voted to recess the regular meeting and go into Executive Session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and invited participants into the meeting. Chairman Webster announced that, in Executive Session, the following items were acted upon:

1. The Commission adopted a motion to approve all DWCO and Conservation Officer appointments and re-appointments as distributed and recommended by Dr. Timmerman.
2. The Commission adopted a motion to approve the staff recommendation to promote Robert Morris in Law Enforcement District #5 to Lieutenant from Acting Lieutenant.
3. The Commission adopted a motion for Conservation Officer Larry McLain to secure the proper releases from the individuals concerned with an incident with Officer McLain and for Officer McLain to be evaluated by the appropriate professionals with the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, taking in consideration the Officer's job, hazards, dealing with the public and carrying a firearm, with all this information being presented back to the Commission at its next meeting for consideration unless the staff determines other action is necessary.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve and ratify these actions. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

There being no further business, the Commission adopted a motion to adjourn.