

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

Dutch Plaza Office
Columbia, South Carolina

August 23, 1974

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Dutch Plaza in Columbia, South Carolina on August 23, 1974 at 10:00 a.m. with Chairman Hudson presiding. Commissioners present were Glenn, Boykin, Buchanan, Harris, and Rhame. Others in attendance were Mr. Webb, Dr. Timmerman, John Culler, Wash Belangia, Dr. Joseph, Jeff Fuller, Pat Ryan, Bill Chastain, Charlie Bearden, Dr. Laurent, Bob Joyner, Benny Reeves, Tommy Welch, Bill Cotty, Ed Latimer, Bob Campbell, various other members of the Staff and members of the press.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as mailed out without corrections or additions.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Finance Committee Report: A copy of the Arthur Andersen report regarding the progress on reporting, purchasing, and cash receipts system was passed out to the Commission. Commissioner Glenn reported that the Finance Committee met on August 8th and reviewed the proposed budget. This report was studied at length. The background on state funds and appropriations was discussed and Commissioner Glenn recommends that we should limit ourselves on how much we are going to depend on the state and keep our budget under a certain percentage. The Committee did make a cut in one Division, but it was added back into another Division and the Committee votes to recommend the adoption of it. Commissioner Harris stated that he feels that this is so important, that the entire Commission should have an opportunity to look it over before making a final decision. Chairman Hudson asked Wash Belangia to distribute copies of this to all Commissioners. We do not appear before the Budget and Control Board until October and plan to do a dry-run of the presentation at the next meeting. The Budget and Control Board has requested that we get this information in to them this week. It can be changed if necessary since this is just a tentative budget and not a final one. A motion was made to go ahead and submit this tentative budget to the Budget and Control Board, and the Commission members will review it and make any final changes at the next meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

B. Inventory of State Properties: Dr. Timmerman reported that upon a request from the Commission for a review of state properties Supervisors and Conservation Officers in each County are preparing a list, along with the Attorney Generals office, and double checking on the County Clerk of Courts and putting this inventory together and he feels that this inventory should be complete and accurate. Chairman Hudson requested that this be mailed to the Commission prior to the next meeting.



ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Appearance - Mr. William P. Howell and Mr. F. P. Hill:

Mr. Howell, representing the Shrimpers Association, reported to the Commission the situation on the channel nets. The Shrimpers Association represents the bulk of the shrimp producers in the state. S. C. has long maintained a sanctuary and nursery area for the shrimp to be away from commercial shrimping operations. The channel net was introduced in S. C. several years back and there were no rules and regulations or laws regarding its use in any of our waters. A channel net is a net suspended from the bottom and the shrimp are caught by the tidal flow. The nets were not placed in the sanctuary area at that time. The state, in an effort to control, started issuing permits for channel netters and thereafter designated areas in which to issue the permits. However, these designated areas are still within the sanctuary and nursery areas. This is the main objection that the Shrimpers Association have. They feel these shrimp are being harvested before they are ripe. They feel that the allowing of channel netting in the sanctuary area is doing a great deal of damage to the shrimp crop. They are not against channel netting but nets should be placed in the areas allowed for commercial shrimping only, where they would be just as effective. Mr. F. P. Hill, representing the channel netters told the Commission that he has been in this business for eleven years and has had no objection from the Department. He gave his background on how he got started in this business and stated that he never sold any smaller fish than 60 count. Mr. Bearden, of our Department has investigated this situation and come up with a plan and put the channel netters on the outside, as close to the shrimp boats as they can get without getting in their way. He passed around a map showing the Commission the areas that have been designated. He feels that the channel netters are being discriminated against to a certain degree. Would like for the Commission to make a decision and give them a place. Mr. Bearden, of our Department, told the Commission that they have had a number of meetings with the channel netters and the shrimp fishermen and that he feels that both sides have a legitimate argument. We have taken a number of actions this year in the matter, one being a new permit system restricting areas for channel net fishing. Also, three items of legislation went through this year to provide for improved control on channel netting. At this time with the actions that have been taken, thus far this year, we have not issued any channel net permits. The law now reads that they can't be issued until the sounds and bays are opened. Mr. Bearden passed out a summary of the action to the Commission. Subject to the approval of the other Commissioners, Chairman Hudson wishes to defer this until the next meeting since the Commission is not familiar with this matter. Mr. Bearden will furnish any additional information available to the Commission. We will issue permits this year.

B. Retaining of Architect/Design Firm: Dr. Timmerman stated that the Budget and Control Board now request that we get a bidding procedure on maintenance of state facilities. It is very difficult for us to write specifications for a bidding process and in order to get competitive bids this has to be highly specialized. Requests approval of the Commission to write a letter asking the Budget & Control Board to provide this service to us and if not, would they give us a list of architects that we could



go our for bids on to be put on retainer for a year period or a contract just for the specific purpose of writing these specifications up to go out for bids on these things. There was some discussion on this and the idea that the Budget and Control Board might possibly retain someone for all state agencies. Wash Belangia has talked with Mr. McKetchin and he has on his staff several well qualified engineers, but if it were a large project, he would like to call in the assistance of qualified architects, but there would be a possibility that they could determine the job in General Services. Chairman Hudson stated that this seems to be a staff decision and that this was part of the cost of getting these things done and does not need Commission approval. There was no further discussion on this and therefore, the staff will proceed to check into it.

C. Designating of Dennis Center as Bi-Centennial Project: Mr. Webb stated that each Department was to designate a Bi-Centennial project and he recommends that we designate the Dennis Center. Chairman Hudson suggested that the Governor, PRT and others have indicated that they are going to take the Heritage Trust Program as the Bi-Centennial project for the state, and with our responsibility for the program, that we should take this for a project also. Mr. Webb has no objection to this and we can have more than one project. It was the feeling of the Commission that we should get in touch with other agencies and see what they are planning to do and hold this decision over for the time being.

D. Proposed Zoning Rules and Regulations: Mr. Welch of our Department went over three proposed Rules and Regulations. Two of them are relative to zoning certain portions of waters on Lake Murray. The third regards the adoption of aids to navigation and regulatory markers erected by the Corp of Engineers on the AICW as SCW&MRD aids to navigation. There was a motion made, seconded and passed to adopt these Rules and Regulations. A copy of these Rules and Regulations are attached to and made a part of the original copy of these minutes.

E. Progress Report - Jack's Hole: Dr. Timmerman reported that this is a boat shed on the Santee Lakes for a boat safety program. The Commission, sometime ago, started negotiations and constructing a boat shed down there to place the boat in and recently have obtained all the agreements through the Corp and Public Service Authorities and gone out for bids. Had a low bid on it and we awarded the contract. The building has the floors and studs up and the work is continuing and should be finished before the next Commission meeting.

F. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Game and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller had nothing to add to his report that was mailed out.

2. Boating and Law Enforcement: Commissioner Harris stated that the Advisory Board recommends that the Commission adopt the guidelines prepared by Pat Ryan on non-pay Conservation Officers with the exception that it only be necessary for the recommendation of the Supervisor, Mr. Webb's office and Mr. Ryan's office. Also, the Advisory Board recommends that we come up with some kind of legislation on the issue of our Conservation Officers enforcing trespassing laws. Commissioner Harris has appointed a committee to come up with wording for suggested legislation dealing with restrictions on our officers carrying out these laws on things



other than game violations and would like to bring this up at the next meeting. A motion was made by the Commission to adopt the guidelines on appointing non-pay Conservation Officers as set forth, with the correction that the Supervisor, Mr. Ryan's office and Mr. Webb's office is all it takes to recommend these appointments. The motion was seconded and passed. Also, Commissioner Harris suggested to Mr. Webb, that on letters disapproving appointments, a copy of the criteria be attached showing why they were disapproved.

At the last meeting, the Commission requested that the staff come up with a list of the areas that additional Conservation Officers be placed. The list has been presented to the Commission. It was emphasized that the particular need was in the Game Management areas where we are understaffed. It was suggested that the staff come up with a formula or plan on where additional men are needed. Commissioner Harris stated that he would accept this as an Advisory Board project, with a staff report first. After some discussion, the Commission approved the recommended appointments of the twenty (20) additional men as submitted by the staff.

3. Information & Public Affairs: John Culler had nothing to add to his monthly report, but did show the Commission photographs displayed in the Commission meeting room that were entered in the S. C. Professional Photographers show by Ted Borg and Art Carter. Out of the nine prizes that were given, our men won five of them.

4. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph pointed out to the Commission, that when looking at the budget it would appear that a good deal of revenue resources might be used in the support of Marine Resource, but these grants and contract revenues are not derived from hunting and fishing licenses, but do appear as revenues in the budget. He also reported that he has a News Release that just came out from the Secretary of Commerce announcing a \$370,000 Sea Grant program in S. C. Have received a letter of intent from National Marine Fisheries Service on a slight increase in revenue on Marmouth. Dr. Timmerman reported on the bid opening for the Cooperative Research Center on August 20, 1974. The estimate done by Lockwood-Greene Engineers, who we have a contract with ran right under 1 3/4 million dollars. We received bids for \$2,270,000 and \$2,970,000. Since that time we have received a telegram from the low bidder requesting to withdraw his bid. He stated in the telegram that he was sending additional information by Registered mail. Dr. Timmerman wrote him and told him that we would take this under further consideration after we received his additional information, and in the meantime talk with the Architects and Engineers and ask them to study this and give us a complete analysis by next week. We have thirty days in act upon this.

5. Heritage Trust: Dr. Laurent had nothing to report at this time.

6. Administrative Services: Wash Belangia went over his report with the Commission along with the Arthur Andersen survey summary statement. There are still some small problems to be worked out inhouse. With the new financial reporting system, we are accurate as a daily basis. We can look at the report and know how much and what projects our money is in.



The total cost of the Arthur Andersen project was \$37,723. Our staff was utilized to actually do the work in order to keep the cost down. The County fund report will be included in future reports.

G. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Boating and Law Enforcement: Commissioner Harris has already given his report earlier in this meeting.

2. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph gave this report in the absence of Commissioner Lumpkin. Mr. Marvin Thomas has announced his resignation from the Advisory Board due to an appointment to another board which he felt might cause a conflict. A replacement appointment has been made to fill this position. It was suggested by the Advisory Board that the Commission should go to a more expensive license place which is affixed to shrimp boats. The plate we are now using rust out before the season is over. There were several orders issued in opening and closing seasons and there is no action pending on these. Had a report from Oscar Sullivan on the status of the third aircraft, and the Board strongly recommends this plane to be based on the coast as much as possible. A brief report was given to the Advisory Board on the status of the electro fishing study, but the feeling is that this would be of more concern to the Game & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board and Dr. Joseph would like to be able to report to that Board the next time it meets. Also, there has been a rather severe economic problem imposed on virtually all segments of the shrimp and fisheries this year that are primarily a question of high cost and very low prices for the shrimp at the dock. There have been several moves by some of the shrimping groups and Senator Hollings in attempting to achieve low cost emergency loans and other actions to encourage the Federal Government to use more shrimp in their food programs. The Marine Advisory Board unanimously agreed to bring this to the attention of the Commission for whatever action they want to take on this and encourage this actively through Senator Hollings and Thurmonds office. There was also a report given at this meeting on channel nets and the Board is taking this under advisement.

3. Game & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Rhame reported on a proposal in regard to the Florida or Mottled Duck, which is a non-migratory duck. A report was passed out to the Commission and Jeff Fuller went over it. We have contacted people in Louisiana, Texas and Florida for their comments about the possibility of introducing one or both of these ducks in South Carolina with the idea being that once the young ducks hatch off and learn to fly, the area where they learn to fly they assume to be their home and do not migrate. Commissioner Rhame asked the Commission to take action and allow the Game Department to proceed with this project. Individuals will be allowed to build some pens at their own expense as long as they were under complete control of the Game Department and there would be a trade between us and the other states for these ducks. Motion was made, seconded and passed to proceed on this.

4. Heritage Trust: Dr. Laurent had nothing to report at this time.

CLARKS HILL SITUATION: Commissioner Harris reported that the Wildlife Federation has put in a petition asking for reconsideration on the action



that we took on the Clark Hill Authority project in McCormick County. There will not be any reconsideration by the Commission on the action that was taken. We did not approve or disapprove anything. We simply answered a request of another state agency, realizing that public hearings had to be held on this by the Corp of Engineers before anything could be done. There have been newspaper items criticizing the Wildlife Department, and all we said was that if the Corp of Engineers approves this project, we will not oppose it. We will release it subject to our continued management and this will be continued management past 1978, as long as the Clarks Hill Authorities lease the property, we would have management of that area not being used for development. If we go to 1978 and if the Corp leases this to Clark Hill Authority at that time, we would have no control. We are only talking about some 2,000 acres involved. Not the entire acreage presently under management by our department. We have not given up any of our right to object to this project. We still maintain our position on being able to object or not object based on what does occur.

H. Appointments: New appointments mailed out for salaried Conservation Officers were as follows: Robert Sadler, Horry County; David McSwain, Spartanburg County; Franklin E. Crocker, Cherokee County; Donald B. Hursey, Richland Count; Francis L. Mitchum, Dorchester County; Robert D. Hodges, Beaufort County; Gary Norman Streett, Florence County; Rollins Galloway, Jr., Darlington County; Larry J. Holbrooks, Oconee County. These appointments were approved subject to the Commissioners approval in those districts.

There were some non-pay appointments mailed out. There was discussion on this matter of statewide authority. The Commission approved these non-pay positions subject to approval of Commissioner in those districts, with the idea that in the future, we try to discourage these positions, especially with Statewide Authority.

One non-pay application, not mailed out for Mr. R. R. Thomas, Orangeburg. The Commission left the decision up to Commissioner Rhame after he looks into this further.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned and the Commission went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Stapleton

(Miss) Chris Stapleton,
Secretary to the Commission

