

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
August 9, 1985
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., Room 335, at 10:00 A.M., August 9, 1985, with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included Commissioners Webster, Compton, Thomason, Stokes, Quackenbush, Owen, and Harrelson. Directors and staff present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Sonny Baines, Bill Chastain, Brock Conrad, Paul Sandifer, R. M. Gifford, and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster 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 19, 1985 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that Brock Conrad has been promoted to the Director of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Extensive interviews have been held for the position of Chief of Game Management and Mr. John Frampton has been selected for this position. Dr. Timmerman noted that both individuals have been working hard in these positions.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Department's budget hearing is scheduled on September 5, 1985, at 10:45 A.M., in Room 149 of the Dennis Building.

Dr. Timmerman recommended that the Department's boat ramp at Duck Pond in Berkeley County be named the "Fred L. Day Boat Landing and Handicapped Fishing Facility". The Commission unanimously adopted a motion to approve this recommendation.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Department is sponsoring a seafood cookoff in Charleston.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the South Carolina Waterfowl Symposium will be held at the College of Charleston on August 17, 1985.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will meet October 27-30, 1985, in Lexington, Kentucky. He asked any Commissioners that want to attend to let him know.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion - DWCO Liability: Mr. Cartee noted that a question had been raised about liability coverage for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers. Mr. Cartee noted that Buford Mabry has researched this matter and the DWCOs are covered by the Department's Tort Liability Policy. Commissioner Thomason asked about the type of training that DWCOs receive and it was noted that the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board is reviewing this matter. Mr. Cartee also noted that a question was raised regarding limiting the number of DWCOs to the number of Conservation Officers in the Department. Mr. Cartee noted there is a statute, Section 23-28-10, that limits the number of reserve police officers, but Section 23-28-120 exempts DWCOs from this requirement.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion - 1985-86 Waterfowl Seasons: Brock Conrad distributed a copy of the proposed 1985-86 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations noting that such have been recommended by the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following extensive discussion, the Commission adopted motions to approve the regulations as submitted with the following changes: (a) The last season for ducks would be December 9 - January 13; and (b) In Charleston and Georgetown Counties, there will be no Sunday hunting except the last two Sundays of the season (January 5 and January 12) where Sunday hunting will be allowed. The Commission adopted a motion to approve the blind regulations as submitted for one year. The Commission adopted a motion to approve the shooting hours in the Upper Santee Swamp as submitted. Mr. Conrad noted that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board recommended the prohibition on the use of airboats from October 1 - February 15 in the Upper Santee Swamp area as outlined in the regulations. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will have to determine if we can regulate the use of airboats as approved. In addition, Mr. Conrad noted that a request has been made to provide a special falconry season lasting the maximum number of days in the framework (October 8 - January 13). The Commission adopted a motion to approve this request. Commissioners Thomason and Stokes asked for prior notice on proposals such as special seasons which are submitted to the Commission.

B. FY 1986-87 Budget Proposal: Commissioner Compton noted that the Finance Committee has developed proposed budget requests for FY 1986-87 which has been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Timmerman presented an in-depth discussion of license trends and sales in various categories. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the FY 1986-87 budget request as presented. Benny Reeves noted that we are currently reviewing positions to include under the Fair Labor Standards Act and this procedure will be implemented on September 1, 1985.

C. Proposed Heritage Trust Property Acquisitions: Stu Greeter stated that three proposals for property acquisition were sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Greeter discussed these proposals and recommended that the Commission approve these proposals contingent upon approval of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. The Commission adopted

a motion to approve the recommendation as submitted by Mr. Greeter.

D. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: John Frampton noted that the final plan for the Sumter National Forest has been received and we have until September 16th to submit our comments to the U. S. Forest Service. The Commission noted this is an important matter and should be discussed by the Commission at its next meeting. Commissioner Harrelson noted that he has received a letter from an individual regarding limiting tags for deer for non-resident hunters. Mr. Conrad stated that he has corresponded with this individual on this matter.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing further to report.

4. Conservation, Education and Communications: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer stated that shrimp sampling will continue through the end of the month and the Marine Resources Advisory Board will meet on August 16th. Dr. Sandifer asked the Commission for authority to open the season as early in September as feasible, based on sampling and after polling the Commission. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation by Dr. Sandifer. Dr. Sandifer stated that he would like to put on the agenda for the September meeting, a discussion of different management techniques for the sounds and bays.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen went over the various items discussed at the Board meeting and he asked Joe Logan to provide an update on the Saluda River fish kill. Mr. Logan stated that DHEC has held a show cause hearing with the Greenwood Metropolitan Sewage District to show cause on why they should not be held responsible for the kill. Mr. Logan noted that \$85,000 in damages to fish occurred from this kill. At this time, we are evaluating the procedures on the fish kill as being handled by DHEC. Commissioner Owen stated that this matter points out a need for an environmental coordinator to be aware of where problem areas exist in the state. Commissioner Thomason noted that we are looking at developing a recommendation on this matter and we could possibly use the new D-J funds for a position. This matter will be further discussed at the next Commission Meeting.

2. Magazine Advisory Council: Sonny Baines noted that the Council met on July 26th and he went over items discussed at the meeting.

F. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of the proposed appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission held over from the last meeting, the new DWCO appointment of William T. Chichester and took no action on such pending further investigation. Following other discussion, the Commission approved all appointments and re-appointments as recommended.

G. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commissioners.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting at 1:00 P.M., September 5, 1985, in Columbia. The budget hearing is scheduled at 10:45 A.M. in Room 149 of the Dennis Building on that date.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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