

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza
Columbia, South Carolina

December 16, 1977

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at the Dutch Plaza office in Columbia, South Carolina, at 10:00 a.m. on December 16, 1977 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Others Commissioners present were Bennett, Edens, Buchanan, Trask, Shuler, Lumpkin and Dennis. Directors and staff members present were Dr. Timmerman, Culler, Dr. Beam, Reeves, Dr. Joseph, Cartee, Conrad, Ziegler, Pendarvis, Evans, Kohlsaas, Campbell, Chastain, Gifford and various others staff members. Guests present were Frank Caggiano, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Coy Johnson, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board, Marvin Davant and Jonathan Kronsberg representing Ducks Unlimited.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no call for Executive Session.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Edens noted the following corrections to the Minutes of the November 1977 Commission Meeting: Appointments for paid and non-paid Conservation Officers are for two (2) years. Dr. Timmerman was asked to see if the paper work could be reduced on the Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer appointments after a two year cycle was completed on them rather than a one year cycle. It should be noted that applications on two (2) of the four (4) officers recommended for the positions in Horry, Georgetown, Charleston and Colleton Counties to be funded by the Coastal Council were mailed out to the Commission during the month of November. These applications were for James R. Warko of Colleton County and Troy Craig Campbell of Horry County. They were reviewed by the Commission and approved November 25, 1977 by no objection. The recommendations on the other two officers will be handled in the normal procedure at a regular Commission Meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Edens to approve the Minutes of the November 1977 Commission meeting with the above corrections. The motion was seconded and passed.

ITEM II. ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF CHECK TO DUCKS UNLIMITED REPRESENTATIVE

A check in the amount of \$14,728.00 was presented to officials of Ducks Unlimited, Marvin Davant, Jonathan Kronsberg and Coy Johnson. This check represents a proportionate share of non-resident hunting licenses sold in fiscal year 76-77. Mr Davant expressed appreciation on behalf of DU for the cooperation and help received from the Department.

ITEM III. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman passed out a list of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers who failed to attend the training session and make-up training session stating that Pat Ryan had mailed letters to each of these individuals asking why they did not attend the training session. This list shows replies received from each individual, if any. Dr. Timmerman recommended that those with reasonable excuses given be allowed to take the make-up session and that all other Commissions be allowed to expire since they have committed no violations, rather than to revoke these Commissions. If these individuals so desire to apply for another Commission at a later date, they may do so. Commissioner Trask made a motion to accept Dr. Timmerman's recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed. Commissioner Edens recommended that the motion be amended to read that these individuals be notified that if prior to the normal expiration of their existing Commission they do attend the training session, then their Commission will be eligible to be continued. Commissioner Trask stated that he would accept this amendment to his motion. This was seconded and passed.

Dr. Timmerman suggested that a Committee be appointed to look into legislative matters and that a special meeting be held to go over these matters indepth. Chairman Hudson stated that he feels that a special meeting should be held with all Commissioners who so desire attending the meeting. Chairman Hudson instructed Dr. Timmerman to set up a meeting the first part of January and to advise all Commissioners of the date, time and place and those who would like to can have input into the matter. Dr. Timmerman introduced Dan Dobbins who has recently joined the Department staff primarily as legislative liason.

Dr. Timmerman stated that he is not satisfied with the financial reports presently being furnished to the Commission. Under the new computer system a more complete report can be furnished and he asked that Mr. Reeves give a report on this matter when he gives his Division report. Also, Dr. Timmerman requested that a meeting be held with the Finance Sub-Committee so that Mr. Reeves can go over this matter and it can be presented at a future Commission Meeting.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the original Stevens Creek Dedication Agreement which was signed by all Commissioners has been misplaced and requested that the Commissioners sign another copy of the Agreement.

Dr. Timmerman asked Freddie Ziegler to report on the Bulls Bay Oyster Lease. Ziegler reported that an order was signed by Judge Stoney referring the dispute back to the Commission. It will be necessary to hold a hearing on the matter to resolve it. Commissioner Dennis asked whether or not one or two Commissioners could hear the matter and report back to the full Commission. Ziegler

stated that if a majority hearing is not held, the Commissioners not present at the hearing could review the record and this could be acknowledged in the order and this should stand. Commissioner Dennis made a motion that this hearing be held following the February Commission meeting at 2:00 pm. The motion was seconded and passed.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Capers Island Dedication Agreement: Dr. Beam passed around the new copy of the Stevens Creek Dedication Agreement for the Commissioner's signatures. Dr. Beam also reported that a draft copy of the Capers Island Dedication Agreement was given to the Commissioners at the November 1977 Commission Meeting for their review. This has been discussed fully with legal counsel and everything is in order. If there are no questions from the Commission concerning this, then the Dedication Agreement can also be executed. There were no questions from the Commission regarding this matter, therefore, the Agreement was executed. Dr. Beam passed out copies of the deeds in connection with these Dedication Agreements for the Commission's review. At the next meeting these deeds will be discussed. The Governor will be accepting a deed from Duke Power in January or February.

B. Update on Public Hearing: John Culler reported that Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller and he got together and talked about the hearing to be held and they feel that it would best be handled similar to a Corp of Engineers hearing. It would be advertised and anyone who would like to come and talk about the responsibility of the Wildlife Department would be welcome. A moderator would be used, possibly a member of the Commission, and those wishing to speak would be asked to sign a register. Those persons desiring to speak would be allotted a certain amount of time to speak after which the Commission would answer any questions. Forms will be provided for those who have specific questions and staff will reply to them in writing. Staff feels that at night or on a weekend would be the best time to hold the hearing in order for a larger segment of the public to be able to attend the meeting. Chairman Hudson stated that he feels that it should be held in the day time hours and while the legislature is in town. Chairman Hudson also suggested getting the Carolina Inn to serve as a meeting place. After discussion, it was decided that the hearing will be scheduled for the day prior to the January Commission Meeting to begin at 1 pm.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves reported that the financial reporting system will be modified slightly to give more detail showing cost by program, expenditures as far as

appropriated money, revenue money and federal money, in addition to saving time. Presently, these reports are being generated by hand. It will take two to three months to get this reporting system working, however, Reeves stated that he would like to meet with the Finance Committee prior to submitting to the Commission. If the Commission does not want this type reporting, staff will continue with the reporting system currently being used, however, will use the new system internally.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad stated that there was nothing to add to the written report.

3. Information & Public Affairs: John Culler reported that The Profile has been completely sold out. Five thousand copies were sold and an additional twenty-five hundred have been ordered. Culler reported that another book, a collection of hunting stories, will be coming out in the spring and should sell equally as well. Culler also reported that magazine subscriptions are running about \$25-30,000 above last year.

4. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain stated that there was nothing to add to the written report.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph stated that there was nothing to add to the written report.

6. Natural Area Acquisition & Resource Planning: Dr. Beam stated that there was nothing to add to the written report.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Edens stated that the Advisory Board met on December 1, 1977 and that the Minutes of that meeting have been distributed to the Commission. The Small Game Program was discussed at the Advisory Board meeting and Dr. Timmerman assured the Board that an individual will be hired for the Small Game Program. The possibility of making the Webb Center the control center for this research working with other Government and private interests was discussed. Dr. Timmerman will bring a preliminary report to the Advisory Board at its next meeting and a finalized report for the Board to consider adopting at the April meeting before being submitted to the full Commission. Also, Mr. Lee Sanders and others from Union County were in attendance at the Advisory Board Meeting concerning rabbit hunting. Commissioner Edens stated that the Board did have a recommendation to make to the Commission concerning rabbit hunting, however, in light of the public hearing planned will hold off until after that hearing. Also, Commissioner Edens requested that it be noted that anything to do with rabbit hunting in the Advisory Board Meeting Minutes has been deferred until after the Public Hearing is held at which time the

subject will be brought up again. Commissioner Edens also reported that the Board heard from some Commercial Fisherman concerning trap sizes, regulations, etc. Commissioner Edens commended Jack Bayless, Brock Conrad, Joe Logan and Jeff Fuller for working out the problems on the traps, etc. and settling the immediate problem at the meeting. The other matters concerning licensing of commercial fishermen, etc. is under study and recommendations will be made at a later date. Commissioner Shuler expressed concern over whether or not the fisheries resource in Lakes Marion and Moultrie are being depleted by the commercial fishermen using the three by six traps. He stated that he feels that the use of the larger trap is being influenced by the Florida people. Brock Conrad stated that it was discussed whether or not it was biologically feasible to deplete the catfish resource by using the larger trap. The fisheries people did not think this would be a problem. Commissioner Dennis suggested that Commissioner Trask's suggestion be followed up and ask Commissioner Edens to hold his next Advisory Board meeting at Eutaw Springs having this topic for discussion so that Commissioner Shuler and those in the area concerned over the matter can come and present their side of the issue. Commissioner Edens stated that he would be happy to do so, however, the February meeting is already scheduled for Charleston. The next meeting can be scheduled for Eutaw Springs and that would give staff time to get together some information for the Advisory Board on the matter. Chairman Hudson asked Commissioner Edens to coordinate this meeting and let those interested people know of the meeting. Bill Chastain stated that these traps were introduced by the Florida commercial fishermen. They used them for several months until Captain Dennis advised that his people started finding these traps. Law Enforcement gave those persons using illegal traps three days to pull their traps and report to the Magistrate and pay \$100 for having an illegal trap. The Commission will await the report of the Advisory Board on the matter.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Boykin was not present at the meeting, therefore, Chairman Hudson reported in his absence that no meeting of this Board was held.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Lumpkin reported that the Minutes of the Advisory Board meeting were distributed and noted that all members were present. Commissioner Buchanan reported that a young man from Camden who is an avid offshore fisherman came to see him and asked if there was anything the Department could do to promote the recreational fishing. Commissioner Lumpkin reported that someone in Marine Resources is assigned to recreational fishing to cover all of the tournaments and provide assistance in any way that we can in weighing, etc. Dr. Joseph reported that very little has been done promotional for anyone, however, we are not opposed to doing so, but just have not had the opportunity. Commissioner Lumpkin stated that in the future more attention will be given to this matter.

4. Heritage Trust: Chairman Hudson reported that no meeting of this Board has been held since the meeting in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy.

C. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that there were no outstanding or marginal evaluations in this report. A copy of the report was given to the Chairman for the file.

D. Appointments: Chairman Hudson reported that he has received twenty-five or thirty letters in response to the letter he sent to the Legislature regarding the new process on the hiring of Conservation Officers. Out of those letters he only received one complaint about the process with that individual stating that he felt that the Legislature should have more input into who the Department hires. Dr. Timmerman went over the recommendations for re-appointment of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion to approve the recommendations of staff. The motion was seconded and passed. There were no re-appointments recommended for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers. Dr. Timmerman went over the recommendations for new appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers. Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion to approve the recommendations as submitted by staff. The motion was seconded and passed. Dr. Timmerman noted that a new appointment not recommended was Doward Jackson Feagin who was not willing to attend the one-week training session. Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion that Mr. Feagin not be appointed. The motion was seconded and passed. Dr. Timmerman stated that there were no re-appointments for Conservation Officers. He went over the recommendations for new appointments for Conservation Officers. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as submitted by staff. The motion was seconded and passed.

E. Other Remarks:

Commissioner Buchanan expressed concern over the law on buying of state vehicles and wondered if anything could be done on this. Commissioner Dennis stated that the best way to handle this would be for the Commission to make a request to General Spence for it to be taken to the Budget and Control Board as to whether or not some exception could be made to the Wildlife Department. Commissioner Edens stated that he feels that the whole vehicle program needs to be looked into. Chairman Hudson requested that this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting and recommendations can be made.

There being no further business at this time, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine S. Murray

Mrs. Christine S. Murray,
Commission Secretary

