

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Board Room - First Floor, Jenkins Hall
The Citadel
Charleston, S. C.
February 13, 1987
10:00 A. M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 a.m., February 13, 1987, in Jenkins Hall at The Citadel, Charleston, S. C., 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, Quackenbush, Stokes, Owen and Harrelson. Directors and Staff present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Paul Sandifer, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain 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 January 16, 1987 Commission Meeting and approved them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that we have experienced a 2.6% budget cut this year and the Budget and Control Board is again meeting and we may experience up to another 1% cut this year. He noted that we have resubmitted our request for exemptions on Law Enforcement and the Magazine and we have noted the severe damage that has occurred to our impoundments at Murphy and Cedar Islands. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has recently been in Washington and asked to serve as Chairman of the Federal Budget Committee for the Department of the Interior. Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of projections on licenses fee revenues and went over this with the Commission. He noted that overall, we have had about an 11½% buyer resistance on hunting licenses and 11.1% buyer resistance on fishing licenses. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Resident WMA permits are off significantly by about 48% for residents and 62% for non-residents. In addition, he noted that we have experienced a significant decrease on sales of the 10-day non-resident fishing licenses. Dr. Timmerman noted that last year on the Sportsmen's license, which was \$22.50, we had allocated \$8.50 of this to the Wildlife Management Area permit. He stated that this year's Sportsmen's license costs \$44.00 and he recommended to the Commission that \$25.00 be allocated for the WMA permit. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommended allocation by Dr. Timmerman. Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission, that with the current projected sales in WMA permits and providing a payment of \$130,000 to the U. S. Forest Service, we



project that we will be able to pay approximately \$1.50 per acre to the WMA Cooperators this year.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we have received numerous requests for information on boat ramps throughout the state and we are developing a boat ramp map, using county maps for distribution.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that he had recently met with the Wildlife Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee and we had a good reception by this subcommittee. He noted that we will be seeking to get funds restored from our budget cut and also making a special effort to secure funds for our aircraft.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that he met with newly-elected Governor Campbell last week and he expressed interest in the wildlife programs in our Department.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that he recently attended the annual awards banquet of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation and he presented a speech to them on the State-of-State of Wildlife in South Carolina.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins presented a brief legislative update and Commissioner Owen asked Mr. Dobbins to keep the Commission updated on proposed legislation that is developed.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion - Shrimp Baiting: Commissioner Harrelson noted that Commissioner Bennett was not able to attend this meeting, but he wanted the Commission to know that he still maintains a position of being opposed to baiting. Commissioner Harrelson noted that the Marine Resources Advisory Board has reaffirmed its position on being opposed to baiting at a recent meeting. Commissioner Harrelson moved that the Commission go on record to recommend to the Legislature proposed legislation to prohibit baiting. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion. Following discussion, the Commission adopted the motion as presented with Commissioners Harrelson, Compton, Owen and Thomason voting in favor of the motion and Commissioners Quackenbush and Stokes voting against the motion.

B. 1987 Objectives: Dr. Timmerman distributed the 1987 Objectives for the Department to the Commission and asked for their input on this matter.

C. Commission Policies: The Commission agreed to carry this agenda item over until the March Meeting.

D. Personnel Study Update and Orientation Program: Benny Reeves presented the Commission with an update on the second quarter progress report on the Personnel Study. In addition, the Commission reviewed a video tape of the Department's new orientation program.



ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Acquisitions - Nipper Creek Archaeological Site and Travelers Rest Bunched Arrowhead Site: Dr. Bruce Rippeteau noted that these proposed acquisitions had been sent to the Commission in the mail (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Rippeteau presented an indepth discussion of both sites, noting the unique characteristics and reasons for seeking acquisition of these sites. Following other discussions, the Commission adopted a motion to approve these two acquisitions as presented.

B. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that Commissioner Stokes has asked the staff to review the deer harvest limit in Game Zones 2 and 7 where there is a current one per day and five per season limit. Mr. Conrad noted that the staff has no problem with removing this limit and Representative Brown will introduce legislation to this effect.

Mr. Frampton noted that the Division has developed a policy on staff involvement with fishing tournaments and we will no longer provide personnel to take weights at these tournaments nor will we honor requests to tag fish unless the tournaments are for non-profit or charitable purposes and such will be done on a cost basis.

John Frampton updated the Commission on storm damage at Murphy Island and Cedar Island, noting that we are seeking Corps funds to make repairs at these sites. Mr. Frampton noted that the National Guard has been made available to do work at the Murphy Island location. Mr. Frampton requested further authorization from the Commission to utilize uncommitted waterfowl stamp contingency funds as needed for making repairs at Murphy Island. Commissioner Stokes moved for the Commission to authorize the staff the requested authorization provided that such does not jeopardize the proposed Springfield Tract acquisition. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Mr. Frampton provided the Commission a preliminary update on the deer survey and presented them with some preliminary figures that have been developed to date. Mr. Frampton noted that final results of this survey will be presented at the March Commission Meeting.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain reported that the staff is developing a new boat ramp map and James Duke went over the proposed plans and cost for this project with the Commission.

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

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer informed the Commission that the Division has changed its policy on providing staff for fishing tournaments, noting that we would no longer be providing weigh-masters at these tournaments, but the



staff would provide workshops to train people on weighing fish and identification. Dr. Sandifer informed the Commission that Gene Smoak is doing quite well and John Miglarese has been appointed to serve as Acting Deputy Director of the Division. Dr. Sandifer informed the Commission that the Seafood Challenge Cookoff will be held on March 25-28, 1987.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was no report from the Board this month.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board met yesterday and discussed several items. Commissioner Owen noted the Board discussed the state doe quota system established by the Commission and he asked the Commission to reaffirm its position in support of the criteria included in the current system and made such a motion to do so. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.
3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Harrelson noted the Board had met and endorsed Representative Foxworth's bill on the wholesale selling of seafood. In addition, Commissioner Harrelson reported that regulations are being filed to make trawling efficiency devices mandatory in South Carolina.
4. Heritage Trust: There was nothing further to report.
5. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Thomason noted this Board will meet next month.

D. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commission. At this time, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss legal, personnel and contractual matters. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that the Commission will now recess the regular meeting to hold an Executive Session to discuss legal, personnel and contractual matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Chairman Webster asked Commissioner Harrelson to report on the actions taken in Executive Session. Commissioner Harrelson reported that the Commission adopted motions to take the following actions:

1. The Commission adopted a motion to approve all appointments and re-appointments and a dismissal of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers as presented (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).



2. The Commission adopted a motion to authorize the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries to proceed with a contractual arrangement for the exchange of turkeys with the State of Texas upon a recommendation presented by the State Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation.

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

E. Appointments: This matter 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 March 20, 1987 and the Commission further agreed to meet on April 17, 1987 at Bonneau in conjunction with the dedication of the St. Stephens Fish Hatchery.

VI. ADJOURN

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

