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MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
February 18, 1983
10:00 A.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 10:00 A.M., on February 18, 1983, 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 and Stubbs. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Ed Joseph, Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Sonny Baines, and various other staff. Guests at the meeting included Walter Brashier and Ray Lathan of Greenville, Dr. Jackie Jacobs of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Ann Nolte of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Bill Morse and Chester McConnell of the Wildlife Management Institute, Danny Johnson of the South Carolina Water Resources Commission, Bill Brisendine of Columbia, Robert Lindsay of the South Carolina Bow Hunters Association, Jim Hendricks of Easley, Herbert Sikes of Irmo, and Trish Jerman of the Governor's Office.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and introduced all guests at the meeting.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission approved a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the January 25, 1983 Commission meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that he was in Washington recently to review various reductions in the federal budget. A brief on budget reductions for the IAFWA is being developed and we will develop an analysis of how the budget reductions will affect Department programs. Dr. Timmerman stated that he will be back in Washington on March 10th and 11th to testify at budget hearings and meet with the staff of the Congressional Delegation. The slideshow on economic values of hunting and fishing will be shown to various people at this time.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the groundbreaking ceremony for the Waddell Mariculture Center is scheduled for March 7th.

At the same time, a dedication of boat ramps on the Chechessee and Colleton Rivers will be held. Dr. Timmerman noted that he had written the Commission requesting that the ramp on the Colleton River at Victoria Bluff be named in honor of former Commissioner Harold E. Trask and that the ramp on the Chechessee River be named in honor of former Commissioner Edgar C. Glenn. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to name these ramps as recommended. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a letter to the Commission from Governor Riley inviting them to a training seminar in Columbia on March 18th.

Trish Jerman advised the Commission that a copy of the Governor's Environmental Message to the General Assembly has been distributed for their information.

Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss a personnel matter and an investigation by the Department. Commissioner Compton 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 a personnel matter and receive a report on an investigation.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins noted a bill (S.111) on night shining has been filed by Senator Land and there are some concerns by law enforcement on this bill. The Commission instructed the staff to talk to the bill's author to discuss the enforcement problems associated with this bill.

Mr. Dobbins discussed H.2072 relating to a liability matter on a person's land which has some implications for public hunting on private land. Following discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the staff to explore our concerns with this bill and point out the problems to public hunting with Representative Rawl. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Mr. Dobbins noted that another bill (H.2174) for a September 1 deer season had been filed. The Commission held hearings on such a proposal last year and at that time, the Commission decided that no change should be made in the law. Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to stand by its prior feelings and not recommend opening of the deer season on September 1. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Mr. Dobbins discussed H.2346 regarding the points system which would change the law where a person would only lose hunting or fishing privileges if enough points were accumulated. There are administrative problems with this bill. Following discussion, Commissioner Quackenbush moved for the Commission to oppose this bill. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Harrelson asked about a bill which would require itinerate seafood dealers on the coast to be licensed. This was discussed and Dr. Joseph noted that the proposal will be further reviewed at the next Marine Advisory Board meeting.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Law Enforcement Study: Dr. Timmerman introduced Chester McConnell and Bill Morse of the Wildlife Management Institute who are conducting a study of the law enforcement program. Mr. McConnell noted the study is going well and a report should be made available by late April or early May. Dr. Timmerman noted that Mr. McConnell and Mr. Morse will be available following the Commission meeting for discussions with any Commissioners.

B. Proposed Rule and Regulation Procedure: Dan Dobbins noted this proposal was distributed at the last Commission meeting and this past month was set aside to review this proposal. Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt this procedure as recommended at the January 25, 1983 meeting. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

C. Request for Easements and Exchange of Property: Buford Mabry noted a request from Dr. Robert Morrison was presented at the last meeting, but this will be deferred at the request of his attorney.

Mr. Mabry stated that a request had been made from Mr. Walter Brashier for a 50-ft. easement for ingress and egress at Lake Oak Grove. Mr. Brashier and his attorney, Mr. Ray Lathan, made a presentation on their request to the Commission. Following this presentation, Chairman Webster advised Mr. Brashier and Mr. Lathan that the Commission will consider their request and advise them of their decision.

Mr. Mabry advised the Commission that requests have been made to use the State Field Cemetery located on the Department's land at Webb Center. This is an old cemetery dating back to plantation days and has been used periodically by family members in the area. Sumter Moore noted the total area where the graves are located includes about 100 graves and encompasses about 1.05 acres. Following extensive discussion, Commissioner Quackenbush moved for the Department to square up and mark this 1.05-acre area and let it be known that

when this space is filled, there would no longer be room available for burials. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Results of Hearings on Man-Drives: Sumter Moore distributed a memorandum (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) on the results of the man-drive hearings and went over the figures which were tabulated. The ballots and results of the hearings will be given to the appropriate people in the General Assembly. Following discussion, Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to reaffirm its position to prohibit drivers from carrying weapons on man-drives on GMA lands and to prohibit man driving on either sex days on GMA lands. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

E. Discussion of Man-Drive Definition: Jeff Fuller noted the Commission had been sent a man-drive definition as follows: "A man-drive is defined as an organized hunting technique involving two or more individuals whereby an attempt is made to drive game animals from cover or habitat for the purpose of shooting, killing or moving such animals toward other hunters." Mr. Fuller noted that not all the staff was in agreement with this definition and he distributed to the Commission, an alternate definition for consideration (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt the definition sent out to the Commission (and so stated above). Commissioner Quackenbush seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Naming of Boat Ramps: Chairman Webster noted the Commission has already acted on this matter.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves advised the Commission that the application form for the disability license has been revised to require the doctor's signature and his registered code number. This is being sent to the Chairmen of the Advisory Boards for their review.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Tom Kohlsaas reported that an Alligator Report has been developed and efforts will be made to reclassify the alligator. Mr. Kohlsaas noted this process will probably take about eighteen (18) months to complete.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Pat Ryan advised the Commission that the Hunter Education Program has been recognized by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies as one of the

ten (10) best programs in the nation. Jim Mills, Steve Rainey and Charlie Snider were recognized by Mr. Ryan for their work in receiving this award.

4. Information and Public Affairs: Sonny Baines distributed, to the Commission, a recent editorial in the newspaper on the Hampton Fund.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph advised the Commission that the 1982 seafood production was the second highest year on record in terms of dockside value. Dr. Joseph also noted the Commission usually holds its April meeting in Charleston to meet with shrimpers.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board met on February 9th and discussed the grass carp, but deferred any action until its April meeting. Commissioner Owen noted that the Board endorsed the concept of a mottled duck study and he moved for the Commission to endorse the concept of this study with the mechanics of such being worked out through rearranging existing personnel. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman stated that the duck stamp funds could be used for this study.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush noted that the Board met on February 10th. An investigation in law enforcement was discussed and a proposed reciprocal fishing license on Lake Wylie was considered, but this is not being recommended by the Board.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted that the Board will meet on March 11th.

4. Heritage Trust: This Board met yesterday and a report will be made next month to the Commission.

D. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve all of these recommendations as made, including the appointment of Johnny L. Spell as a Conservation Officer in Colleton County.

E. Other Remarks: Dr. Jackie Jacobs noted she is retiring next week and she expressed her pleasure with working with the staff and Commission over the past several years.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster stated the Commission would meet next month in Columbia on March 18th. Mr. Webster noted that the Commission should think about holding its April meeting in Charleston.

ITEM VI. 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 MEETING

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and invited participants into the meeting. Chairman Webster announced that in Executive Session, the Commission adopted a motion to terminate Jerry W. Sanders as a Conservation Officer. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to ratify and approve this action. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission

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