

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Marine Resources Center - Ft. Johnson
Charleston, S. C.
February 18, 1994
10:00 A. M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., Friday, February 18, 1994, at the Marine Resources Center, Ft. Johnson, Charleston, SC, with Chairman Burnside presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Burnside, Miller, Pendarvis, Haynsworth, Rasor, Poston and Graham. Directors and staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines, Paul Sandifer, John Miglarese, and various other staff members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone 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 21, 1994 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that the budget situation does not look good and we may be facing an additional 1% cut in our budget. He noted the top priority in our budget is getting law enforcement vacancies filled and he noted that he will have Bill Chastain mail the Commission a list of the vacancies to be filled and the Legislators in the counties where these vacancies occur.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the Vision and Mission Statements for the Department of Natural Resources and asked the Commissioners for their input. Commissioner Pendarvis noted that somewhere in the process the role of search and rescue needs to be identified.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we had met earlier in the week with DHEC officials to discuss the roles of DHEC and the DNR. He noted that this meeting went very well and we look forward to working closely with them in the natural resources arena.



Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of a conceptual summary of the transition process to the Commission and went over this summary to identify what is being done in the transition process and the items which had been undertaken to date. In addition, Dr. Timmerman noted that he plans to establish a Water Resources Blue Ribbon Committee composed of experts outside the agency to review the agency and develop plans for the future (copy of proposal attached to original Commission minutes).

Dr. Timmerman also reported that he has been working to establish a committee on a decision-making process, and this has been established for the DNR and he will be making recommendations for the Commission to consider. He further noted that he has set up a committee to review functional matters in the new DNR and this group will be establishing task forces in permitting, mapping, and other areas to review.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we have recently acquired the Westvaco property and a dedication has been set on this property on April 16, 1994, at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Timmerman suggested that the Commission meet the previous Friday afternoon at the Webb Center.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the excise taxes from the PR and DJ programs are very important to our agency and he introduced Bob Cooke from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Atlanta who presented some posters to the Commissioners and went over the exhibit which has recently been developed in the Department on these programs.

ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dr. Timmerman noted that Dan Dobbins was in Columbia working on the budget and no report will be available at this time.

ITEM IV - PRESENTATIONS

S.C. Coastal Conservation League - Dana Beach

Dana Beach of the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League made a presentation to the Commission on the implications of restructuring as it relates to the DNR. Mr. Beach made several points concerning restructuring and the DNR (copy of presentation attached to original Commission minutes). Mr. Beach asked the Commission to take an active role in developing a comprehensive plan for the DNR and to address all of the natural resources issues in the state to include public involvement. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will be having a follow-up meeting with Mr. Beach to go over the progress that has been made on the transition process and restructuring with all of the divisions in the Department.



ITEM V - OLD BUSINESS

A. Shrimp Baiting Recommendation - John Miglaresse went over the process to review the problems associated with the shrimp baiting and noted that the issue is mainly a social conflict between two user groups. He noted that the Marine Resources Advisory Board has approved recommendations on shrimp baiting as follows:

- 1) The Board recommends no changes in the current law.
- 2) The ad hoc committee on shrimp baiting is to be continued and expanded.
- 3) Increase public information on the problems associated with shrimp baiting.
- 4) Law Enforcement District 9 and Marine Resources staff will review the transaction card system to see if it needs to be considered for implementation.

Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve these recommendations as submitted.

ITEM VI - NEW BUSINESS:

A. 1993 Accomplishment and 1994 Goals and Objectives:

Dr. Timmerman noted that the 1993 Accomplishments and the 1994 Goals and Objectives had been sent to the Commission and he asked for their input and recommendations (copies attached to original Commission minutes). Following discussion of the 1994 Objectives, Commissioner Pendarvis requested that 1994 objectives also include the following: (1) licensing of hunting and fishing guides; (2) provision of handicapped access at all department facilities rather than just fishing lakes; (3) dog trespassing; and (4) review the display of live wild animals for public view to determine what types of regulations may be needed. Billy McTeer noted that there is a proposal for legislative leaders to develop a forum on dog hunting and trespassing and the Law Enforcement Advisory Board is also reviewing the matter of dog hunting and trespassing. Chairman Burnside noted that we have a Commission policy on dog hunting but it needs to be changed to provide that dog hunting should be done by legal means and in a manner that does not interfere with adjacent property owners. This item was discussed and Dr. Timmerman noted that he would ask the staff to draft a change in this Commission policy for their consideration at the next Commission meeting.

B. Proposed Fishing Regulations for Star Fort Pond and Jonesville Reservoir: Val Nash noted that these proposed regulations had been sent to the Commission for their consideration (copies attached to original Commission minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve these regulations as submitted.



C. Proposed Management Plan for St. Helena Sound Heritage Preserve: Tom Kohlsaatt noted this proposed management plan had been sent to the Commission for their review (copy attached to the original Commission minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the management plan as submitted.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report. Dr. Timmerman noted that it appears there may be a 1% cut in our budget from the House Ways and Means Committee.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that Billy McTeer is the staff member appointed to coordinate handicapped hunting and fishing issues in the department. He also noted that we have a 1990 report on licensing hunting guides and this will be updated to include the licensing of fishing guides and this information will be presented to the Commission at the next meeting.

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

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

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer distributed a copy of the state record marine game fish program policy statement to the Commission for their information (copy attached to original Commission minutes).

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Haynsworth noted the Board had met and one item which was discussed was a proposed policy change in the way that federal funds are allocated based upon the percentage of marine and freshwater fishermen. He noted that some concerns had been expressed about possible changes in this policy, and this item was discussed by the staff and the Board members. He noted that the Board adopted a motion as follows: "The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board takes the position and recommends to the Commission that they take a position which supports those existing policies of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service defining the means by which Sport Fish Restoration Funds are determined for saltwater and freshwater program areas, and that they not support proposed policy changes which have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." This item was discussed by the Commission and following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to defer any action on this recommendation until this matter could be discussed by the Marine Resources Advisory Board. Commissioner Haynsworth voted in the negative on this motion. Following other discussion, the Commission adopted a motion that provided if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issues recommendations to give states more



flexibility in the allocation of federal funds between marine and freshwater programs, that the Commission make the decision on how these funds shall be divided between the freshwater and saltwater programs. Commissioner Pendarvis voted in the negative on the motion, and Commissioners Miller and Poston abstained from voting on the motion.

2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board met recently and he went over the various items discussed at the Board meeting. One item the Board recommended to the Commission for approval was a bill on the sale or purchase of spotted sea trout and reddrum (copies attached to original Commission minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this Bill for recommendation to the General Assembly as submitted.

3. Marine Recreational Fisheries: Commissioner Poston noted the Board met on February 11, 1994, and he went over various items discussed at the meeting and noted that the next meeting will be held on March 31, 1994.

F. Other Remarks: Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission he had just received information that the Ways and Means Committee has approved in our budget \$300,000 for Law Enforcement, \$100,000 for maintenance, \$150,000 for the Land Resources Conservation districts, and \$150,000 for weed control in the Water Resources programs. In addition, Dr. Timmerman noted that the Ways and Means Committee has initiated a 1% cut in our budget which will be about \$250,000 that will have to be cut.

There were no further remarks from the Commissioners and at this time, Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss contractual and personnel matters. Commissioner Poston seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside announced that at this time the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss contractual and personnel matters.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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



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The Commission adopted a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers including those approved/disapproved and change of authority as presented.

The Commission adopted a motion to accept the staff recommendations on the promotion to Sergeant in Districts 1 and 2.

The Commission adopted a motion to approve staff recommendations to commend the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition on the posture they have taken on the conservation of wildlife and would like to present this commendation in the form of a resolution and for the staff to adopt this resolution for approval by the Commission at the next meeting.

G. Appointments: This item has previously been acted upon by the Commission.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia at 10:00 a.m. on March 25, 1994.

ITEM VII - ADJOURN

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

