

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
February 22, 1985
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., February 22, 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, Harrelson, Owen, Quackenbush, Stokes, Thomason and Bennett. Directors and Staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Paul Sandifer, Jeff Fuller, Bill Chastain, 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 January 18, 1985 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that he met recently in Kansas City with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. where various problems with ducks were discussed. A new program, called MARSH, was discussed whereby Ducks Unlimited will return a portion of its funds to the states for habitat improvements. This will include about \$80,000 that will be available in South Carolina for various projects. Some information on this program was distributed to the Commissioners.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he held a staff meeting this week and notes from this meeting will be sent to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman stated that he had received a letter from Commissioner Thomason regarding the number of officers assigned to each county. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has asked Sumter Moore to put together a list of officers assigned to each county over the last 15 years.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the staff participated last weekend in the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition in Charleston and he commended the staff on their professionalism and work at this event.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission of several upcoming events: February 23 - S. C. Shrimpers Association Annual Meeting; March 13 - Wild Turkey Symposium; March 22 - 23 - Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic; March 26 - 27 - Press Outing at

Hunting Island State Park in conjunction with the S. C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; March 30 - Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium in Charleston; April 4 - Plantation Managers' Seminar on Quail Management at Southern Railroad.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. 1985 Objectives: Dr. Timmerman noted that draft objectives for the Department for 1985 were distributed at the last Commission Meeting. Dr. Timmerman stated that these objectives will be implemented and others will be pursued based upon input from the Commission.

B. Proposed Alligator Regulations: Phil Wilkinson noted the draft regulations were discussed at the last Commission Meeting and an amended set of regulations were distributed to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). These regulations and the proposed changes from staff were discussed with the Commission. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the proposed regulations with changes as submitted.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendations - Commission Finance Committee: Commissioner Compton noted the Committee has met and held some thorough discussions. One of the major budget problems which has developed is the shortfall in Pittman-Robertson funds which will be about \$500,000 short of meeting the payroll in FY 1985-86. Benny Reeves discussed the various recommendations that have been developed by the Committee. Commissioner Compton stated that he was recommending that we seek some advice and guidance on our budget problems with legislative leaders and he would report the Committee's recommendations at the March Commission meeting.

B. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad distributed some information on steel shot enforcement noting that no steel shot zones have been designated in South Carolina for the 1985-86 waterfowl season. Mr. Conrad noted that we will be working with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the upcoming season to collect samples and if we have lead poisoning, then some steel shot zones could be designated in the 1986-87 waterfowl season. Commissioner Harrelson noted that we have a problem with shad regulations whereby trash fish that are captured have to be returned. Dr. Timmerman stated that we would get some clarification on these regulations to make sure that everyone is enforcing such the same way. Chairman Webster asked the staff to review this matter and come back to the Commission with a recommendation.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain recommended that the Commission approve issuing call numbers to Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers Kip Miller and Glennie Hyman, both of Horry County. Commissioner Stokes requested that action on this recommendation be postponed at this time.

4. Information & Public Affairs: John Evans informed the Commission that we are working with the S. C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism on a Press Outing at Hunting Island State Park on March 26 - 27.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Sandifer informed the Commission that a Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium will be held on March 30th at the Sheraton Hotel in Charleston.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board met on February 7th at Kinloch Plantation in Georgetown and he went over the various items discussed at the meeting. Commissioner Owen stated that most of the meeting dealt with waterfowl hunting pressure along the coastal areas. A proposal by Kenneth Williams on the spacing of duck hunters in the rivers and creeks was discussed. An ad hoc committee to review this proposal will be appointed and public hearings on such will be held. Commissioner Owen stated the Board will report back to the Commission on this matter probably in August, 1985.

2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Harrelson stated that the Board met recently and discussed various items. The Board adopted a resolution on D-J funds requesting that such funds be utilized for the purposes as intended by law (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve this resolution as submitted. Commissioner Harrelson noted that the Board recommended to the Commission a reorganizational plan for the Division of Marine Resources. The Commission accepted this as information to be placed on the agenda for action at the March meeting. Commissioner Harrelson stated that the Board recommended that the Commission adopt the federal three-mile line. The Commission agreed to postpone action on this matter and have such on the agenda for the March meeting. Commissioner Harrelson stated that the Board also recommended that the Commission ask the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council to proceed with developing a shrimp management plan that would include consideration of the closure of the federal waters when the adjacent state requests such closure to protect spawning stock and for law enforcement purposes. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush noted that the Board met on February 5th and he went over the various items discussed. Commissioner Quackenbush stated that the Board recommended to the Commission that a change in the points law be sought whereby the points for the violation of trespassing to hunt or fish be increased to ten points. The Commission adopted a motion approving this recommendation. Dan Dobbins informed the Commission that Rep. Lloyd Hendricks is working on legislation concerning trespassing while dog hunting for deer.

4. Heritage Trust: Tom Kohlsaas stated that the Board has met and a report will be provided to the Commission at the March meeting. Mr. Kohlsaas informed the Commission that based upon the early returns of the tax check-off, the revenue will be reduced from previous levels by about 43 percent.

D. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner

Harrelson moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that the Commission would recess the regular meeting to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting. Chairman Webster asked Commissioner Compton to report on the actions taken in Executive Session. Commissioner Compton reported that the Commission took the following actions in Executive Session:

- 1) The Commission adopted a motion to approve DWCO re-appointments and new appointments, and Conservation Officer re-appointments as recommended.
- 2) The Commission adopted a motion to not appoint two new DWCO applicants as recommended.
- 3) The Commission adopted a motion to revoke the DWCO appointment of J. Brittain Glenn as recommended.
- 4) The Commission adopted a motion to appoint thirteen new Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).
- 5) The Commission adopted a motion to transfer Conservation Officer Cookie Boykin from Colleton County (District 4) to Charleston County (District 9), and transfer newly appointed Conservation Officer Legrand Guerry IV from Charleston County (District 9) to Colleton County (District 4).
- 6) The Commission adopted a motion to approve the promotion of Walter Baxter, Jr. to Lieutenant in District 4.

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

E. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commission.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster announced that the next meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M., March 15, 1985, in Columbia.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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

