

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

JANUARY 12, 1973

The monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was called to order at the Belmont Plantation House on January 12, 1973, Chairman Joseph W. Hudson presiding. Those also in attendance included Vice-Chairman Glenn, Commissioners Dennis, Lumpkin, Eltzroth, Rhame, and Major Cantey; and members of the Department staff including Executive Director Webb, Wash Belangia, Pat Ryan, Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Fred Ramage, Bill Chastain, Jeff Fuller, John Culler, Brock Conrad, Jack Bayles, Charlie Bearden, Johnny Evans and Bill Cotty; and members of the press.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Jack's Hole Boat Landing: Commissioner Rhame reported that an agreeable leasing arrangement between the Commission and the Santee-Cooper Authority has been worked out and that the necessary paperwork should be completed within the next couple weeks.
2. Dennis Wildlife Center: Mr. Webb reported that the contract for the construction of this facility has been let and that construction plans have been completed.
3. Night Hunting: John Culler with Johnny Evans assisting gave the Commission a report on the work the I&E Section has been doing to curb the practice of night hunting through the use of TV and radio spots, an article in the upcoming issue of the Wildlife magazine, press releases and an anti- night hunting poster which has been distributed to all schools and licensing agents throughout the state for display. Mr. Webb presented a rough draft of a suggested night hunting bill which the Commission supported in principle and directed to have put in proper legal form for submittal to the appropriate Committees of the General Assembly.
4. Legislation: Bill Cotty reported that the research on compiling a one copy version of Title 28 (Code and Supplement combined) for use by Department staff has been completed and should be printed shortly. In addition he reported that the Marine Laws Booklet and the supplement to the Game Laws Booklet have been prepared and are in the process of being printed. It was suggested that the Department consolidate and coordinate its suggestions regarding needed new legislation. The Commission instructed the Executive Director to have the Department do so and submit its recommendations in a package to the respective House and Senate Committees not later than February 1, 1972.



5. National Marine Fisheries Food Service Technology Laboratory: Dr. Timmerman stated that the request for a Revenue Bond to finance this facility's construction received favorable consideration by the Budget and Control Board last month and is presently pending action by the General Assembly. He added that officials of this Federal Agency, which is a branch of NOAA, will be meeting with Marine Resources officials on February 8 in Charleston.
6. Cooperative Research Facility: Dr. Timmerman stated that the status of the request for a Capital Improvements Bond to finance this construction was identical to that of the request in number 5 above. Chairman Hudson presented a proposed written agreement between the Commission and the Higher Education Commission regarding the Cooperative Research Facility. With the provision that the following be added.

Paragraph 4-Add the following: "it being understood that such facilities may be used (temporarily) by the Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources when not in use by the colleges and universities."

Paragraph 7- Add the following: "with the approval of the Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission."

7. Use of Department Owned Facilities: Mr. Webb presented suggested Employee Guidelines regarding the use of such facilities, along with a rate schedule and reservation form. With a minor change in the wording of the Guidelines, the Commission approved the suggested policy and instructed the Executive Director to put it into effect.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Finance Report: The Commission discussed the status of spending by the I&E Section on the Magazine as seen in the attached copy of the Finance Report. John Culler stated that the report's figures were somewhat misleading since additional funds received in the form of subscription fees had not been included. He insured the Commission that the last two issues of the magazine could be printed without exceeding his year's budget by more than five percent. A motion was made and passed to adopt and accept the Finance Report.
2. American Kennel Club Field Trials: Commissioner Eltzroth stated that officials of the Palmetto Retriever Club had contacted him regarding the upcoming American Kennel Club Field Trials to be held at Boykin on March 14, 1973. The Club requested that the Department furnish several Conservation Officers equipped with communication gear to assist in the running of the trials. A motion was made, seconded and passed authorizing the Department to send 6-8 Conservation Officers and one Supervisor to help conduct the trials.
3. Appointments: The Commission approved all appointments made during the month for which notice by mail had been accomplished, with one exception by Mr. Rhame. As for non-paid appointments, the Commission approved those which had been sent out for consideration during the month (subject to approval by District Commissioners not present), but delayed action on other non-paid appointments until after the Executive Director has consulted with the District Commissioners involved.



4. New Legislation It was suggested that the Department prepare a suggested re-writing of the State's Game and Fish laws as seen in Title 28, Code of Laws of South Carolina. Commissioner Eltzroth and Seantor Dennis were asked to select a law student for this purpose, and they subsequently instructed Bill Cotty to conduct the research and submit a proposal to the Commission in three months. The purpose of such a revision would be to both to clarify these laws as well as establish a more uniform basis for sound wildlife and marine resources management.

5. Marine Resources Report: (See copy attached) Dr. Timmerman reported on the status of action implementing the 1972 Development Plan and gave an up to date report regarding Federal grants. Dr. Joseph gave a report for Marine Research and introduced two members of his staff, Mack Shealy and Andy Laurent, who are working in the areas of estuarine survey and seafood marketing study respectively.

The ideas and suggestions of the Marine Resources Division regarding pending "Tidelands" legislation are to be submitted to the Natural Resources Committee of the Senate and the legislation to be drafted and submitted by February 1st is that which would provide a legislative mandate of authority with regard to the Marine Resources Division.

The Commission adopted a resolution in support of the continued funding of the Coastal Plains Regional Commission and to commend them for the work they have done. This resolution was to be sent not only to the Coastal Plains Commission, but also to the S.C. Congressional Delegation.

6. Game and Freshwater Fisheries Report: (See copy attached) Mr. Ryan presented the Commission with a report on the completed deer harvest. Senator Dennis questioned Brock Conrad regarding the low number of deer killed at Francis Marion, and Mr. Conrad explained this as the result of the 1965 damage from EHD disease, as well as the increased productivity and popularity of other areas in the state for deer hunting. Mr. Jack Bayles gave a report recommending that the open season for catching herring on the Moultrie-Tail Canal be limited between March 1 and March 20 wherein only 100 pounds or 300 herring may be taken per day per boat by live bait operators and sport fishermen respectively in order to protect the fish until after the peak spawning season. The Commission adopted by resolution this regulation as well as the other regulations used last year as seen on the attached sheet. The I&E Section was instructed to work with the Game and Freshwater Fisheries Division in giving the public notice of these regulations. Mr. Ryan presented a proposal (copy attached) regarding wild turkey season dates and limits for the various game management areas. With one change for Francis Marion (See attached), the Commission adopted the recommendations by resolution.

7. Committee Reports:

A. Working Hours for Conservation Officers: Commissioner Eltzroth reported that due to the inclement weather, the Committee had postponed its planned meeting, but would reschedule one for the later part of this month.

B. Finance Committee: Mr. Glenn reported that the Committee would meet in the near future with Fred Ramage and Carl Wilkes. In addition, Mr. Glenn commended Mr. Wilkes and his license section for the fine work they are doing and recommended that each member of the Commission take time to go by and see their operation.



8. Special Project Regarding Out of State Hunters: The I&E Section reported it had conducted a project to inform out of state deer hunters about the fine hunting being done on public lands in S.C. John Culler stated that a letter (see attached) soliciting information requests had been sent to news media in N.C., Ga., Ill., Ohio and Tennessee; and he submitted statistics showing the number of responses received (see attached).
9. Boating Regulations: Mr. Welch presented two proposed boating regulations; one requiring the registration of vessels within fifteen days from the date of purchase, and another requiring the displaying of Number on boat (same Reg. as used last year). The Commission by resolution adopted both of these regulations.
10. Committee to Study the Need for Purchase of a New Department Aircraft: Senator Dennis recommended that a committee be formed to look into the need and costs involved in having the Department purchase a new aircraft. He also recommended that all of the Department aircraft be housed at the Aeronautics Commission site in order to save on the rental costs involved. Chairman Hudson said he would appoint a committee to study these proposals.
11. Architectural Firms interested in Submitting Offers on the Proposed Cooperative Research Facility and the National Marine Fisheries Technology Laboratory: Chairman Hudson appointed Dr. Lumpkin's Marine Advisory Committee as the body to screen interested firms. Dr. Lumpkin stated that the Committee would be meeting in Charleston on January 25 and would receive offers at that time.
12. Tideland's Meeting: Chairman Hudson stated that he had scheduled a special meeting in Charleston at the Marine Resources Facility on January 26 at 10 o'clock A.M. at which a number of private environmental had been invited. The purpose of the meeting will be to try to determine what our Department position should be with regards to the Tideland's question and to show these groups that we are interested in their views on the subject.
13. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and having no opposition was passed.

Respectively submitted,

"WASH"

"Wash" W. Belangia

