

## MINUTES

### SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza, Columbia, S. C.  
January 16, 1981

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Dutch Plaza, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a. m., on January 16, 1981, with Chairman Edens 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 Edens, Stubbs, Shuler, Owen, Altman, Dawson, and Harrelson. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Mac Flood, Pat Ryan, Benny Reeves, Linda Amick, Sonny Baines, Dan Dobbins, Dr. Joseph, Stu Greeter, Tom Kohlsaas, Dr. Sandifer, Charlie Bearden, Jeff Fuller, Brock Conrad, Dr. Burrell, Tommy Edwards, Mike Creel, Dennis Gunter and David Cupka. Guests at the meeting included Ben Campbell of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee, Dr. Jackie Jacobs of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, and Dr. Bob Hutton of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edens called the meeting to order at 10:00 a. m. Chairman Edens welcomed Representative Linwood Altman as a new member of the Commission designated by the Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to serve on the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that Representative Altman is a member of the Marine Resources Study Committee, the Shellfish Study Committee and is a strong supporter of the Department.

#### ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Dawson moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the November 21, 1980 meeting and approve them as submitted. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

#### ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that Senator Dennis has recommended that appropriate brass plaques be placed in the Dennis Building in honor of Chief A. A. Richardson and Mr. James W. Webb in honor of their long terms of outstanding service to the Department. Commissioner Shuler moved for the Commission to endorse this recommendation. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens asked Dr. Timmerman to advise Senator Dennis of this action by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we have had a lot of activity and public relations throughout the state in regard to the proposed license fee increase.



Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of contacts made and endorsements received on the fee increase to the Commission for information noting that we have received positive support for the proposal. We are currently working with the various committees in the legislature in support of introducing legislation on this matter. Mac Flood advised the Commission of his meetings with hunting and fishing clubs over the state noting that he had received a very positive response on the fee increase from sportsmen. Some of the Commissioners noted that support had been positive in their meetings with sportsmen. Dr. Timmerman expressed thanks to Dr. Jackie Jacobs of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation for their support on this proposal.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a status report on donations for the conference room tables and chairs noting that we are near having enough funds to pay for these items. Dr. Timmerman stated that we will put out a news release on this matter at the appropriate time.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that we will be moving to the Dennis Building on February 23rd. Some sections will be moved the previous week. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for February 20th, but the move should not interfere with this meeting.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Chairman Edens testified recently before the Shellfish Study Committee in Columbia. This Committee is very progressive and will come up with some good recommendations.

In regard to the Department's FY 1981-82 budget, Dr. Timmerman noted that the Ways and Means sub-committee has added to our budget---\$175,000 for gasoline, \$50,000 for utilities at the Marine Center, \$30,000 for telephones and restored six positions without funding for the Mariculture Center.

Dr. Timmerman reported that we are working on developing a boat ramp on the South Santee River and this project should be underway in the near future. Representative Dangerfield is working with the Delegation to seek funding for this project.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the tire disposal project has been completed and it is requested that the Commission make a decision on this project at the February Commission meeting. Dr. Joseph stated that he will prepare a summary and send out information to the Commissioners. Chairman Edens stated that without objection, this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.



Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the FY 1979-80 Annual Report to the Commissioners for their information. Chairman Edens noted that the Marine Study Committee had talked about dressing up this report to make more use as a public relations tool. Dr. Timmerman stated that this is being done in the Department.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we are working on developing objectives for 1981 and he requested that such be on the agenda for the next meeting for an executive summary presentation. Chairman Edens stated that without objection, this would be on the agenda for the February meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had a copy of the financial statement for the Cantey Fund and the Wildlife Education and Training Fund to pass out to the Board of Directors at the appropriate time. In addition, Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the vehicle accident report for the last six months of 1980 to the Commission for their information.

### ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Recommendations on Wildlife Education and Training Fund, Inc.:

Chairman Edens noted that we have been working on this for about a year in order to broaden the charter, expand activity of the Foundation, and to give it extra publicity. Chairman Edens noted that the discussion at this meeting is presented as information. At the conclusion of the Commission meeting, the Board of Directors meeting will convene to adopt whatever recommendations it deems appropriate. Chairman Edens stated that it is proposed that the existing Foundation be reconstituted into a new Foundation called the Harry R. E. Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund, Inc. Chairman Edens noted that Mr. Hampton was active in wildlife matters in South Carolina for all of his life and this would add a real identity to this Foundation. Chairman Edens stated that Mr. Hampton's family has agreed to this idea. Chairman Edens asked Tommy Edwards to comment on these proposed changes. Mr. Edwards noted that the expanded Foundation could be used to help in special activities as determined by the Board of Directors. It is suggested that the current Wildlife and Education Training Fund be disbanded and transferred to another corporation---the Harry R. E. Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund. This would also include a transfer of assets that exist. This Fund will be managed by an independent Board to support endeavors of the Department and related programs. Commissioner Dawson asked if the Fund could be used to purchase property. Mr. Edwards noted that it could acquire property by gift or purchase as approved by the Board of Directors. Commissioner Dawson asked about the expanded membership on the Board. Mr. Edwards noted that the membership is limited to the Board of Directors as developed in the new corporation. The Board may have exofficio, honorary members, etc., which would expand the influence and contact for the corporation. Dr. Timmerman stated that Commissioner Compton has reviewed this proposal



and is very supportive of the proposed changes. Johnny Evans and Duncan Grant discussed proposed media and publicity tools which are available to give publicity to this Fund. Dr. Timmerman noted that we had good luck in securing funds for tables and chairs to go in the new conference room and that this proposal should be a very saleable product. Chairman Edens stated that we have to see that this Fund is divorced from the Department when it is reconstituted. This is accepted as information at this time and will be further considered with legal advice when the Board of Directors meets after the Commission meeting.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report of the Marine Resources Study Committee: Chairman Edens noted that a lot of work has been done by this study committee and those who have served have been very dedicated and served without charge to the Department. Chairman Edens asked Dr. Bob Hutton, Chairman of the Study Committee, to make a report to the Commission. Dr. Hutton noted that extensive work went into the development of this report and sixty recommendations have been developed. The report will be finalized in early February and mailed to the Commission. Dr. Hutton informed the Commission that the study committee met three times during 1980 and there were various sub-committee meetings. In addition, there were meetings with various people in the state to discuss various aspects of the marine resources program. The first draft report was completed in December and sent out to about thirty people to review. Significant input was received from a number of people which was used to develop the existing draft of the report. Each member on the study committee will be asked to sign a sheet in submitting this report which Dr. Hutton read over or members may submit a minority report. Dr. Hutton went over the various charges of the study committee noting that program emphasis, goals and objectives for the 1980's were developed. Dr. Hutton presented an in-depth discussion of the findings of the study committee as presented in the Executive Summary (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Hutton recommended that the Commission give serious consideration to all the recommendations presented and he thanked Chairman Edens, Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph and staff for all their help with this study effort. Dr. Hutton noted that he will leave his name and address for use by the Commissioners if they would like to send him any specific comments. Chairman Edens stated that this report is being brought to the Commission for information and comments, if desired. It will be brought back to the Commission later for action. Dr. Joseph commended Dr. Hutton and members of the Study Committee for their service and successful job on behalf of the Marine Center's staff. Dr. Timmerman noted that Pat Ryan and Dr. Joseph are now working to improve communications between law enforcement and marine resources management staff. Chairman Edens presented to Dr. Hutton, on behalf of the Commission, a Certificate of Meritorious Service Award for his outstanding service on the Marine Resources Study Committee.



B. Recommendations on License Agents: Commissioner Stubbs asked Benny Reeves to make this report to the Commission. Mr. Reeves noted that the Commission had requested a review of the existing license agent procedure which is handled administratively. A survey was conducted of the southeastern states to secure ideas on how license agents are handled in other states. The survey showed that most of the states are uniform in basic procedures and most try to limit the number of agents. Some of the states have more stringent requirements than we use in South Carolina. Mr. Reeves went over the administrative criteria used by the Department in establishing license agents noting that each individual request is reviewed to see if establishing a new agent is warranted. Mr. Reeves noted that we have been following the existing guidelines since 1970. The current system is working well and it is recommended that we continue the present system with the possibility of adding a requirement that a business has to be operating for a year before becoming an agent which the staff is studying now. Following other discussion by the Commission, these comments were accepted as information by the Commission with no action.

C. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that the 7% budget reduction has been in the news recently. We have had a freeze on hiring in the Department and our reduction in force policy has been sent to the Budget and Control Board and approved. The 7% budget cut will be effective around June 24, 1981. The guidelines being used in-house relative to this reduction is that no program will be reduced more than 20%, no less than two Conservation Officers in each county and no program will be rendered non-functionable. The personnel status in regard to this reduction is being watched and we should have a better feel on this matter by March 1st. Dr. Timmerman briefly went over the license sale status report noting that non-resident sales have decreased and the non-resident big game permit has generated about \$228,000 this year.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller asked Tom Kohlsaat to present two proposals to the Commission. Mr. Kohlsaat noted that the Dedication Agreement for Eastatoe Creek Gorge and three registration agreements for active bald eagle nests at Bear Island were mailed to the Commission for review (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Kohlsaat went over these proposed agreements noting that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board has approved these for recommendation to the Commission. Commissioner Harrelson moved that these agreements be approved by the Commission. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.



3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Harrelson noted that he has received a number of requests for DWCO appointments for various people on plantations in Colleton County. He noted that he would get with Mr. Ryan on this in order to have these expedited. Mr. Ryan advised the Commission that a two-day training program is being developed now for coastal area law enforcement officers and staff at the Marine Resources Center. This program will also include other agencies and will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and information.

4. Information and Public Affairs: Dennis Gunter advised the Commission that a public opinion survey has been distributed to sportsmen in order to get feedback on the proposed license fee increase and how the Department is serving the public. Initial responses indicate support for increases in the resident state hunting licenses.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph stated that he welcomed the opportunity to work with the law enforcement staff on the training program which was discussed by Mr. Ryan. As a matter of information, Dr. Joseph informed the Commission that due to the recent cold weather, it appears that we may have lost our over-wintering shrimp crop. The in-shore wintering sites are now empty and it appears to be a repetition of the situation we ran into during the winter of 1976 and 1977. It is our expectation, at this time, that we will not have a spring shrimp fishery and we will not see active shrimping until the brown shrimp become available sometime after the middle of June.

D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen reported that the Board met on December 11th in Columbia. Deer depredation permits were discussed in depth and the staff will be developing a comprehensive law for consideration by the Commission at a future meeting which is more concise than the existing laws for depredation permits. Commissioner Owen went over other items discussed by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Commission had requested the Board to review crop depredation and pesticides affecting fisheries in the coastal area which will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting with personnel at Clemson University in February.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Shuler reported that the Board met last week and saw the slide show on the proposed license fee increase which was commended by the Board members. Commissioner Shuler noted that the undercover agents were at this meeting and the lack of a confiscation



law for illegal furs was discussed. The Board felt that a confiscation law for vehicles is needed for those caught on illegal fur violations. Dan Dobbins and Tommy Edwards will be looking at this and reporting back to the Board later. Commissioner Shuler went over the other items discussed by the Board. Commissioner Dawson noted that the non-residents buying resident licenses is a real problem and needs to be looked at closely.

3. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph advised the Commission that the Board met last week and most of the meeting dealt with the problems on the conflict between gill netters and recreational fishermen. A number of people from the general public came to the meeting to express comments on this matter. The Board requested that the staff review the existing law to see if there are some things that can be done through the rule and regulation procedure for the coming season to alleviate problems which exist. This will be done and recommendations made at the next Advisory Board meeting. Commissioner Altman noted that only those opposed to gill nets were at the meeting, but he is glad the staff is looking into this problem.

Chairman Edens noted that the Governor still has various Advisory Board appointments to make which we really need. Dr. Timmerman stated that he had been in contact with the Governor's Office and he will be meeting with his staff today to make these appointments.

Chairman Edens noted that we are having a large number of hunting accidents which was discussed by the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board recently. Dr. Jackie Jacobs emphasized that the Department needs to take some action in those cases where an accident occurs due to negligence. Dr. Jacobs urged the Department to look closely at this problem and see if some action can be taken when negligent acts occur while hunting. Chairman Edens noted that this is a serious problem and we need to take a look at it. Dr. Timmerman noted that the staff will review this and report back to the Commission at its February meeting.

4. Heritage Trust: There was nothing further to report from this Board.

E. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman stated that this report is in order and a copy has been sent to Chairman Edens.



F. 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). The Commission approved all appointments and re-appointments as recommended, subject to meeting all requirements, including the appointment of Kenneth Ray Fleming as a Conservation Officer in Chester County. In addition, Dr. Timmerman noted that William E. Dennis was not appointed as a DWCO at the last Commission meeting due to an illness, but he had requested appointment as submitted at the November meeting. The Commission adopted a motion approving the DWCO appointment of Mr. Dennis.

G. Other Remarks: Commissioner Stubbs noted that Dr. Sloan Martin had recently sent a letter to Dr. Timmerman and Senator Dennis regarding problems with man-drives in the upstate area. Dr. Timmerman stated that he had received this letter and plans to have law enforcement and biologists contact Dr. Martin to go over this problem. Commissioner Stubbs stated that the staff should discuss this with Commissioner Compton as he is anxious to get something done about this problem.

Commissioner Stubbs asked about the status of repair work to the dam and fishing at Lake Oak Grove. Dr. Timmerman advised Commissioner Stubbs that he will check on this and be in contact with him later.

Dr. Jackie Jacobs informed the Commission that the Operation Respect Conference will be held on March 13 - 14 in Columbia. Invitations will be sent out next week regarding this Conference and two national speakers have been invited to speak.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Edens announced that the next meeting will be held on February 20, 1981, at Dutch Plaza in Columbia.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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



## MINUTES

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND, INC.

1. Chairman Edens called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p. m.
2. Chairman Edens noted that the proposed changes in the reconstitution of this Fund have been discussed and a few details need to be emphasized. The new Foundation needs to be an independent body which is divorced from the Commission which the proposed new Articles of Incorporation will accomplish. The proposed changes will also expand the Board of Directors by two new members which could help in fund-raising activities. Chairman Edens also recommended that the membership on the Board of Directors begin for the six-year term when the current terms of the existing members expires. Chairman Edens asked the staff to make refinements and corrections to the proposed articles for action by the Board next month to adopt as a finalized document. Mr. Dawson moved for the Board to adopt, in principle, what has been presented and for the staff to refine the proposed articles of incorporation as have been discussed for final adoption by the Board at its next meeting. Mr. Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Board. Chairman Edens asked the members to contact Dr. Timmerman or Tommy Edwards if they have any specific comments on this proposal. The Board also discussed various individuals that may be able to serve on the Board of Directors.
3. Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the 1980 financial statements for the officers to sign.
4. There being no further business to discuss, the Board adopted a motion to adjourn the meeting.

