

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCE
COMMISSION MEETING

MARY'S ISLAND PLANTATION
GREEN POND, S. C.
January 18, 1991
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, January 18, 1991, at Mary's Island Plantation in Colleton County South Carolina, 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, Graham, Poston, Pendarvis, Snow, Owen and Drummond. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Brock Conrad, and various other staff members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside 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 November 16, 1990 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman expressed thanks to Coy Johnston and Ducks Unlimited for hosting the meeting at Mary's Island.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the hybrid bass aquaculture law had been adopted and a proposal was sent to the Commission to make changes in this law. Larry Cartee went over a summary of the proposed changes and Dr. Timmerman recommended that the Commission endorse these changes in concept. The Commission adopted a motion to approve the proposed changes in the hybrid bass aquaculture law in concept. (Copy attached to original Commission Minutes.)

Dr. Timmerman noted that there has been a lot of concern on anti-hunting and numerous staff meetings have been held to discuss this matter. Dr. Timmerman passed out information to the Commission on this matter including an article in The State newspaper by Mr. Parris Boyd of the Animal Rights Alliance. A copy of the response to this article was also passed out to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that he had received a letter



Minutes - SCWMRC Meeting
January 18, 1991
Page Two

from Carol Cassetti noting that there are no anti-hunting members of the Commission and a copy of this letter was passed out to the Commission and Dr. Timmerman noted that we are currently working on a response.

Dr. Timmerman noted that license sales have increased, but there are no significant increases and we are concerned on the decline in the youth license sales. Dr. Timmerman noted that Ducks Unlimited and the South Carolina Waterfowl Association are working on getting youth involved in hunting and a lot of effort has been put into the "HOOKED ON FISHING - NOT ON DRUGS" Program to get youth involved in fishing. Dr. Timmerman noted that an effort is needed to get more young people involved in hunting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Hunter Symposium was held in November and that we are seeking to form a Hunter's Coalition in South Carolina. Tim Ivey gave an update on this program and distributed a letter that had recently been sent to organizations concerning a proposed future meeting. Sonny Baines discussed the media efforts regarding this matter and went over the plans through their news program to support this effort.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Joint Bond Review Committee had approved \$1.2-million for renovations of the Marine Administrative Building and the low bid came in for this building at \$702,000.00.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had appeared before the Budget and Control Board for the 91-92 bond funds and he went over the items that were requested in our bond package. Dr. Timmerman noted that Clemson University has put a request in their bond proposal for a new office.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department will go before the Ways and Means Sub-Committee on January 23, 1991 at 10:15 A.M. to discuss the Department's budget. The members of this Committee include Representatives McAbee, Elliott, Holt and McCain. Dr. Timmerman asked the Commissioners to contact these members to discuss our budget needs.

Benny Reeves discussed budget reductions in the Department and noted that we are working to hold our own this coming budget year. Mr. Reeves noted that we do not have adequate funds to replace equipment as needed.



ITEM III - OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on ACE Basin Project: John Frampton presented an update on the ACE Basin Project and went over the actions that have been taken to date. Mr. Frampton also discussed proposed plans and items which are currently being developed. Mr. Frampton distributed the proposed newsletter and brochure on the ACE Basin to the Commission for their information.

ITEM IV - NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves reported that the state auditors are currently auditing the Department for FY 87-88 and FY 88-89.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing to report.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain noted that there will be stepped up security around the Capitol Complex and the Department will be providing two (2) officers to be used for security.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines noted that the new issue of the magazine is currently out and he went over this briefly with the Commission.

5. Marine Resources: There was nothing further to report.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Miller noted that the Commission had approved in concept, four (4) legislative proposals and he asked that these items be deferred until the next Commission Meeting. Commissioner Miller noted that the Board met on January 11, 1991 and he went over the items discussed at this meeting.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board met on December 13, 1990 and he went over the items discussed at that meeting. Commissioner Owen noted that the Board approved a policy on the use of funds from fish kills and this policy is as follows:

"Through Department policy, all funds collected above the cost of collection as the result of a pollution-caused fish kills be put in a special fund to be utilized by the Freshwater Fisheries Division for fish restoration projects. Priority for expenditures should be hatchery construction and/or renovation and purchase, lease or construction of public fishing lakes."



Minutes - SCWMRC Meeting
January 18, 1991
Page Four

The special fund would have to be set up by legislation. Any expenditure should be subject to approval by the Commission. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to adopt this policy and it was seconded by Commissioner Pendarvis.

Commissioner Drummond asked about the issuance of disability licenses and noted that this is a very abused process which needs to be reviewed. He stated that he felt a recall of these licenses and a re-issuance would be in order. This was discussed by staff and Dr. Timmerman noted that the staff should review this matter and make a recommendation back to the Commission as it relates to this concern.

The Commission further discussed the proposed policy as presented by Commissioner Owen on the use of fish kill funds and following discussion, Commissioner Owen withdrew his motion on this matter for further discussion at the February Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board Meeting and such will be further considered at the February Commission Meeting.

2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board met and went over the items discussed at the meeting. Commissioner Pendarvis noted that Ms. Gloria Player of Pawleys Island has been appointed to the Board. Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the next Board Meeting would be held on March 10, 1991 in Columbia in conjunction with the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board.

John Miglarese distributed the draft Management Plan for Artificial Reefs and went over this plan with the Commission. Following discussion of this plan, Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to accept this plan as information in concept for the staff to proceed with implementation. Commissioner Poston seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

Commissioner Pendarvis distributed a summary of the public meetings on the saltwater fishing stamp and went over this briefly with the Commission.

C. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.



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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to appoint A. S. Lachicotte to the Marine Resources Advisory Board and he further moved that the Commission approve the Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer appointments as mailed with the addition of an employee, Mike Naylor, with special deputation as given to employees that carry a commission and to also approve the DWCO appointment of Wendell L. Hardin. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Appointments: This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

E. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Burnside stated that the next meeting would be held in Charleston on February 15, 1991.

Commissioner Pendarvis noted that if anyone needed accommodations for this meeting, they should contact Ginnie Martin at the Marine Resources Division.

ITEM V - ADJOURN

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

