

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
January 22, 1982

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a.m., on January 22, 1982, 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, Altman, Stubbs, Dawson, Shuler, Owen, Compton and Harrelson. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Mac Flood, Benny Reeves, Pat Ryan, Ed Joseph, John Evans, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain, and other staff. Guests at the meeting included C. A. and Skipper Magwood of Magwood Seafood, Francis Burn of Daufauskie Island, Ben Campbell of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee, Hank Stallworth of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, C.W. Josey of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board, Betty Spence of the S. C. Wildlife Federation, and Trish Jerman of the Governor's Office.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edens called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introduced all guests at the meeting.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Harrelson noted that Item III (B) of the December 18, 1981 meeting Minutes should note that Mr. Frank Sloan's letter of November 17, 1981 was not a recommendation, but a way in which the statute could be changed if the Commission desired such. Subject to this correction, Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to adopt the Minutes of this meeting. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS (FOR INFORMATION)

Dr. Timmerman noted that he and Chairman Edens met on January 6th with James Watt, Secretary of the Interior. One area which was discussed included the cutback in federal funds for endangered species. We were notified this week, from Washington, that \$80,000 will be coming to the Department for endangered species which will enable us to continue the program through September 30th. The estimated funds from the tax checkoff should be available to us around April 15th.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department has met with officials from Union Camp as part of the reconciliation procedure through permitting by the S. C. Water Resources Commission. In addition, the staff visited a research facility at New Bern, N. C. to gather additional information. The staff will be putting together a report and recommendations for the February 19th Commission Meeting which will be made public at this meeting. Dr. Timmerman noted that a large crowd may attend the February Commission Meeting and we could reserve a larger room in the building. Chairman Edens noted that the Commission will be asked at the February meeting to make a big decision. He noted that the staff's report should be sent to the Commission to review prior to the meeting.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that the S. C. Water Resources Commission voted this week to consider the Department's comments on the Carolina Refinery permit as an objection. We will be meeting with the applicant regarding our concerns and a report will be made to the Commission at the March meeting.

Dr. Timmerman went over the revenue status from hunting and fishing license sales and projections in our budget. He noted that part of this revenue goes to landowners for land placed in the game management program. With the sportsman's license, a certain portion will be allocated for the landowner payments. Dr. Timmerman stated that a plan regarding use of revenues and payments to landowners will be presented to the Commission for discussion at the February meeting.

Chairman Edens noted that he and Dr. Timmerman had an excellent visit with Secretary Watt. The need to maintain operation of federal fish hatcheries and an option on the dove season were two items discussed while in Washington.

Chairman Edens introduced Mr. C. A. Magwood who had requested to speak on the Commission's action regarding enforcement in the three-mile territorial sea. Dr. Joseph noted that the Commission had approved enforcement of fisheries laws to be at the line adopted by the federal government in 1973. The change as approved by the Commission is to be effective February 1, 1982. Mr. Magwood distributed a letter to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) and went over his position noting the new line adopted by the Commission would require shrimpers to go further out to shrimp. Mr. Magwood noted this change in the boundary is disturbing to him and he did not feel conservation would be affected by this change. Mr. Magwood's comments

were discussed by the Commission and it was noted that other input from shrimpers, the S. C. Shrimpers' Association and others should be received concerning this matter before any potential action is taken. Chairman Edens asked Commissioner Compton to seek input from the Shrimpers' Association and others at the next Marine Advisory Board meeting to discuss the boundary line adopted by the Commission.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Employee of the Year Award: Dr. Timmerman noted that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board had developed an employee of the year award program for the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. The Directors had discussed this matter at the Executive Director's Staff Meeting and recommended that the Commission's Certificate of Meritorious Service be used instead of the one recommended by the Advisory Board. Larry Cartee went over the guidelines for this award and noted that criteria for granting such to employees had been developed for the Commission to consider. Commissioner Owen noted that the Advisory Board's recommendation could be something that all the Divisions could use, but the Board would welcome any proposed changes. Following discussion by the Commission, Chairman Edens asked Commissioner Owen to discuss the Certificate of Meritorious Service with the Advisory Board at its next meeting in February.

B. Update - Lake Oak Grove: Mac Flood presented some slides of Lake Oak Grove to the Commission and went over the detailed construction needs to fix the dam and make it safe. Mr. Flood noted that the estimated cost to fix the dam is \$276,000. Dr. Timmerman stated that he could not recommend the expenditure of \$276,000 for the repair of this dam which provides only an 18-acre fishing lake. Chairman Edens suggested that the Greenville County Legislative Delegation be sent a letter to advise them that we do not have the money to fix the dam and the only thing we can do, if we keep the land, is to drain the lake and let it sit. The Commission also agreed the letter should include that we would be willing to give this land to Greenville County. Dr. Timmerman noted that a letter will be drafted and gone over with the Chairman and Commissioner Stubbs to be sent out with their signatures.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 1982 Legislative Proposal: Dan Dobbins noted that a draft legislative package had been sent out to the Commissioners (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) for consideration. This includes eight statutory recommendations and three proposed regulations for 1982. Mr. Dobbins stated that the staff has recommended since

this package was prepared that Item #4 in Law Enforcement and Boating dealing with gill nets on the Edisto River be deleted. The Commission discussed the legislative proposals and regulations and approved the package as submitted with Item #4 in Law Enforcement and Boating being deleted. Dr. Timmerman noted that when we propose rules and regulations, we need to seek public involvement so we are sure that what is being proposed does not have any major problems.

B. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Pat Ryan noted that the Commission had appointed a committee to develop a Commission policy regarding the assignment of Department radios and/or frequencies to non-Department personnel. Mr. Ryan stated the committee recommended the following policy for the Commission's consideration: "Any radios or frequency assignments to non-Department personnel shall be approved by the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission on actual need based primarily on the benefit that can be derived by the Department. Any radio unit and/or frequency assignment including both installation and maintenance shall be paid for by the permittee." The Commission added "to non-Department personnel" to this proposal as presented by Mr. Ryan. Mr. Ryan noted it was the intent of the Committee that all existing assignments would be grandfathered. Following discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Shuler moved for the Commission to adopt this policy as recommended by Mr. Ryan. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

4. Information and Public Affairs: Dr. Timmerman noted that the Division of Information and Public Affairs does not have adequate funds to mail the "Resource" as in the past and it is being proposed that we do away with our mailing list and set up a new list of people that request to receive this newspaper. Mailing costs are increasing from 3.6¢ to 5.9¢ per paper. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to endorse setting up the new mailing list as recommended. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that we should put out a news release concerning this change and a notice about this matter should be put in the next issue of the magazine.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph distributed a Seafood Calendar to the Commissioners which was provided by the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Governor did not re-appoint Coy Johnston to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board when his term expired. He stated that Frank Ford had sent a letter to resign from the Board and suggested that the Commission appoint Coy Johnston for the remainder of his term, which expires October 1, 1984. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to accept Frank Ford's resignation and appoint Coy Johnston for the remainder of Mr. Ford's term. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that the Minutes should show the Commission deeply appreciates the service Mr. Ford has rendered over a long period of time on the Advisory Board.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Shuler stated the Board met Wednesday and the Minutes will be sent out to the Commissioners. Commissioner Shuler noted they met with officials from the University of South Carolina Athletic Department who are working on the law enforcement physical monitoring program and this looks very encouraging. This program will cost about \$14,000 to implement and funds are now being sought. Commissioner Shuler noted that the Board discussed the current five-day training school for new Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and the Board recommended this five-day requirement be reduced to a one-day training school for new DWCO appointments. These schools will be held once a month to make it convenient for all new DWCO applicants. The Board also recommended that all Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers be required to meet with a Sergeant in each district once every three months. Commissioner Shuler moved for the Commission to adopt these two recommendations from the Board. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Shuler stated that the Board reviewed the existing alignment of law enforcement districts and did not have any recommendations to make on this matter. Commissioner Shuler informed the Commission that \$1,000 was received from the G. C. Fuller Foundation for the law enforcement awards program.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted that the Board did not have a report this month. Following the meeting, the Committee on impoundments will schedule a time to meet.

4. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the Board this month.

D. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman noted this report is in order and a copy has been sent to the Chairman.

E. 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). All appointments and re-appointments were approved by the Commission as recommended. Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Robert Morris is being promoted to Acting Lieutenant in District #5, subject to a six-month probationary period. This will be an Acting Lieutenant's position until the existing Lieutenant retires and upon Mr. Morris' completion of the six-month probationary period.

F. Other Remarks: Commissioner Stubbs asked about the need to assign someone to the Mountain Bridge property. Dr. Timmerman noted this is a unique area and needs a lot of protection. There is a need to assign someone to the Mountain Bridge Project. The staff would like to assign someone to this property without creating a new unit. This will be handled as a staff action and if it involves a promotion of anyone, it will be announced at the next Commission Meeting.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Edens announced the Commission will hold its next meeting at 10:00 a.m., on February 19, 1982, in Columbia. If a larger room is needed, it will be secured. Chairman Edens noted that some thought needs to be given to holding a Commission meeting with the shrimpers in Charleston, either in March or April.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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