

## MINUTES

## S. C. WILDLIFE &amp; MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Table Rock State Park

July 15, 1977

The regular monthly meeting of the S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Table Rock State Park at 10:30 a.m. on July 15, 1977, with Chairman Joseph Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present included: Lumpkin, Buchanan, Shuler, Boykin, Edens and Bennett. Directors and staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Ned Pendarvis, Jeff Fuller, Brock Conrad, Larry Mayer, David Cupka, Wayne Beam, Ben Campbell, Pat Ryan, Bobby Gifford, John Culler, David Scott and Alvin Poston. Pat Robertson of "The Columbia Record" was a guest at the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Boykin moved to hold an Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Lumpkin seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Commissioner Edens moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the June 17, 1977 Commission meeting and to approve them as submitted, with the exception of changing the dates to October 1 to January 1 in the bottom left corner of the approved Antlerless Deer Harvest Program. Commissioner Trask seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission. In addition, Commissioner Edens moved for approval of the June 17, 1977, Executive Session Minutes. Commissioner Lumpkin seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS: Dr. Timmerman noted that the Arthur Andersen Management Study and the Audit Report to the Commission had recommended the establishment of an internal auditor position. The Department has requested funds for this in the past three (3) years, but such has not been appropriated. In order to expedite this matter, someone in-house will be utilized to get the job underway and funds will be sought in FY 78-79 to permanently establish the job. The recent Audit Report has recommended that the internal auditor would work with an Audit Committee of the Commission. Dr. Timmerman recommended that the Finance Committee of the Commission also serve as the Commission's Audit Committee. Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion to that effect, seconded by Commissioner Edens and approved by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that there had been a great deal of publicity recently concerning the boundary dispute with the State of Georgia. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Governor has been involved and the Legislature has appointed a Study Committee to evaluate this matter. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department has addressed its concerns to the resources which we protect. However, this is



not just a fishery resource dispute, but one dealing with oil deposits, deepwater ports, etc. On July 8, 1977, Dr. Timmerman noted that a detailed meeting was held and the interim agreement of enforcing fishery laws from the north jetties and due east would no longer be in effect according to Governor Busbee of Georgia. Based upon authority granted by the Commission to the Division of Marine Resources to close certain areas in emergency situations, Dr. Timmerman noted that such was exercised to close the area from the north jetty to the mid-channel of the Savannah River. This was done in consultation with the Commission Chairman on July 8th and notice of the action was sent out to shrimpers. On July 11, 1977, Dr. Timmerman noted that he met in Savannah with Joe Tanner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and he agreed to close the Georgia side of the Savannah River effective 6:00 a. m., July 14th, for the duration of the shrimping season. Dr. Timmerman noted that if the Commission agreed to this action, it would be proper to act on such. Commission Lumpkin moved that the Commission approve Dr. Timmerman's action of closing the shrimping area from the north jetty to the mid-channel of the Savannah River. Commissioner Buchanan seconded the motion and the motion was approved by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman stated that he has been very pleased with the way law enforcement and marine resources personnel have handled this delicate situation.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Governor Edwards has signed a proclamation denoting September 24, 1977, as South Carolina Hunting and Fishing Day.

Dr. Timmerman stated that the Budget and Control Board had approved the Commission's recommendation for the firm to do engineering design and preliminary site selection on the seafood port facilities.

Dr. Timmerman distributed to the Commission copies of a booklet entitled, "Organization, Authority and Programs of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies", which was prepared by the Wildlife Management Institute.

### ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

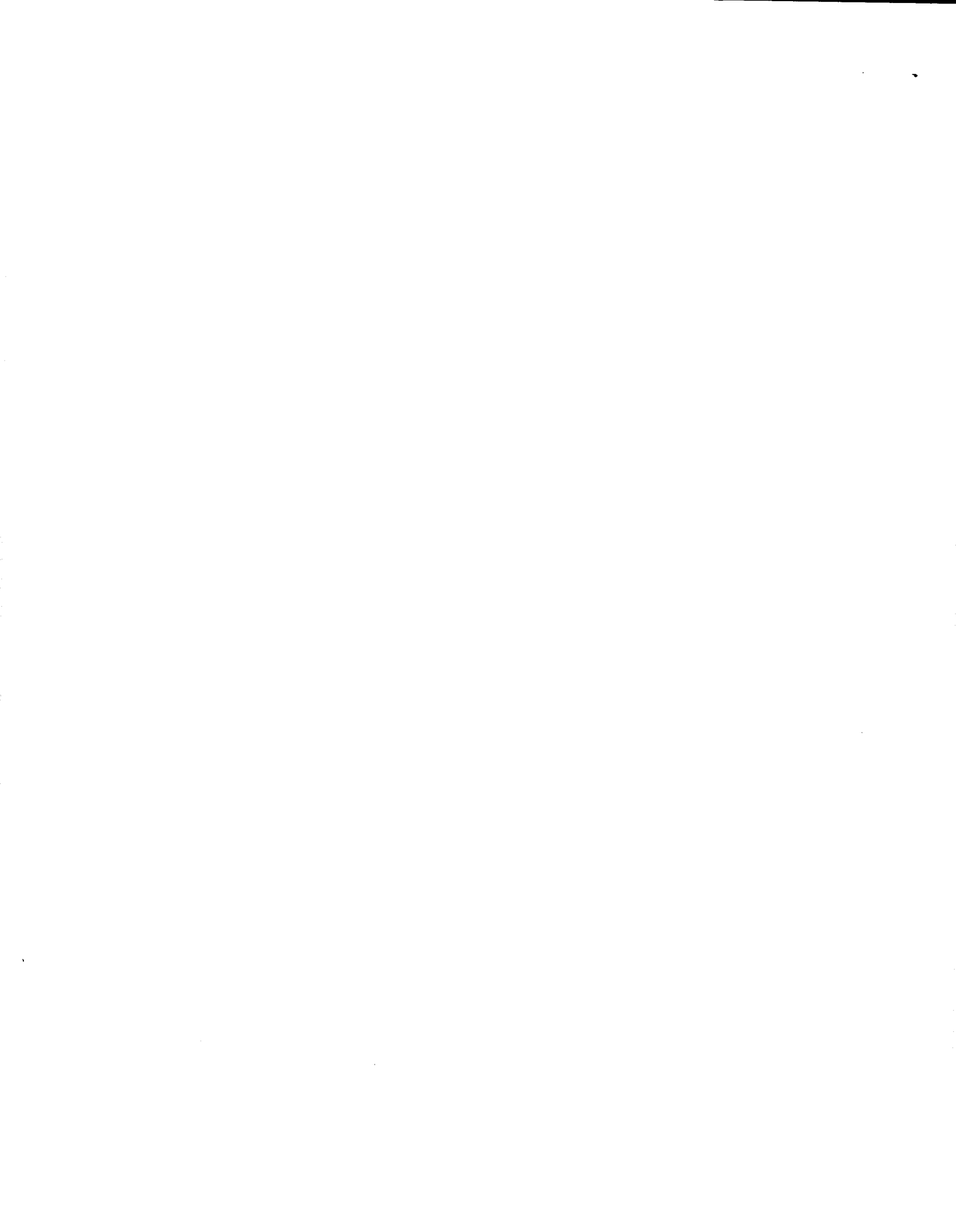
A. Proposed Dedication Agreements for Stevens Creek and Capers Island: Dr. Beam noted that the proposed dedication agreements were distributed at the June Commission meeting. Due to some problems regarding BOR funding at Capers Island, future meetings will be held to work out such and no action is needed at this time on the Capers Island dedication agreement. Dr. Beam ask that the Commission act on the newly developed dedication agreement on Stevens Creek in McCormick County. Dr. Timmerman noted that this agreement had been reviewed and approved by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. Commissioner Boykin moved to approve the dedication agreement on Stevens Creek and include the property in the corpus of the trust. Commissioner Lumpkin seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission. (Copy of dedication agreement attached to original Minutes.)



ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 1976-77 Budget Report: Benny Reeves noted that the budget report had been mailed to the Commission. This report revealed that the Division of Information and Public Affairs had over-expended its budget. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Division had over-expended its budget by \$13,800. Dr. Timmerman stated that John Culler was doing everything he can to provide informational services within the limits of his budget. Dr. Timmerman stated that when the Commission approved raising the magazine price to \$5.00, it was their intent that it would pay for itself. If not, the staff was to report back to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman distributed a report to the Commission concerning the revenue received by the Division. Dr. Timmerman noted that the calendar lost about \$3,000 last year, but this year the money will be raised before the calendars are printed. In addition, over \$21,000 has been collected for the book which will be printed. The binders are currently selling well and should turn out very well. Dr. Timmerman noted that when the magazine expenditures are considered, however, the Division shows an over-expenditure of funds. As such, the magazine expenditures are having an effect on the other operations in the Division. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission should evaluate this matter and make a decision on whether or not the magazine should pay for itself. Due to the usefulness of the magazine and its tremendous value as a public relations tool, Dr. Timmerman noted that he felt the State should subsidize the publication. Dr. Timmerman noted that we can no longer afford to use staff time and funds primarily for publication of the magazine. Dr. Timmerman stated that \$50,000 in State appropriations would probably enable the magazine to sustain itself. Dr. Timmerman pointed out that state funds are used for the USA Pageant, Spoleto Festival, etc., and he felt the magazine should receive state funds also. Commissioner Hudson noted that he felt we should ask for additional state funds for the magazine. Following other discussion, Commissioner Lumpkin moved that the Department seek state funds to support the magazine's operations. Commissioner Edens seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Edens noted that the magazine serves to promote the whole state and he feels this action is quite justified. Commissioner Hudson stated that he felt it would be helpful if a package is developed for the legislature showing the record of the magazine, number of out-of-state subscribers, and the benefits created by the magazine. In addition, Commissioner Bennett noted that the staff should work with various legislators in order to include a proviso in the budget so that revenue generated by the Division could be retained for its use.

B. Proposed Regulations on Certain Migratory Birds: Brock Conrad presented proposed recommended seasons, shooting hours, daily bag limits and possession limits for marsh hens, gallinules, woodcock and snipe. (Copy of seasons, etc. attached). Following some discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Boykin moved for approval of such as submitted by Brock Conrad. Commissioner Edens



seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission. Mr. Conrad noted that the Commission had already approved the dates for dove season. The confirmed framework will be received on July 22, 1977 from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

C. Update on Injunction Concerning Dove Season: Jeff Fuller noted that the Friends of Animals had brought action seeking an injunction against the September hunting of doves. The Judge ruling on the matter directed the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare an environmental impact statement regarding the September hunting of doves. On July 6, 1977, the Southeastern Dove Technical Committee held an emergency meeting in Atlanta with USFWS personnel to attain information for the environmental impact statement and to combat the proposed action. The USFWS has developed an environmental assessment based on a negative declaration which will be presented to the court in hopes of satisfying the requirement for an environmental impact statement at this time. Mr. Fuller discussed various reasons that have to be presented to support the hunting of doves in September.

Chairman Hudson noted that this action by the Friends of Animals is just one step in their effort to stop dove hunting entirely. Dr. Timmerman noted that the average sportsmen in the State does not realize that this action is a real threat to dove hunting. Chairman Hudson noted that if the newspapers would address this matter, the public could put the pressure on those individuals that are responsible. In addition, Chairman Hudson noted that if the public is not made aware of this proposed action, the Commission is not fulfilling its responsibility to the sportsmen of the State. It is the Commission's job to protect the hunter. Commissioner Edens moved that the Department publicize this problem immediately and tell the public who and where to write concerning this potential problem. Commissioner Lumpkin seconded the motion and it was approved by consensus of opinion of the Commission.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves stated that he did not have anything to add to the written report.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller reported that lespedeza had been planted at Webb Center, Worthy Bottoms, Styx and Blackville. Due to the dry weather, the crops do not look too well at present. Mr. Fuller noted that 152 mottled ducks had been received from Louisiana and 159 Canada geese from Pennsylvania. These have been stocked at Bear Island and other plantations where there are similar programs.





3. Information and Public Affairs: John Culler stated that he did not have anything to add to the written report.

4. Law Enforcement and Boating: Pat Ryan stated that the Department's Underwater Recovery and Rescue Teams are now functional. One of the teams was used at Lake Hartwell on the July 4th weekend and all comments received were favorable.

5. Marine Resources: David Cupka reported for Dr. Joseph. He noted the brown shrimp season thus far had been a little above average for commercial shrimpers. Commissioner Edens noted that if the white shrimp are not available for harvest, the Department should promote the harvest of rock shrimp.

6. Natural Area Acquisition and Resources Planning: Dr. Beam did not have anything to add to his written report. Chairman Hudson noted that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will meet in Camden on July 21st.

E. Salary Review Committee Report: Dr. Timmerman noted that he had nothing to report and passed a copy of the Salary Review Committee's report to Chairman Hudson for his information.

F. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission had adopted a Conservation Officer Selection Procedure, but the manner in which selected individuals would be forwarded to the Commission was not determined. As such, Dr. Timmerman distributed a format to the Commission which would be used to supply the Commission with pertinent information on each individual selected. This information could also be used by the Commission Chairman in sending letters to legislators regarding the individual selected. (Copy of format attached to original Minutes).

Commissioner Buchanan noted that the Commission had been informed that no qualified applicants were available for a vacancy in McCormick County. Commissioner Buchanan recommended that the staff look for qualified applicants in the surrounding counties for the position in McCormick County. Commissioner Edens recommended that the best qualified applicant nearest McCormick County be selected for the job. Chairman Hudson suggested that the staff look for someone that is willing to move into the county.

In regard to the selection procedure, Commissioner Edens noted that, thus far, the credentials on paper of those selected is far above those that have been submitted in the past to the Commission.



Relative to re-appointment of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers, Dr. Timmerman noted that Mr. Jeremiah Wright had been re-appointed by the Commission, but is unable to attend school due to his age (late 70's). Following some discussion, Commissioner Lumpkin moved that the Commission waive the requirement that Mr. Wright attend the school due to his age. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that all re-appointments and new appointments for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers, Conservation Officers, and other Department personnel were mailed to the Commission (copy attached). Dr. Timmerman went over this list with the Commission noting that he had received a telephone call regarding the appointment of James W. Brazelle as a Conservation Officer stating that he did not live in Kershaw County. Bobby Gifford noted that Mr. Brazelle is a resident of Kershaw County, registered to vote in the County, owns a house in the County and has lived there permanently for the past year. Following other discussion, a motion was made, seconded and adopted by the Commission to approve all appointments and re-appointments as submitted.

In addition, Dr. Timmerman noted that he recommended that Mr. Malcolm Lucas be issued a commission. Mr. Lucas is a new pilot that will be working with the Department. Commissioner Buchanan moved that Mr. Lucas be appointed to a commission. The motion was seconded and approved by the Commission. Commissioner Edens requested that a resume on Mr. Lucas be included in the next Commission package.

G. Other Remarks: Chairman Hudson noted that the August Commission meeting will be held in Charleston at the Marine Center. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Marine Center has a number of activities scheduled for August 19th. As such, it would be more convenient for the staff if the Commission could meet on the second or fourth Friday. Following some discussion, the Commission agreed to meet on August 26th if there are no conflicts.

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned the regular meeting and went into Executive Session.



1977-78 S. C. Migratory Bird Regulations

<u>Species</u>	<u>Open Seasons</u>	<u>Shooting Hours</u>	<u>Daily Bag Limit</u>	<u>Possession Limit</u>
Mourning Doves	Sept. 3 - Oct. 8 Nov. 19 - 26 Dec. 20 - Jan. 14	12 noon to sunset	12	24
Marsh Hens or Rails (King, Clapper, Sora and Virginia)	Sept. 10 - Nov. 18	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset	15 (King & Clapper) 25 (Sora & Virginia)	30 25
Gallinules	Sept. 10 - Nov. 18	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset	15	30
Woodcock	Nov. 24 - Jan. 27	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset	5	10
Common (Wilson's) Snipe	Nov. 14 - Feb. 28	½ hr. before sunrise to sunset	8	16

