

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING Clemson University Clemson, South Carolina

July 16, 1976

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at the Plant and Animal Science Building, Clemson University, Clemson, S. C., at 10:00 a. m. on July 16, 1976, with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present included: Lumpkin, Boykin, Buchanan, Trask, Shuler and Edens. Directors and staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Mr. Reeves, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Culler, Mr. Latimer, Mr. Cotty, Mr. Pendarvis, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Cartee, Mr. Evans, Mr. Stansell and others. Guests present at the meeting included Mr. Frank Caggiano, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, and Dean Luther Anderson of the College of Agricultural Sciences with various staff members. During the luncheon program presented by the College of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. Robert C. Edwards, President, Clemson University, joined the group meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Hudson asked if anyone desired to hold an Executive Session. There was no motion for an Executive Session.

INTRODUCTION OF HOST: Chairman Hudson introduced Dr. Luther Anderson, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. Dean Anderson welcomed the Commission to the campus, noting that many of the activities associated with the College of Agricultural Sciences interfaces with the activities of the Department with wildlife and marine resources. He then presented an overview of the functions and activities of the College of Agricultural Sciences and introduced the major staff members associated with the College. Dean Anderson noted that his staff will present an in-depth discussion of the College as it relates to the Department's functions during the luncheon program.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Chairman Hudson noted that the Minutes of the previous meeting had been mailed to all Commissioners. Commissioner Lumpkin moved to accept the Minutes of the May 1976 meeting as written. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved.

ITEM II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS: Chairman Hudson introduced the new Commissioners - Shuler, Trask and Edens - and welcomed them as members of the Commission.



ITEM III. ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRMAN APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Chairman Hudson noted that the Governor, about three years ago, created the Advisory Boards to the Commission. The other standing committee of the Commission is the Finance Committee. Chairman Hudson noted that the Commission Chairman appoints the Chairman of these Boards. Presently, two of the Advisory Board Chairmen and the Chairman of the Finance Committee are no longer on the Commission. Thus, Mr. Hudson appointed Mr. Boykin to be Chairman of the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board; Mr. Edens as Chairman of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board, and Mr. Buchanan as Chairman of the Finance Committee which will consist of Mr. Shuler, Mr. Trask, Representative Bennett and Senator Dennis. In addition, Mr. Hudson noted that with Mr. Glenn no longer on the Commission, the Vice-Chairman position is vacant. Thus, the floor was open to nominations for this position. Mr. Boykin nominated Dr. Lumpkin to be Vice-Chairman. Mr. Buchanan seconded the nomination and the Commission approved Dr. Lumpkin as Vice-Chairman.

ITEM IV. COMMENTS:

Dr. Timmerman presented a few comments to the Commission. He noted that Dr. Eugene A. Laurent has decided to terminate employment with the Department, effective July 22, 1976. His new job will be Director of Research and Statistical Services of the State Budget and Control Board. Dr. Timmerman noted that Dr. Laurent has made significant contributions to the Department in the areas of marketing, Heritage Trust, and coastal zone planning. In order to fill this position, Dr. Timmerman stated that he was accepting applications until August 6, 1976. As such, he asked if the Commission wanted to appoint a committee to assist in the selection process. Chairman Hudson recommended that Dr. Timmerman screen all applicants and make a recommendation at the August Commission meeting. Dr. Timmerman noted that he would send out a summation to the Commission of the individual selected.

Dr. Timmerman commented on the recent death of Mr. Tom Yawkey, owner of North and South Islands. It has been indicated by Mr. Yawkey's attorney that Mr. Yawkey's will is very complex and it will be a month to six weeks before it is probated. Thus, any further action by the Department will be contingent upon the contents of the will. Dr. Timmerman noted that he will report back to the Commission when more specific information is known. He also noted that he had sent a telegram to Mrs. Yawkey and suggested that the Commission pass a resolution honoring Mr. Yawkey at a later date.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department is in a border dispute with the State of Georgia. Instead of using the mid-point of the Savannah River as the border, the State of Georgia wants to claim jurisdiction to a line north of this border. The Georgia Attorney General's Office has instructed its enforcement officers to enforce Georgia's



laws up to this "new" border. Dr. Timmerman noted that they recently met with Georgia officials concerning this matter, but to no avail. Dr. Timmerman recommended that the Commission request the S. C. Attorney General's Office to proceed immediately with court action to determine the legal boundary between South Carolina and Georgia in this disputed area. Mr. Lumpkin so moved, seconded by Mr. Boykin and the Commission adopted such. Ed Latimer presented a background discussion of the history of this problem.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the FY 1977-78 budget is nearing completion. Benny Reeves will discuss this matter with Mr. Buchanan and present such at the August Commission meeting. This budget must be presented to the Budget and Control Board by September 15, 1976.

Dr. Timmerman passed out to the Commission, the provisos (as passed by the Senate) on the use of airplanes and county funds. Dr. Timmerman noted that the staff is currently developing a package on county funds for presentation to county delegations after the General Election.

Dr. Timmerman recommended that the three Advisory Boards hold a joint meeting in August or September at the Marine Center auditorium. This would offer an opportunity for members to meet the staff and become better acquainted with programs and activities. Thus, Mr. Hudson advised that the Advisory Boards would meet jointly at the Marine Center in August on the same date as the Commission meeting. Mr. Hudson noted that Mr. Coy Johnston has invited the Commission to meet at Bonneau Ferry on September 17, 1976. Dr. Timmerman noted that he will give Mr. Johnston a phone call concerning this matter and notify the Commission next week. Mr. Hudson stated that he had received a number of comments concerning the need for a pre-determined date for Advisory Board meetings so that members could set their schedules accordingly. Thus, Mr. Hudson recommended that the Advisory Boards meet on the second Friday every other month. In addition, Mr. Hudson recommended that each Advisory Board elect a Vice-Chairman. The Commission agreed to adopt such a policy.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission had adopted a policy to present weapons and badges to retiring employees. However, General Services and the Attorney General's Office has ruled that we cannot give away State property without proper compensation for such. This has been discussed with Mr. Latimer and the possibility of using Foundation funds to pay for these weapons. Mr. Hudson noted that the Commission does want to present this property to retiring employees and the Commission, serving as the governing body of the Foundation, can approve such expenditures. Thus, Mr. Hudson instructed the staff to pursue this matter.

Mr. Buchanan noted that some of the legislators in his district were unhappy about the lease with the Department on property located in Newberry County on Lake Greenwood. The lease states that the Department will pay the insurance, utilities, maintenance, etc., on this property. However, since the inception of the lease on January 1, 1968, Mr. Buchanan (as administrator of real property for Greenwood County) has paid these charges. County Council has requested that this responsibility be returned to the Department to pay these expenses for this parcel of property. It



was noted by Dr. Timmerman that this facility was used for boat storage and as a headquarters for conservation officers. In addition, Dr. Timmerman stated that there are certain restrictions on the use of State property. Thus, he recommended that the matter be analyzed by the legal staff and reported on at the next Commission meeting. The Commission agreed to this recommendation.

ITEM V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. BUDGET STATUS REPORT: Benny Reeves reported on the budget status of FY 75-76, noting that the Department was within its budget for the fiscal year. Mr. Hudson congratulated Dr. Timmerman and the Division Directors for the fine job on this matter. Dr. Timmerman stated that most of the credit should go to the Division Directors and staff for its efforts.

Mr. Reeves distributed budget figures for FY 76-77 to the Commission, noting that funds will again be tight for this fiscal year. However, he noted that efforts have been initiated to live within this budget. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will not know until the next Commission meeting, the amount of funds that remain from the 75-76 budget.

B. RED WOLF RECOVERY PROGRAM: Ken Stansell reported on the proposed recovery program of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, noting that such was one of the most endangered species in the nation. Mr. Stansell gave a background report on the habitat and life history of the species. He noted that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to implement an experimental relocation of two adult red wolves on Bull Island. The island is isolated and represents an adequate outside laboratory. The Service wants to test the theory of whether or not the species can adapt to such a habitat and mate. This proposal represents a cooperative agreement which does not involve the expenditure of any state funds on the project. The time period for the experiment will be from September or October 1976 until September 1977. The Service requests a coordination of public information concerning the experiment. The adults will be radio collared for monitoring. If they should leave the island, they would be captured, if possible, or killed. Thus, Mr. Stansell noted that the staff recommended the acceptance of this proposal. Mr. Hudson noted that he had received phone calls from Audubon, National Wildlife Federation, etc., urging the Department to support this program. Mr. Buchanan asked about the potential problem of adapting to the island and becoming over-populated. Mr. Stansell stated that if such were to occur, they would have to be removed and taken to a larger island. Mr. Boykin moved that the Commission adopt the proposal as presented by the USFWS. Dr. Lumpkin seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ROLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE MAGAZINE: John Culler presented a report on the SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE magazine. Dr. Timmerman



noted that he has received comments from people inside and outside the Department concerning how much of the magazine is devoted to sports related articles, conservation articles, and whether or not we should become involved in various issues. Mr. Hudson noted that it would probably be in order to ask the Advisory Boards to analyze this matter and have their thinking on this matter for input to the Commission.

John Culler presented some opening remarks on his philosophy of the role of the magazine. He noted that when he came to the Department in 1970, there was no magazine philosophy nor magazine budget. Since then, the magazine has evolved into what it is today and the only policy the magazine has ever had has been a John Culler policy. The magazine has evolved into what it is today and magazine articles have been presented with a particular reason in mind. Mr. Culler noted that he desired to keep the magazine just like it is as he feels that he knows more about what should go in the magazine than anyone else. Mr. Culler noted that articles other than hunting and fishing are in the magazine because we are now more than just a hunting and fishing agency. He noted that the magazine tries to reach as many people as possible as they are voters and have input into the decision-making process. At this point, Mr. Culler presented an in-depth slide presentation on the articles that have appeared in recent years in the magazine and the reasons for having various types of articles in the magazine. At the end of the slide presentation, Mr. Culler noted that the print run from 1970 to 1976 has increased by 576% and we have just about reached the saturation point. In addition, he noted that hunting has received more pages in the magazine than any other category of articles. Conservation had the second highest number of pages in the magazine. Mr. Hudson noted that the magazine was rated FIRST in the country for the last two years. Mr. Trask stated that he felt the magazine was an outstanding publication. Mr. Edens noted that he had received numerous comments as he travels throughout the country on the excellence of the magazine. Mr. Boykin and Mr. Buchanan stated that they felt the magazine should be kept as it is currently published.

Dr. Timmerman also noted that the Department newspaper already has about 2,000 subscribers and will focus upon the consumptive users throughout the State.

B. RECESS FOR LUNCH: At this point, the Commission recessed for lunch. At the luncheon, served by the College of Agricultural Sciences, the Commission was joined by Dr. Robert C. Edwards, President of Clemson University. The staff of the College of Agricultural Sciences presented a program on projects and activities in the College that relate to the activities of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. The primary education, research, and extension activities undertaken by the College that were discussed included marine biology, wildlife biology, fisheries biology, wildlife extension, and marine extension.

C. 1976-77 PROPOSED MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS (OTHER THAN DUCKS AND GEESE): Following the luncheon recess and program by the College of Agricultural Sciences, the Commission reconvened to discuss the setting of seasons



for migratory birds, except for ducks and geese. Brock Conrad noted that the staff had analyzed the matter of dove hunters and conducted various surveys of season openings. Considering all the information gathered, the staff recommended for mourning doves, to open the season (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE) on September 11 - October 16; November 19 - November 27 and December 22 - January 15. Mr. Trask noted that opening the first season on September 11 is at a time when it is very hot and he suggested it not open until September 18. Mr. Shuler asked if it were possible to draw a line in the State and have a split season. Mr. Conrad noted that such zoning would have to be requested from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. Timmerman asked if the Commission wanted the staff to analyze this matter. The Commission endorsed the staff analyzing this matter before seasons are set next year. Mr. Hudson stated that such zoning may create numerous problems with hunters crossing over the zone to hunt. Mr. Boykin noted that Dr. Lumpkin had requested that the first season open September 18 and close October 23. Following other discussion, Mr. Boykin moved that the first season open September 18 and close October 23 with the second season running November 19 through November 27 and the third season running December 22 through January 15 - shooting hours 12:00 noon to legal sunset - daily bag limit of 12 and possession limit of 24. Mr. Trask seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

Mr. Conrad recommended that the season for marsh hens or rails (King, Clapper, Sora and Virginia) run from September 18 - November 26, shooting hours of one-half hour before legal sunrise to legal sunset, with a daily bag limit of 15 (King and Clapper) and 25 (Virginia and Sora) and a possession limit of 30 (King and Clapper) and 25 (Virginia and Sora). Following some discussion, Mr. Trask moved for the adoption of this recommendation. This was seconded by Mr. Boykin and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Conrad noted that the recommendation for gallinules was the same as for rails. Mr. Trask moved for the adoption of this recommendation. This was seconded by Mr. Boykin and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Conrad recommended a season for woodcock running from November 25 through January 28, shooting hours the same as rails, a daily bag limit of 5 and a possession limit of 10. Mr. Trask moved for the adoption of this recommendation. Mr. Boykin seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

Mr. Conrad noted that these dates, as approved by the Commission, must be confirmed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Thus, the dates should not be released to the press until such confirmation is received.

Mr. Hudson noted that duck seasons will be set as a result of the upcoming meeting of the Flyway Council in Savannah the latter part of July. Those recommendations then go to Washington for a final decision. Mr. Hudson invited any of the Commissioners to attend the Savannah meeting that desire to go. Dr. Timmerman noted there is a regional problem with wood ducks. A unified front is planned on the banding of ducks as to analyzing the information collected. The Department feels that maybe we should band wood ducks in the State, instead of providing funds to band black ducks in Canada.



D. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES: Benny Reeves stated that he did not have any comments to add unless there were questions.
2. WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES: Jeff Fuller reported that 114 mottled ducks had been received from Louisiana. Some of these have been released and others are being held to maturity before releasing. About 200 in all have been released.
3. INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS: John Culler noted that the Youth Conservation Camp was held at the Columbia Zoo this year with about thirty (30) participants. They launched a wood duck box construction program and built about 400 boxes. Anyone that would like some of these boxes can have same. Instructions are provided for installation, data gathering, and reporting back to the Department. Dr. Timmerman noted that he was very impressed with the Camp and John Culler's staff is to be commended.
4. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND BOATING: Mr. Ryan reported that he had no comments unless there were questions from the Commission.
5. MARINE RESOURCES: Dr. Joseph was in Washington and could not attend the meeting.
6. NATURAL AREA AND RESOURCES PLANNING: There were no comments from Dr. Laurent as he had the flu and could not attend.

E. SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Mr. Hudson explained to the new Commissioners the purpose of this Committee. Dr. Timmerman noted that there was one (1) outstanding and one (1) marginal rating for the month. All others were within the range and justified. In addition, there was one (1) unsatisfactory rating and Dr. Timmerman has asked the staff to completely document this rating. Mr. Buchanan asked about personnel that have reached the maximum of their Grade. Dr. Timmerman noted that the four percent (4%) cost of living raise went to all employees. However, some positions need to be upgraded and position questionnaires have been sent to the State Personnel Division for analysis. This report will be forthcoming at the next Commission meeting.

F. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS:

1. WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES: Jeff Fuller discussed recommendations of the June 25th meeting of the Board. They recommended that the staff discourage the relocation of raccoons and develop legislation next year for having clean animals. In addition, the Board recommended the close of waterfowl



hunting each day at 3:00 p.m., except for the last two days of each split season. Mr. Hudson expressed reservations about this as he felt the Department of Interior would hold us to a 3:00 p.m. closing in the event we wanted to go back to a sunset closing. The Board also recommended raising the minimum bond on waterfowl violations.

2. HERITAGE TRUST: Mr. Hudson stated that the status of this Board is uncertain as legislation has been passed and we are waiting for Governor Edwards to make appointments. Mr. Hudson noted that he has notified the Governor, but has not received word from such.

G. APPOINTMENTS: Dr. Timmerman noted that these appointments and re-appointments have been mailed out to the Commission for their action. On the re-appointments of personnel, Mr. Boykin moved for their adoption, seconded by Mr. Buchanan and approved by the Commission. On the new non-pay appointments, which includes Charles S. Burgess, Sr., David C. Bryan, Jr., George Lester Graham, George W. Curry, R. A. Floyd, B. E. Richburg, and the non-pay re-appointments which includes John S. Alsup and James C. Fleming, Mr. Trask moved for their adoption, seconded by Mr. Boykin and approved by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the new Commissioners that have a non-pay commission will have these voided and a state commission will be issued as a Commissioner. This avoids the problem of "dual office holding" which the Attorney General has ruled is not permissible. This only affects Mr. Trask.

H. AUGUST COMMISSION MEETING: Mr. Edens asked if the August Commission meeting could be held on August 27, instead of August 20, if it would not interfere with anyone's schedule. Mr. Buchanan suggested that the Commission meet in October at Webb Wildlife Center. Following some discussion, the Commission agreed to meet on the afternoon of August 27, 1976, with the joint Advisory Board meeting that morning at 10:00 a.m. This will be at the Marine Center.

There being no further business at this time, Mr. Trask moved to adjourn which was seconded and passed by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry D. Cartee
Acting Commission Secretary

