

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
July 17, 1987
10:00 A. M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., July 17, 1987, in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Webster, Compton, Harrelson, Owen, Stokes, Thomason and Bennett. Directors and Staff present were Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster 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 June 2, 1987 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman updated the Commission on the budget reductions in the Department's budget and noted that the gubernatorial vetoes had reduced our budget by approximately \$120,000.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that we have been seeking to replace two of our aircraft and he distributed a Fact Sheet to the Commission on the replacement of these aircraft. This Fact Sheet included a funding proposal for the replacement cost of these two aircraft. Dr. Timmerman noted that we need to secure approval to replace these aircraft from the Joint Bond Review Committee and he asked the Commissioners to contact members of this Committee to discuss our proposal. Dr. Timmerman noted that Dan Dobbins would be coordinating this effort with the members of the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the six-month vehicle accident report to the Commissioners for their information.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we had a team of geneticists to review the striped bass and hybrid bass commercialization proposal last week and a similar review will be conducted by law enforcement personnel on August 10-12. In addition, he noted that Larry Cartee is pursuing an economic review on this matter with personnel at Clemson University.



Dr. Timmerman distributed a recent article in the Wildlife Action magazine to the Commission for their information.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that he met with Governor Campbell this week to discuss departmental programs and activities.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins noted that he is preparing a comprehensive year-end legislative report for the Commission and will have such available at their next meeting. Mr. Dobbins expressed thanks to the Commission for their support during this legislative year and noted "special" thanks to Commissioners Dennis and Bennett for their efforts on behalf of the Department this year.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update - Berry's Mill Fish Hatchery: Brock Conrad noted that a report on renovations of the Berry's Mill Fish Hatchery was sent to the Commission in their packet (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad noted that the preliminary estimates that we have received to renovate the Berry's Mill Hatchery are approximately \$863,000.00. Mr. Conrad noted that this figure is too high for this area and he recommended that we look for another site to build a new hatchery and come back to the Commission with a proposed plan. Commissioner Thomason noted that a new hatchery would support the 12-14 county upstate region and that we could seek legislative support for funding of a new hatchery for approximately \$400,000/500,000. Following discussion, Commissioner Thomason moved for the Department to proceed to develop a plan for a new hatchery and report back to the Commission. Commissioner Harrelson seconded this motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. Commission Policy Committee Report: Commissioner Compton noted that the Commission Policy Committee had met and a recommended packet of information had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Compton went over this package of information and noted that various changes in Commission policies had been proposed. Following discussion, Commissioner Stokes moved for the Commission to approve the Commission Policy Committee Report as presented. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

C. Status Report - Alligator Program: Brock Conrad noted that on July 6, 1987, the alligator was removed from the endangered species list. He noted that we are handling approximately 200 complaints per year as it relates to alligators. Mr. Conrad noted that a memo concerning the status of the alligator had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad noted that Phase I of our alligator program would include securing some coolers to be placed at Bear Island and Santee Coastal Reserve and to establish a trapper harvest program. Phase II would include setting up a harvest program with land-owners. Dr. Timmerman noted that we need to educate the public concerning the need to harvest alligators. Following other discussion, Commissioner Compton



moved for the Commission to adopt the recommendations of staff on the harvest of alligators. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Status Report - WMA Program: John Frampton noted that a financial statement for FY 86-87 on the WMA Program was sent to the Commission, as well as acres in the WMA Program in FY 86-87 and FY 87-88 (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Frampton went over this information with the Commission, noting that some lands have been lost from the WMA Program, but other lands have been gained and we are holding our own at approximately 1.3-million acres. Dr. Timmerman noted that we need to look at the license sales comparisons and projections made on revenue from license sales and such will be included for discussion on the August Commission Agenda.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed FY 88-89 Budget: Commissioner Compton noted that the Commission Finance Committee had met and reviewed the recommendations from staff concerning the FY 88-89 budget requests. Commissioner Compton noted that this budget request proposal was sent to the Commissioners in their packet (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt the FY 88-89 budget proposal as presented. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. Proposed Duck Stamp Budget: John Frampton noted the proposed budget for State Duck Stamp funds, 1987-88, was sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). This proposed budget was discussed with the Commission and Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to adopt the budget as presented. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt a resolution to commend DU for their efforts in providing funding for the Springfield acquisition. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

C. Proposed Heritage Trust Registration Agreements and Easements: Dr. Wade Batson noted that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board has approved and recommended to the Commission, three Registration Agreements and Easements to place three Heritage Preserves under the corpus of Heritage Trust (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Batson discussed these proposed Registration Agreements and Easements with the Commission. Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt these as presented. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Proposed 1987-88 Dove and Marsh Hen Seasons: Brock Conrad noted that the proposed 1987-88 Dove and Marsh Hen Seasons were sent out to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve these recommendations as presented. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

E. Proposed Raccoon Project: Brock Conrad noted that a proposed raccoon project on Department lands was sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad introduced Dr. Victor Nettles to discuss this proposal and Dr. Nettles went over this proposed raccoon project with the Commission. Following discussion, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission



to approve this proposal as submitted. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

F. Proposed Fish Kill Report - Catawba River: Brock Conrad noted that the Commission had been sent copy of the Catawba River Fish Kill investigation (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad noted that this was the largest fish kill to occur in the state, including approximately 336,00 fish with total damages totalling approximately \$122,000. Mr. Ross Self discussed the fish kill assessment and the mechanics that were utilized to develop this fish kill report. Following discussion, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to authorize the Department to intervene in any suits and legal action pertaining to this matter and to approve the report as submitted. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

G. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.
3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing further to report.
4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines informed the Commission that Camp Wildwood was held in June and it was a very successful camp. Don Winslow discussed the Camp and went over the nature of various activities which were held during the Camp. Commissioner Thomason noted that next year, he would like for the Commission to meet at Camp Wildwood while this camp was in progress. Sonny Baines distributed the "HOOKED ON FISHING - NOT ON DRUGS" bumper stickers and noted that we are developing a comprehensive program on this matter. Mr. Baines also informed the Commission of the ACI awards which were recently presented and noted that several awards, including First Place, were presented to programs and activities in the Division of Conservation Education and Communications.
5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer informed the Commission that the Recreational Fisheries Fair was recently held and that it turned out very well with over 5,000 people in attendance. Dr. Sandifer introduced John Miglarese who has been appointed the new Assistant Director of Marine Resources. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to adopt the appropriate resolution to commend Mr. Gene Smoak for his excellent work with the Division of Marine Resources. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

H. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board met on June 11, 1987 and he went over the items which were discussed at the meeting. Commissioner Owen noted the Board would hold its next meeting on August 20, 1987.



2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Stokes noted that the Board met on June 9th and he asked Bill Chastain to present a proposal to the Commission. Mr. Chastain noted that the Board recommended an amendment in the Firearms Policy and this was discussed with the Commission. Commissioner Stokes moved for the Commission to adopt this change in the Firearms Policy as presented. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Harrelson noted that this Board met recently and that he would recommend to the Commission various appointments at the August Commission Meeting.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Thomason noted that the Board discussed Project WILD and is looking at various aspects of the educational program in the Department. Commissioner Thomason noted that he will soon meet with the Law Enforcement Captains to see about developing a kid's fishing rodeo in every Law Enforcement District in the state. Commissioner Thomason noted that the Board has identified that there are too many facets of education in the Department in the various Divisions and that the Board will form a Committee to develop a short-term and long-term plan for bringing the educational program in the Department all under one roof. Commissioner Thomason noted a proposal was sent to the Commission concerning raising the price of the SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE MAGAZINE (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve the price increase in the magazine in concept with the Department making an effort to sell this proposal to the Legislature for the funds to be used for the SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE MAGAZINE. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Harrelson noted that he thought the Commission should send a statement of concern and hopes for a speedy recovery to Johnny Evans.

5. Heritage Trust: Dr. Wade Batson noted that there was nothing further to report.

Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session at this time to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that the Commission would now recess the regular Meeting to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve the modified list of appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.



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

J. Appointments: This matter was previously acted upon in the Commission Meeting.

K. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster noted that the Commission would hold its next meeting on August 21, 1987, at 11:00 A.M., at Edisto Island. Commissioner Harrelson noted that this meeting would be held at the Lion's Club on Myrtle Street at Edisto Island.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN

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

