

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
July 19, 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., on Friday, July 19, 1991, in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., 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, Drummond, Pendarvis, Owen, Miller, Poston, Graham and Snow. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines, and various other staff members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone 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 21, 1991 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman addressed the Commission regarding the Department's budget, noting that we are about \$1,000,000 short this year in our budget. He further noted that twenty-two (22) positions have been turned in as part of the budget reductions and the state is approximately \$80,000,000 short in its budget and we may face another 2%-4% cut by the State Budget and Control Board. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Board is looking at all sources of funds to include the County Game and Fish Fund, Gas Tax, Shrimp Baiting, sale of marine fish, marine revenue, titling and registration and various other revenue sources. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Board has put a freeze on state funds and we are internally putting a freeze on revenue funds in order to deal with these budget cuts. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission Finance Committee composed of Commissioners Miller, Compton, Snow and Drummond will meet on July 24, 1991.



ITEM III - PRESENTATIONS - LIFETIME LICENSES

Val Nash noted that a survey was recently conducted on freshwater fisheries and this survey provided invaluable management information for the Freshwater Fisheries program. Mr. Nash noted that as an incentive for fishermen participating in this survey, the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund provided funding for one (1) Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License and three (3) Lifetime Fishing Licenses. Mr. Nash noted that of the four (4) winners of these Lifetime Licenses, one (1) was present-Christy Burns of Clover- and Mr. Nash presented the Lifetime Fishing License to Ms. Burns for her participation in this survey.

ITEM IV - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins noted that efforts are underway to prepare the Department's legislative package for 1992 and we are still waiting for the General Assembly to be called back into session to deal with various pieces of legislation this year.

ITEM V - PRESENTATION - Carol H. Cassetti (Proposed Shortening of the Mourning Dove Hunting Season)

Ms. Carol Cassetti addressed the Commission concerning the proposed shortening of dove hunting season in South Carolina. Ms. Cassetti went over her request and showed a video tape of birds and items which related to this request. She noted that it is proposed that the dove season start October 15th and run for no more than thirty (30) days. Following Ms. Cassetti's presentation, Dr. Timmerman asked Ms. Cassetti to provide him with a copy of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife report that she referred to which shows that dove hunting is detrimental to doves.

ITEM VI - OLD BUSINESS

A. Vehicle Use/Management Recommendations: Dr. Timmerman noted that a draft report on the vehicle use management recommendations for the Department had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Timmerman noted that this has been prepared in conjunction with discussions with the Division Directors and the item regarding the 18-mile limit on commuting is currently being reviewed by the Division of Motor Management and we will abide by the state's policy on this matter. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will implement these recommendations in the Department and he further advised the Commission that a copy of the Vehicle Accident Report had been distributed to them. Commissioner Pendarvis asked about the special trailering package for vehicles to include the proper radiator and cooler and he further noted that he would like to get the Committee back together for further discussion on this matter.



B. Update on Rediversion/Santee River Fish Kill: Jim Bulak noted that the final report on this fish kill had been sent to the Commission and he asked the Commission to consider restitution for this fish kill. The Commission adopted a motion to consider this report and further discuss this matter in executive session.

ITEM VII - NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Dove and other Migratory Birds Season 1991-92: Brock Conrad noted that this proposed season and framework had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad reported that a study in 1978 showed that there are no biological problems with dove hunting in South Carolina. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this framework and season as presented.

B. Proposed S. C. Duck Stamp Budget - 1991-92: John Frampton noted that the proposed budget for the State Duck Stamp Funds for 1991-92 had been sent out to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this budget as presented.

C. Proposed Antlerless Deer Program Budget: John Frampton noted that the proposed budget for the antlerless deer quota program funds for 1991-92 had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this budget as presented.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that the 1988-89 audit has been completed and we will have a report on this audit in the near future.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Tom Kohlsaas noted there may be some upcoming changes in Federal TED regulations and such changes will be sought in the State regulations in order for these regulations to be compatible.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing further to report.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines noted that his staff has been working closely with the S. C. Department of Education and he asked Don Winslow to give a report on this matter. Mr. Winslow noted that through Project WILD, this year over 2400 teachers and 50,000 students had been trained. Mr. Winslow noted that Republic National Bank has made a contribution for supporting the Project WILD program and he further noted that he has been asked to serve on a curriculum committee for the State Department of Education.



5. Marine Resource: Paul Sandifer informed the Commission that Linda Amick is working on setting up a saltwater stamp and print competition similar to what is being done for the state duck stamp program.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board met on June 27, 1991 and the items adopted by the Board have already been acted upon by the Commission.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Miller noted that the Board met on July 10, 1991 and he went over the items discussed at this Board meeting.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board met on July 12, 1991 and he went over the items discussed at this Board meeting.

F. Other Remarks: Dr. Timmerman noted that on September 6, 1991, we are getting ready for a presentation on the Marine Estuarine Research Reserve Program at Mary's Island and he noted that the Commissioners may want to put this item on their calendar.

Dr. Timmerman noted that plans are being set up for a retreat in September and such will be developed if so desired by the Commission.

At this time, the Commission adopted a motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Chairman Burnside announced that at this time, the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers as distributed to the Commission.

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



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H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting on August 9, 1991, at 1:00 p.m, at the Marine Resources Center in Charleston. The Commission further agreed to hold a retreat on September 19 and 20, 1991 and its September Meeting to be held following lunch on September 20th.

ITEM VIII - ADJOURN

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

