

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
July 21, 1989
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 21, 1989 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, Compton, Owen, Stokes, Miller, Pendarvis, Bennett and Drummond. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Sonny Baines, Brock Conrad, Paul Sandifer and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside 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 16, 1989 regular Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - CHECK PRESENTATION BY NEWBERRY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Lewis Lee of the Newberry Fire Department presented a check for \$2,000 to the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund to be used for the "HOOKED ON FISHING - NOT ON DRUGS". Chairman Burnside expressed "thanks" to Chief Lee and his staff for their efforts and this check presentation for the HOFNOD program.

ITEM III - QUAIL HABITAT SUPERFUND - S. C. Quail Unlimited

Judge Owens Cobb and Mr. Rodney Redd presented the Quail Unlimited Habitat Superfund Agreement to the Commission. Judge Cobb went over this Agreement and noted that this would provide additional funding to enhance quail and quail habitat in South Carolina. Judge Cobb also noted that \$7,311.00 have already been allocated to this fund and he sought the Commission's endorsement of this effort. The Commission adopted a motion to approve the resolution to support the Quail Habitat Superfund. Following this action, Judge Cobb and Chairman Marion Burnside signed the resolution to support the establishment of the Quail Habitat Superfund.

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ITEM IV - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman updated the Commission on the status of the enforcement of TEDs noting that recently the U. S. Coast Guard had decided not to enforce the TED regulations. Through the Department's efforts, a letter was sent and the Coast Guard has decided to enforce the TED regulations. Betty Spence expressed "thanks" to the Department for their efforts regarding this matter.

Larry Cartee updated the Commission on the current study ongoing by the Division of Research & Statistical Services regarding the distribution of Conservation Officers. Mr. Cartee presented a brief update regarding this study, noting that additional information will be available in the near future. Dr. Timmerman stated that he hope to have this study completed and presented to the Commission at their August Meeting.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the Staff Minutes to the Commission for their information and noted that the staff is following through on various items that were discussed recently at the "Retreat".

Dr. Timmerman noted that with the vacancy factor that we have in the Department's budget, we are not able to fill positions in the Department. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have a freeze on positions that are state-funded and such cannot be filled. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have sent a letter to the Governor asking the Budget & Control Board to reconsider the Department's needs and provide additional funds to make up for that which has caused a deficit in the Department due to the vacancy factor.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that on September 15, 1989 the Conservation Officer Awards Banquet and Luncheon would be held in Columbia.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he will leave next week to go on a trip to Africa and that he will be departing on July 29, 1989 and returning on August 16, 1989.

ITEM V - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins advised the Commissioners that the end of the year legislative report had been sent to the Commission and that he would be available for any questions or comments regarding this matter.

ITEM VI - OLD BUSINESS

A. Antlerless Deer Quota Revocation Procedure: Brock Conrad noted that the Staff has reviewed this matter and a recommendation concerning such has been sent to the Commission in their packet (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad discussed Options 1 & 2 in this recommendation and noted that the Staff recommends that the Commission follow Option 2 concerning the revocation of antlerless doe quota permits. Following discussion, Commissioner Owen moved for the procedure to require that no specific number of people be stated in the guidelines and that each decision be based on each individual circumstance regarding the revocation of antlerless doe quota permits. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.

ITEM VII - NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 90-91 Budget Proposal: Commissioner Compton presented the proposed FY 90-91 Budget recommendations to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Compton noted that the Commission Finance Committee was recommending this budget to include that the proposed Law Enforcement positions that are recommended be made subject to the Conservation Officer Study to be completed in the near future. Following other discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the budget recommendations as submitted with the addition of \$130,000 to the budget of the Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries to be added to operating funds due to the re-allocation of biologist and technician positions and \$140,000 in non-recurring funds being added to the budget proposal for a backhoe.

B. Proposed Season for Dove and other Migratory Birds: Brock Conrad distributed a listing of the proposed 89-90 seasons for dove and other migratory birds (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad went over this proposal and following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the recommendations as submitted. In addition, the Commission adopted a motion to ask the staff to review and study the matter of enforcement problems associated with morning and afternoon shooting of doves and to develop any recommendations concerning this matter and presenting such back to the Commission.

C. Proposed Policy - Drug-Free Workplace: Al Courie noted that the Commission had been sent a proposed policy concerning the Drug-Free Workplace (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this policy as submitted.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves updated the Commission on various renovation projects and also noted that the staff is currently working on implementation of the Lifetime License.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that the biologists will meet in August and present a recommendation to the Commission in September concerning deer seasons and regulations in the upstate. Mr. Conrad noted that the staff is working on a recommendation concerning hunting on Sampson Island and such will be presented to the Commission at its next meeting.

Mr. Conrad distributed a copy of the recent duck hunters' survey to the Commission for their information. Mr. Conrad noted that we will get the duck season framework recommendations next month, the day before the August Commission Meeting, and such will be presented to the Commission as soon as possible.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing further to report, but Bill Chastain urged the Commissioners to read the Division Report which was very informative and would provide detailed information in which he thought the Commission would be interested.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Jim Goller distributed a copy of the Sportsman's Calendar to the Commission for their use as deemed appropriate.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer reported that the Governor's Cup Award Ceremony was recently held and was very successful and he noted that the Division Staff Awards had recently been given out at the Marine Center.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Thomason noted that he would give this Advisory Board report at the next Commission Meeting.

F. Other Remarks: Dr. Timmerman noted that the 89-90 Planning Document for his position had been sent to the Commission and he asked for any input on this Planning Document that they deemed appropriate. Commissioner Owen noted that an objective that needed to be added to this Planning Document included the development of waterfowl opportunities in the upper part of the state in conjunction with Clemson University, Duke Power and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that he would like to plan another "Retreat" in early 1990 so as to discuss Objectives and Long-Term Needs in the Department.

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At this time, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside announced that at this time, the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel 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.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve all appointments and reappointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers as presented (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

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

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia on August 18, 1989.

ITEM VIII - ADJOURN

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

