

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Eutaw Springs
Eutawville, S. C.

June 16, 1978

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at the wildlife facility located at Eutaw Springs at 10:00 am on June 16, 1978 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Lumpkin, Boykin, Edens, Buchanan, Shuler and Trask. Directors and staff members present were Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr., John Reeves, John Culler, Dr. Ed Joseph, Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Joe Logan, Charles Bearden, Ned Pendarvis, Fred Ziegler, Larry Cartee, Tom Kohlsatt, Terry Hughey, Mac Flood, Alvin Poston, Dr. Vic Burrell, Bob Campbell, Bill Chastain, Bobby Gifford, Brock Conrad, Johnny Evans and various others. Guests present were Mr. Sam Crouch, Advisor on Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board and a group of commercial fishermen whose names are listed on the attached sheet.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Lumpkin called for an Executive Session to be held to discuss personnel matters. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Buchanan made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 1978 Commission Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edens and passed.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

A. Appearance of Commercial Fishermen: Commissioner Shuler introduced Mr. Clark, spokesman for the group of commercial fisherman appearing before the Commission. Mr. Clark stated that the group is requesting the Commission to impose a 50 trap limit on commercial fishing in the lakes. The group generally agree that 50 traps per man is enough to make a good living with. This would be 50 traps per man, per boat, per day. Also, the group requested a license increase for non-resident fishermen. Mr. Clark also stated that the reason they are making this request is to try to preserve the industry. It was noted that 95% of the commercial fishermen on the lakes are represented by the group present, one being a non-resident. Commissioner Buchanan commended the group for being willing to give up some of their traps in order to set this limit. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Department will inform the group of the Commission's action at the earliest possible date.

B. Dr. Timmerman: Dr. Timmerman passed out a Employee Vehicle Accident Report for the period of January 1, 1978 to June 1, 1978 for the information of the Commission. Also, it was reported that a meeting was held with the Dean Luther Anderson at Clemson and extension men, Wayne O'Dell and Cecil Godwin to



discuss the wildlife seed source and working with Clemson both in the experiment stations and through the extension service. Clemson is going to meet with staff to see what they can do and our staff is going to come up with some more specific requests. Dr. Timmerman explained the process of getting the legislature to act on Rules and Regulations and pointed out that the Department needs to get these Rules and Regulations to the legislature in January so that the 90 day waiting period will end during the regular session. Dr. Timmerman also suggested that the Commission consider in the future setting the hunting dates on the first Monday or first Tuesday, etc. in the month instead of a specific date so that this would not have to be changed each year. Dr. Timmerman told the Commission that staff had met with the Senate Finance Committee and they are giving the Department in the budget about everything requested. He also noted that funding for equipment is going to be requested as a supplemental appropriation. In addition, Dr. Timmerman reported that a group met to review the Information & Public Affairs Division and a written report will be mailed to the Commission in the near future. Commissioner Edens brought up a matter of the recording of checks that are received by the Department for various items such as the magazine, book offers, etc. and noted that he personally has experienced problems with this on two occasions where the check was stamped on the back as being received by the Department, however was not recorded as being received on the Department records. This matter will be looked into and reported back at the next Commission meeting.

ITEM III. Legislative Up-date:

Dr. Timmerman reported that Dan Dobbins is at the House and reported to Dr. Timmerman late last night on the Rules and Regulations, the Budget, and other bills that are processing normally.

ITEM IV. Old Business:

A. Recommendations on Furbearer Program: Commissioner Edens reported that copies of the Furbearer report have been distributed to everyone. He reported that the Advisory Board met last week and adopted the Furbearer report as guidelines due to the fact that a Director for the program has not been hired to date. The only changes in the report was on the third page where it was recommended that the Department implement trapping programs on State Management Areas. The word implement was changed to study so that they would not go on records now as recommending trapping on State Game Management Areas. Commissioner Edens made a motion that with this change this program be adopted in principle as guidelines only to be used by the section that is set up to handle this program when it is established. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed.

B. Recommendations on Notifying Legislators of Conservation Officer Vacancies: Dr. Timmerman reported that at the Commission Meeting held at the Dennis Wildlife Center Frank Caggiano requested on behalf of Commissioner Bennett that all House Members in a County be notified of an appointment for a Conservation Officer. Currently, the Senators and only those Representatives



in the applicants House District are notified. Dr. Timmerman recommended that this matter be held over until Commissioner Bennett can be present at the meeting. He was unable to attend this meeting due to illness.

C. Guidelines for Commissioners: Staff has met with the appointed Committee to come up with some guidelines for Commissioners which has been put into a draft form. This information will be presented at the next Commission Meeting. Commissioner Edens commended Commissioner Shuler for bringing the matter to the attention of the Commission. Commissioner Edens reported that the material will be re-drafted and mailed to the Commission prior to the July 1978 meeting at which time it will be taken up for consideration.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing to add to the written report.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing to add to the written report.
3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing to add to the written report.
4. Information & Public Affairs: John Culler reported that it is impossible to put the magazine out at the rate of \$5 per year. He stated that the alternatives are to either cut back on the quality of the magazine, get revenue from some source, start selling advertising or raise the price or leave it as is and continue to run a deficit in that Department. Culler recommended that the price of the magazine be raised to \$7.95 per year. He predicted that this increase would cause a loss of a few subscribers, but feels that they will come back after a short time. This increase would produce approximately \$200,000 additional funds per year. This amount plus the \$50,000 allocation from the legislature would adequately fund the production of the magazine as it is. Culler requested action from the Commission today in order to get the Christmas promotions out at the new price. There was some discussion as to whether or not the price should be raised to \$8.95 and avoid another increase in the next year or so. After discussing the matter thoroughly it was the general opinion of the Commission that a too high increase would possibly cause too great a loss in subscribers or possibly generate more funds that the Division could use and the money would revert back to the General Treasury. Therefore, Commissioner Trask made a motion to increase the price of the magazine to \$7.95 per year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed. Culler noted that the two year subscription price would be \$13.95 and the three year subscription price would be \$19.95.
5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph reported that in regard to the shrimp season a call was received from Joe Tanner, Director of the Department of Natural Resources in Georgia reporting that they are planning to open their season on the 20th of June. Mr. Tanner reported that they are not finding any white shrimp on the Georgia coast. Dr. Joseph stated that he had requested that the boundary be the same as last year, however Mr. Tanner needs to talk to Dr. Timmerman today regarding the Channel issue. The department vessel is presently doing a survey which should



be completed today. Based on findings, not including this trip, it would be advisable to hold off a couple of weeks on opening the season. There are not going to be whites and the browns are running about a month behind in size. North Carolina's season also looks very bad for this year. Promotions are being done on rock shrimp.

6. Natural Area Acquisition & Resource Planning: There was nothing to add to the written report.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Edens reported that the Minutes of the Advisory Board Meeting held June 8th have been distributed. Commissioner Edens reported that the Advisory Board recommends that the maximum size on traps be increased to 3 x 6 through emergency procedures and that staff provide the Board with a complete report on commercial fishing by the October Advisory Board Meeting. The Advisory Board would make recommendations to the Commission in October and the Commission could make proposals in January to the legislature. Commissioner Trask made a motion that the trap size stay the same as it is (2 x 4) and that the number of traps used be limited to 50 traps per man, per boat, per day. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lumpkin and passed. It was noted that the size of the trap is measured by the circumference. It is the desire of the Commission that staff look into the matter of a commercial fishing license, costs, etc. and report back at a later date. There was no second to Commissioner Eden's original motion to raise the size of the trap to a 3 x 6 therefore, that motion was tabled. Commissioner Shuler will notify the group of commercial fishermen of the action of the Commission. Also, a news release will be put out next week regarding the matter.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Boykin reported that no meeting was held.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Lumpkin reported that the Minutes of the Advisory Board meeting have been distributed. He reported that Stone Miller of the Advisory Board resigned and Calvin Dawson has been appointed the new resident Commissioner for District 6 and urged Dr. Timmerman to contact the Governor and get him to appoint someone as soon as possible to replace these two members of the Board.

4. Heritage Trust: Tom Kohlsaas reported that a meeting was held on June 8th and adopted a set of By-laws which call for meetings quarterly. There are two current proposals before the Advisory Board - one involves a small property in Charleston County that the owner wants to have registered and we are proceeding on that with him - the other involves a fairly large acreage in the mountain areas of the state and staff reported on the areas that they felt were justifiable as natural areas and recommended those portions of it to the Board. No action was taken but more study will be made on this. Kohlsaas also reported that a report was given to the Advisory Board on the procedure used by staff to make recommendations on natural areas to the Board.



C. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that everything is in order on reviews and passed a copy of the report to the Chairman for the Commission file.

D. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman reported that a Bill has gone through the legislature through the judicial process and it has just been brought to his attention. He stated that it is his opinion that this legislation affects Deputy Conservation Officer positions. He passed out a copy of this information to the Commission and asked Fred Ziegler to comment. Ziegler stated that this Bill requires the same training requirements of auxiliary policy officers which would include Deputy Conservation Officers. This Bill offers minimum training requirements and puts a limit on the number of officers the department may have. Dr. Timmerman stated that he is planning to meet with the Council next week and noted that there is no way that this many people can be trained this year so there is no need for panic at this time. However, he feels that this should be studied carefully because the intent of this law was not to eliminate the Deputy Conservation Officer but the Department may want to amend it stating that this doesn't apply to the DCO and that the DCO comes under Rule and Regulation as set forth by the Commission.

Fred Ziegler stated that it was his opinion that action could be taken on the Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers recommended today and that a freeze be put on this until some action can be taken on getting an amendment to the Bill exempting the DWCO and then move for a Rule and Regulation.

Dr. Timmerman went over the recommendations for appointments and reappointments on Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and appointments and reappointments on Conservation Officer and Department Personnel. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Commissioner Trask made a motion that the Commission freeze any action on Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers until further notified. The motion was seconded and passed.

E. Other Remarks: Commissioner Lumpkin submitted his official resignation to the Commission as Vice Chairman and nominated Commissioner Sam Boykin as Vice Chairman. A motion was made to approve this nomination. It was seconded and passed.

Dr. Timmerman presented Chairman Hudson and Vice-Chairman Lumpkin with the Wildlife Distinguished Service Award and Plaque and thanked them on behalf of the Department and the Commission for their service during the past six years. A luncheon was held in their honor following the meeting.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the meeting a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn. The Commission went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine S. Murray
(Ms.) Christine S. Murray,
Commission Secretary

