

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Wampee Conference Center
Pinopolis, S. C.
June 16, 1989
1:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 1:00 P.M., June 16, 1989, at the Wampee Conference Center, Pinopolis, 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, Owen, Pendarvis, Thomason, Bennett, Stokes and Miller. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Bill Chastain, Sonny Baines, Brock Conrad, Paul Sandifer, Benny Reeves and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. and welcomed all guests to the meeting.

Chairman Burnside recognized Mr. Ed Muckenfuss of Westvaco for a check presentation. Mr. Muckenfuss presented a check for \$2500 to Chairman Burnside to be used for renovations at the Webb Wildlife Center. Chairman Burnside expressed thanks to Mr. Muckenfuss and Westvaco for this contribution.

ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the May 19, 1989 regular Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that the FY 90-91 budget process has begun in the Department and we will be setting priorities for consideration by the Commission's Finance Committee. Dr. Timmerman noted that this Committee is composed of Commissioners Compton, Miller, Bennett and Drummond and we hope to meet with this Committee to develop a budget presentation for the Commission at the July Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted he held a Staff Meeting last Tuesday and he distributed a copy of the Minutes of this meeting to the Commission for their information.

Dr. Timmerman noted he recently visited in Washington and attended a meeting in which President Bush spoke on wetlands. Dr. Timmerman noted that the President gave a good speech on wetlands and he will send a copy of this speech to the Commissioners for their information.

ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a copy of the Legislative Report and went over this report with the Commission. Several items were discussed and the Commission was updated on the status of various bills which were considered this year by the Legislature.

ITEM IV - NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Duck Stamp Budget 1989-90: Brock Conrad noted that a copy of the proposed duck stamp budget for 1989 was sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad went over this proposed budget and following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the budget as submitted.

B. Bird Mountain Registration Agreement: Tom Kohlsaas noted that this proposed Registration Agreement was sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion of this Registration Agreement, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this Registration Agreement as presented.

C. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that a resolution had been adopted by the General Assembly for the Department to do a study of Lyme disease. Mr. Conrad noted that his staff is currently working on the protocol for this study.

Mr. Conrad noted that the staff had previously asked for approval to assign radios to the alligator agents in the Department. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion approving the assignment of radios to the Department's alligator agents.

Chairman Burnside advised Mr. Conrad to send out a copy of the recently published article on Lyme disease to all the Conservation Officers in the field.

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

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines informed the Commission that Camp Wildwood would be held later this month and about 85 students would be in attendance at this Camp.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer informed the Commission that the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fair would be held at Fort Johnson on September 16-17, 1989.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the shrimp season has opened and most of the shrimpers are using TEDs and we have seen very few beached turtles this year. Dr. Timmerman noted that the catch of shrimp thus far appears to be about average.

D. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board met on June 2, 1989 with the Marine Resources Advisory Board at Bear Island. Commissioner Owen noted that the Board had adopted a motion and he moved for the Commission to endorse the ACE Basin Project and the estuarine reserve concept and to go on record to oppose condemnation in the ACE Basin and to support the traditional uses in the Basin which include hunting, fishing, recreation and commercial activities going on there now. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Owen noted that the Board had adopted a motion to change the area closed to hunting in Sampson Island Creek and this proposal will be presented back to the Commission at the July Commission Meeting.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Stokes noted that the Board met in Columbia on June 8, 1989. Commissioner Stokes noted that the Board approved and he presented to the Commission, as a motion, that the Commission establish a committee to investigate the feasibility of the Commission seeking authority to set seasons and limits for all species within the existing statutory framework. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside noted that he would appoint this committee after this Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Stokes noted that the Board had adopted a motion to recommend to the Commission that finfish trawling permits issued by the Marine Resources Division follow the same guidelines for shrimp trawling unless there is a biological reason to necessitate trawling at night. Following discussion on this matter, Commissioner Stokes withdrew his motion and noted that this item would be brought back to the Commission at a later time.

Commissioner Stokes noted that the Board discussed the use of jet skis and the accidents created from these and the concern expressed by the Board with the young people operating jet skis. Commissioner Stokes noted that he is setting up a committee to review this matter and present recommendations back to the Board.

Commissioner Stokes noted that several years ago, the position of Conservation Officer Laddie Boone was reassigned from Orangeburg County to the Columbia Office and Officer Boone is retiring this month. As a result of this retirement, Commissioner Stokes moved for the reassignment of the position of retired Officer Laddie Boone back to Orangeburg County and for Officer Boone's duties to be reallocated to the existing staff. Commissioner Thomason seconded this motion and it was approved by the Commission.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board met on June 2, 1989 at Bear Island in conjunction with the meeting of the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board. Commissioner Pendarvis discussed the items that were discussed at the Marine Resources Advisory Board and noted that they will meet again on August 4, 1989.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Thomason noted that the Board would meet on June 26, 1989 at Camp Wildwood and he would make a report at the next Commission Meeting.

E. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commission.

At this time, Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal 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 and legal matters.

=====

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to approve the recommendation of the legal staff pertaining to the settlement of the CBI law suit. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Minutes - SCWMRC Meeting
June 16, 1989
Page Five

Commissioner Thomason moved for the Commission to approve all appointments and reappointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers to include those with a change of authority and the proposed revocation of a DWCO commission. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

F. Appointments: This item was previously acted on by the Commission.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia on July 21, 1989.

ITEM V - ADJOURN

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

