

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
June 17, 1994
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, June 17, 1994, 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, Pendarvis, Miller, Leary, Rasor, Poston, Haynsworth and Graham. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer and various other staff members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the last meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He called on Van McCarty to give the invocation.

ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the May 20, 1994, Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - PRESENTATION

Brock Conrad gave a few comments introducing a Resolution passed by the General Assembly naming the Field Trial Facility Area on the Sandhill State Forest in Chesterfield County after Dr. Cooper Black. He then asked the members of Dr. Black's family, Senator John Drummond, Rep. Tom Rhoad and members of the SC Sporting Dogs and Field Trials Commission to come up for the presentation and pictures. After making several remarks, Senator John Drummond presented Mrs. Jackie Black with the Resolution naming the area after Dr. Black - "The Dr. Cooper Black Field Trial Facility". Senator Drummond stated that he would also like to commend Dr. Leary for giving of his time to serve on the Wildlife Commission. Dr. Timmerman called on Jim Sigmon, Chairman of the Shooting Dog Commission, for a few remarks. Mr. Sigmon stated that he was looking forward to working with the Department. Dr. Timmerman stated that House Bill H.5094 had passed the General Assembly extending the Sporting Dog Commission until January 1, 1999 (copy attached to original Minutes).

ITEM III - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman called on Jim Quinn who introduced Paul League to the Commission. Mr. League joins the Department of Natural Resources as an attorney from the SC Land Resources Conservation Commission.

Dr. Timmerman introduced Mr. George Vickery and his wife, Kitty. Mr. Vickery has been appointed by Governor Campbell to serve on the Board of the Department of Natural Resources effective July 1, 1994.

Dr. Timmerman gave a brief statement concerning the ending of the S.C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Department and the beginning of the Department of Natural Resources and thanked Dr. Graham and Dr. Leary for serving on the Commission. Chairman Burnside thanked Dr. Graham and Dr. Leary for giving of their time and energy to serve the citizens of the State of South Carolina by serving on the Wildlife Commission and stated there would be a cookout on July 14, 1994, in honor of these two Commissioners.

Dr. Timmerman discussed the budget and stated that this year had been a fairly successful year. He handed out information on the recurring and the nonrecurring supplemental budget. He stated that he was optimistic that the supplemental budget would be funded in August. Dr. Timmerman thanked all of the division directors and especially Dan Dobbins and Benny Reeves for their hard work during the budget discussions in the General Assembly. Dan Dobbins stated that one of the reasons for the success this year was that Dr. Timmerman was over in the General Assembly working extremely hard also.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the General Assembly and the Governor had approved members of the Board for the Department of Natural Resources effective July 1, 1994. A listing was provided to each member of the Commission (copy attached to original Minutes).

Dr. Timmerman reported that a copy of the "State Wildlife Diversity Program Funding: a 1992 Survey", published by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, had been provided to each member of the Commission, and he discussed the funding sources for biodiversity used by several other states. Brock Conrad gave a brief report on a meeting held in St. Louis on June 1-4, 1994, on biodiversity.

Dr. Timmerman stated he would like to meet with the Commission briefly when they go into Executive Session to discuss some personnel items.

Commissioner Pendarvis asked if the new agencies coming into the DNR had a source of revenue, and if so, what sources did they have. Mr. Reeves stated that the revenue sources which they had were the sale of maps and other miscellaneous items, but nothing to compare with our license sales. Commissioner Miller pointed out that it would probably be a good time for the Budget Committee to meet to discuss the budget. Dr. Timmerman stated that the division directors would be meeting in his office on June 29 to begin the process to set a tentative 1995-96 budget. Once this is done, the Budget Committee could meet in July and present the information to the full Board at the August meeting. Chairman Burnside will appoint/reappoint the Budget Committee.

ITEM IV - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins reported that the latest Legislative Report was provided to each Commissioner and that a final report would be forthcoming as soon as copies of all Bills were available. Mr. Dobbins thanked all the staff for their support in making this a successful year. Mr. Dobbins stated that a draft copy of the 1995 Legislative Proposal would be provided at the July meeting for the Board's approval.

ITEM V - OLD BUSINESS

A. Video - Waccamaw Dedication: Tom Kohlsaas gave a report on the dedication of the Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve purchased from the International Paper Company and presented a video of a news report on the dedication.

B. Update - Lifetime License: Benny Reeves gave a brief report on the summary of the Lifetime License sales. The sale of this license has generated a total of \$367,167.48 in principal and \$62,170.59 of interest. After discussions, Linda Amick was requested to prepare a report on costs, etc. of having a "Non-Resident Lifetime License".

C. 800 MHz Radio System: Dr. Timmerman stated the following was being provided to the Commission for information only and no action was required. Mike Naylor introduced Boykin Roseborough, Chairman of the 800 MHz Committee. Mr. Roseborough gave a brief report on what to expect from the proposed system and opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner Pendarvis requested a report of a listing of who has phones, pagers and the costs for each for the last six months. Mr. Naylor will provide this information at the next Commission meeting.

ITEM VI - New Business

A. Proposed Regulation Changes for Edgar Brown and George Warren State Lakes: Ross Self gave a brief report on the changes requested in regulations for Lake Edgar Brown in Barnwell County and Lake George Warren in Hampton County (copy attached to original Minutes). Commissioner Miller moved that the proposed regulations be approved as submitted. Commissioner Rasor seconded the motion, and the motion was adopted.

B. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad distributed a listing of the public hearings scheduled on the proposed deer season changes in Game Zones 1, 2 and 4. The hearing officer is Burnett Maybank of Charleston.

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

4. Conservation Education & Communications: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer reported that the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund Banquet in Charleston would be held on August 5 and he invited the Commissioners to attend. Dr. Sandifer reported that the Marine Center had begun their minority internship with five undergraduates from South Carolina's minority institutions.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Haynsworth reported that the Advisory Board had voted to not allow dove hunting in the morning during the first season. Commissioner Haynsworth stated that the Advisory Board had discussed the mallard release program and that more study would be put into this program and a report would be presented to the Commission at a later date.

2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis reported that the Marine Board had discussed the Transaction Card system for seafood sales and there were no recommendations at this time. Also there had been a lengthy discussion on channel nets and recommendations were that no action be taken until the Marine staff could meet with the Georgetown County Delegation. After this meeting is held, a report would be furnished to the Commission. Commissioner Pendarvis stated that there were two Bills (H.3326 and H.3915) that did not pass the General Assembly this year and he would like to have them placed in the Legislative Proposal for 1995. Commissioner Poston made a motion that these Bills be placed in the 1995 Legislative Proposal, Commissioner Haynsworth seconded the motion, and the motion was adopted. Commissioner Pendarvis stated that there would be a joint meeting of the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board and the Marine Resources Advisory Board in August to discuss shrimp baiting.

Commissioner Pendarvis requested information on the status of the advisory boards with the Department of Natural Resources. Dr. Timmerman stated that this would be discussed in Executive Session.

Commissioner Pendarvis stated that the Department needed to set a price on the Glock pistols for retired law enforcement officers. Chairman Burnside stated that this would be discussed during Executive Session.

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

Commissioner Miller made a motion to accept recommendations from staff on Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers to include change of authority, new authority, and new appointments; and to also accept recommendatins on the new hires and promotions, to include John Bedingfield, for Law Enforcement Officer positons with each being subject to background investigations.

Commissioner Pendarvis made a motion that the new hires for law enforcement officers would be required to have a four year college degree effective January 1, 1995. Commissioner Rasor seconded the motion and the motion passed.

D. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia on July 15, 1994, at 10:00 a.m. and there will be a function on July 14 at Millaree to honor Commissioners Leary and Graham. The August meeting will be held on August 26, 1994.

ITEM VII - ADJOURN

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

