

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
June 18, 1993
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 18, 1993, 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, Poston, Haynsworth, Rasor and Graham. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines, Bill Chastain 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 May 21, 1993, Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman reported that the 1993 General Assembly had passed a Restructuring Bill and that the Wildlife & Marine Resources Department was now part of "The Department of Natural Resources". Other agencies which will make up the DNR are the Water Resources Commission, Land Resources Commission, Migratory Waterfowl, State Geologist and Geological Mapping. He stated he wanted to thank Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, and other staff members who had put in many long hours for their support and dedication during this process. He stated that Buford Mabry had reviewed the Restructuring Bill and would like to give the Commission a legal briefing during Executive Session.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the Commission had received a request from the other agencies which will make up the Department of Natural Resources for the Wildlife Commission to head up the process in getting the agencies merged together. Commissioner Pendarvis made a motion that Dr. Timmerman be appointed to chair the Restructuring Transition Team. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller, and the motion passed.



ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins reported that the Commission had been provided a copy of Legislative Report #14. He stated that while he had been tied up in working on the Restructuring Bill and the Budget Bill other staff members had stepped in and helped get a number of bills passed that were in the Department's legislative proposal. He wanted to thank each staff member for their work. He also noted he had provided the Commission with a copy of the 1994 Federal Budget recommendations which had been received from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and stated he was in the process of preparing the Department's comments to be sent to the SC Congressional Delegation and would be providing copies to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman recognized Van McCarty and thanked him for his work in getting the "Mandatory Hunter Education Program" Bill passed by the General Assembly. Dan also recognized Tom Kohlsaas for his work in getting the "Endangered Species License Plate" Bill passed.

ITEM IV - OLD BUSINESS

A. 1993 Goals and Objectives: Dr. Timmerman reviewed the goals and objectives for the Department for 1993 and asked for any comments, changes and/or additions. He then reviewed a listing of additional goals and objectives for the Personnel Office which had been prepared by Caroline Agardy. He stated that Human Resource Management had conducted a study of our Personnel Office and the results of this study would be available shortly and he would be implementing some changes within our Personnel Office.

B. Administrative Policy for Reporting Criminal Violations on Waste, or Mismanagement of Public Funds and Resources: Caroline Agardy gave a report on the "Whistleblower's Act" which was written to help protect employees who report misuse of funds, equipment, etc. in State Government. It provides a mechanism by which the employee can report such misuse and/or abuse without fear of losing their job. Dr. Timmerman reported that Buford Mabry, Jr. deserves a lot of credit in taking a lead role in working with this Bill.

C. Clean Air Act: Dr. Timmerman reported to the Commission that the Department was working within the Clean Air Act to develop a smokefree work area. He provided a copy of the policy Caroline Agardy had developed and it was discussed briefly.

D. Budget and Budget Priorities: Dr. Timmerman reported that he had requested each Division Director to provide him with areas where they would cut 5% from their budgets if necessary,



and then to provide a listing of where they would put this 5% back if it was available. He stated that he was very pleased with the information received and would be providing a copy to the Chairman of each Division Advisory Boards. He also noted in the FY 93/94 Budget Bill which had passed the General Assembly that the Department had only received an additional \$100,000 and this would primarily supply uniforms for conservation officers. He stated that the budget request to be presented for the 1994-95 FY would use the same priorities as the 1993-94 year (copy provided for their information). Benny Reeves reviewed the priorities and stated that he would be getting with the Commission's Budget Committee as soon as the information was compiled.

Dr. Timmerman noted that there were several provisos in the Budget Bill that would affect the Department that he wanted to call to the Commission's attention. One of the primary concerns dealt with the use of state vehicles and another one pertained to the retirement incentive. He stated that as soon as an interpretation of the state vehicle proviso is received he would provide it to the Commission. Benny Reeves discussed the retirement incentive stating employees who elect to retire by July 1, 1994 and notify the Department between the dates of August 1 and November 1, 1993 would receive a bonus of \$7,500 or 25% of their salary, whichever is greater. He stated that the Commission would have to vote as to whether or not the Department would participate in this program. Commissioner Miller made a motion that this matter be discussed in Executive Session; Commissioner Poston seconded and the motion passed. Benny then discussed the other provisos in the Budget Bill which affected the Department.

ITEM V - New Business

A. PCB Study - Lake Hartwell: Brock Conrad called on Ross Self to give an update of the public hearings which had been held concerning the PCB levels in Lake Hartwell. Ross presented a slide presentation which indicated that the studies conducted show that the levels of PCB are above the acceptable levels allowed by EPA and discussed the several ways in which EPA could elect to clean up the lake using superfund monies.

B. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad presented a report on the number of turkeys harvested during the Spring Turkey season.



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

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

5. Marine Resources: John Miglarese gave a report on the shrimp season. Commissioner Poston handed out a copy of a report concerning the Marine Recreational Fisheries Stamp Program Funds. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Haynsworth made a motion that the monies for Law Enforcement be approved, Commissioner Graham seconded and the motion passed.

C. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Haynsworth stated that there were two matters which the Advisory Board wanted to bring before the Commission for information and discussion and would submit them at the July meeting for action. He then called on Brock Conrad to discuss these matters. Brock briefly discussed the revocation of permits on the Francis Marion WMA. Bill Mahan presented a slide presentation concerning this matter. He presented a report which had been prepared by a committee which had studied this area and made recommendations (copy attached to original minutes). The Advisory Board had made one change in the recommendations which stated that the regulations would be statewide rather than just one area. Next, Brock reported that the Advisory Board was recommending that dove season be for afternoons only during the first three days of dove season. After a brief discussion, it was noted that these two items would be placed on the July agenda.

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



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Commissioner Miller made a motion that the Commission adopt Budget Bill proviso 14.B.6 as it relates to the retirement incentive. Commissioner Graham seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Miller noted that Duke Power had invited the Law Enforcement Advisory Board to hold their July meeting at their facilities at Bad Creek. This meeting will be held on July 14-15 and he wanted to invite the members of the Commission to join them at this meeting.

John Miglarese noted that the Charleston Harry Hampton Wildlife Banquet would be held on Friday, August 6, and invited the members of the Commission to plan to attend.

D. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia on July 16, 1993, at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM VII - ADJOURN

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

