

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION Spartanburg Police Club Spartanburg, South Carolina

June 20, 1975

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at the Spartanburg Police Club in Spartanburg, South Carolina at 2:00 pm, June 20, 1975 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Commissioners Glenn, Boykin, Lumpkin, Harris, Buchanan and Rhame. Others present were Advisors Webb and Johnson; Directors Ryan, Belangia, Fuller, Culler, Joseph, Executive Director Timmerman, Conrad, Cartee, Cotty, Evans, Pendarvis, Borg, Chastain, Cagianno and other staff members.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as they were mailed out with no corrections or additions.

COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman reported that the staff is in the process of working on our Budget which begins the first of July. The Budget & Control Board needs our Budget for 76-77 into them by September 15th. The staff should have this ready for the Commission in final form by the last of August, and suggested that the Commission meet on September 12th, which is the second Friday instead of the usual third Friday meeting date so that they can approve the proposed Budget and have it ready for the Budget & Control Board by September 15th. The staff will have this information to the Commission for their review by September 1st. There were no objections, therefore, the September Commission Meeting will be on the 12th.

Timmerman stated that he would be working with Chairman Hudson and Senator Dennis and others if there was any problem on the bonding money being temporarily frozen.

The Commission was informed of the following vacancies in Law Enforcement: Originally had three Conservation Officers working in the Hunter Safety Program approved. Suggested that we take Chief Howell's salary which is still with us and create salaries for two Hunter Safety positions, therefore relieving those positions so that Chastain and Ryan can replace these in Law Enforcement. Keeping this in mind, on the first of July will have a vacancy in Anderson County, Charleston County; at present have a new position that was approved with the twenty some months back in Calhoun County; have two vacancies in Florence County due to Yarborough and another officers retirement; in Greenwood County, Drummond has been transferred as a license coordinator under Administratives Services operation and we will have a vancancy in Law Enforcement to fill there; in Hampton County a recommendation will be made today; in Lancaster County there is a vacancy; in Laurens County a recommendation will be made today; in Lexington there will be a vacancy replacing a hunter safety officer. At the beginning of each meeting these vacancies will be reported orally to the Commission in addition to being sent out in written form.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Webb Center Management - Film: A slide presentation was given on the



Webb Center describing what has been done there and what is being done. Timmerman reported that this was shown to the Advisory Board and that it was made primarily for the benefit of the Commission, however, it was suggested that this be made available to the public and if it was a different ending should be put on it showing where to write for information concerning the Webb Center. Also thinking seriously about making one of the rooms at the Center a projection room for groups coming in. Advisory Board wants the Department to increase our efforts toward quail. Timmerman suggested to Fuller that he meet with the Poultry Department at Clemson and do some research on whether or not pen raised quail can be adapted to wildlife habitat, etc. Chairman Hudson mentioned that there have been extensive studies done on this at Nilo Farms and they find this very feasible economically to do this and that they would be happy to come over and we should utilize this opportunity. Commissioner Harris asked that he and Commissioner Rhame be relieved of the obligation to do further research and giving guidance on the Webb Center until such time that this is needed again. The Chairman relieved Commissioner Harris and Rhame of this obligation. It was also suggested that this slide program be put on film if it is going to be released to the public.

B. Appearance - Lockwood-Greene Architects - Progress on Dennis Center and Marine Cooperative Research Facility: Mr. Art Foster of Lockwood-Greene gave a slide presentation on the various stages of work being done at these two locations.

C. Use of Funds from Burris Chemical Company: Dr. Timmerman reported that at the last Commission meeting permission was granted to the staff to work with the architectural firm and come up with a facility for approval. The architects have come up with some rough estimates and they are high. It will be about two months before some preliminary plans can be prepared for a multi-purpose facility.

D. Archery Hunt Expansion: In regard to an archery hunt on Capers Island, Mr. Fuller reported that due to a low deer population, poor habitat, and competition with feral hogs, sheep and cattle, he would not recommend an archery hunt this year. On the Santee Reserve area, he has talked with Mr. Eldridge Johnson and he has agreed to two weeks for archery and two weeks for gun hunting. The recommendation made for archery hunting is September 1-6 (two deer, buck only) and November 3-8 (two deer, either sex). The two weeks of gun hunting will be set later. There was some discussion on eradication of the sheep, hogs and cattle on Capers. Dr. Timmerman told the Commission that Dr. Joseph would distribute to them through the mail the proposed use plan for Capers. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Division of Marine Resources had primary management responsibility and the Game and Fish Division is primarily responsible for the Santee Reserve. A motion was made by Commissioner Harris to accept Mr. Fuller's recommendation for the hunting dates on Capers, leaving the dates for the Santee Reserve up to his discretion. The motion was seconded and passed. The use plan will be an agenda item for the next Commission Meeting.



ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report Non-Game and Endangered Species: Jeff Fuller stated that this information has been mailed to the Commission. The non-game endangered species conservation act was passed last year and this law required that the Commission propose a list of endangered species within South Carolina listing the common and scientific name of each species, and this must be accomplished no later than one (1) year after passage of the act on July 2, 1974. Following approval of the Commission, if it is approved, public comment will be solicited and received for a period of sixty (60) days and the list can be modified according to response received. After any modifications are made, the Commission will need to give final approval for the list to become the official State list as provided by law. Ken Stansell has been working on this project. Mr. Fuller stated that there is one exception to the list, being the *Acipenser oxyrinchus*, or Atlantic Sturgeon, recommend that this list be approved with this exception. When asked why the Atlantic Sturgeon was on the list, Stansell replied that there are two species of sturgeon in South Carolina, the *Acipenser brevirostrum*, or Shortnose Sturgeon and the Atlantic Sturgeon. The original information that they received said that both species were rare and endangered, therefore both were listed. The Shortnose was listed because it is on the Federal List. There is some controversy over whether the Atlantic Sturgeon is threatened or endangered, but it was placed on the list until further research could be conducted as to its actual status. All of the rest of the species on the list are fully documented and there should be no problem on them. The Commission possesses the authority to add to or delete species from the list. Dr. Joseph stated that he was glad to see that the loggerhead sea turtle was not on the list due to the fact that these are presently occasionally being caught in shrimpers nets in shrimp breeding areas and a proposed rule and regulation in the Federal Register could possible close the entire commercial shrimping industry because of this matter. A statement is presently being drafted to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Services on this matter which would have more force if endorsed by the Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Rhame to approve this proposed list, it was seconded and passed.

B. 75 Migratory Bird Seasons and Bag Limits: Jeff Fuller passed out to the Commission a copy fo the Schedule of 1975 Activities and Meetings relating to the Management of Migratory Game Birds. The proposed framework on this will be received on June 27th and the definite framework will be received July 17. He stated that it may be necessary to poll each Commissioner by telephone for input on these seasons. Commissioner Rhame stated that his Advisory Board desires to have input in this matter.

C. Wando Position Statement: Dr. Timmerman passed out a copy of a draft position statement on the proposed Wando SPA expansion site. He gave the background on the subject and reported that the findings of the marine related environmental effects of the Wando site were not sufficient to abandon it for the Coal Tipple site. Chairman Hudson noted that the Commission and Department may face severe criticism for not objecting to the Wando site. Commissioner Lumpkin reported that the Marine Advisory Board was in complete agreement with this position statement and made a motion to accept this statement as the official statement of this Department. The motion was seconded and passed.



D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Nothing was added to the report that was mailed out prior to this meeting.

2. Game & Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller reported that he has heard from Representative Tison and he has suggested that we proceed with developing the road to the picnic area and parking lot at Lake Warren. Necessary paper work has been started on this. It was also reported that the mercury levels in Lake Jocassee, which are naturally occurring, are still under investigation and a joint statement with DHEC should be released shortly.

Dr. Joseph told the Commission that there would be a public hearing on the Wando site on July 2nd in Charleston and asked if we were going to participate. There will not be another Commission meeting prior to that time. Chairman Hudson stated that if they request we come and present our position we will, otherwise, it will be mailed to them.

3. Information & Public Affairs Division: Nothing was added to the report that was mailed out prior to this meeting.

4. Law Enforcement and Boating Division: Nothing was added to the report that was mailed out prior to this meeting.

5. Marine Resources Division: Nothing was added to the report that was mailed out prior to this meeting.

6. Natural Area Acquisition and Resource Planning: Nothing to report at this time.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Marine Resources: Commissioner Lumpkin passed out copies of the Minutes taken at the last Marine Advisory Board meeting. A potential fuel tax rebate for head boat operators in the coastal area was discussed. Chairman Hudson suggested that Dr. Joseph's staff analyze this and make recommendations. Commissioner Lumpkin reported that several Advisors were concerned over legislation being introduced of which they know nothing about. Bill Cotty reported that all of the Advisory Board members receive the legislative reports that are mailed out through his office and that the Marine Resources staff were kept completely informed of all bills introduced relative to that Division. Dr. Joseph suggested that his staff watch the legislative reports more closely and follow up on those bills which need to be emphasized.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Harris stated that the Minutes of the last Advisory Board meeting would be mailed out the first of the week. He recommends that Mr. Welch contact Dr. Davis at USC to obtain the specifics on the special consideration he desires for sailboaters. He also suggested that when possible Jack Bayless should be present for seining operations in the Cooper River to assure that we protect the Department's



interests. He stated that the regional concept should be a departmental objective to be pursued as funds become available and is feasible to organize.

3. Game and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Rhame reported that copies of the Minutes of the last Advisory Board meeting was mailed out. There was a general discussion of the "shout to scare permit" which Jeff Fuller pointed out was part of the overall proposed doe quota program. Chairman Hudson noted that there were several discrepancies in the proposed doe quota program and Dr. Timmerman stated that there are plans to add another biologist to gather more data so that Mr. Fuller can further pursue the matter at a later date.

Commissioner Harris asked when the information on Trotters Shoals would be available and Dr. Timmerman stated that he has talked with Dr. Stepp of Clemson and it should be available by the middle of July and if it is, we could have discussion on it at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Harris also recognized the new president of the S. C. Wildlife Federation who noted that they will meet in Due West on June 21, 1975 to file an injunction against the Corps Trotter's Shoals Project. Commissioner Hudson stated that he has communicated with Rusty DePass of the Governor's office who desires input from this updated economic review. Commissioner Harris asked the indulgence of the Wildlife Federation until this information is available and we can take a position.

4. Natural Area Acquisition & Resource Planning: No report at this time.

F. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that he and Chairman Hudson met with Dr. Mullins of the State Personnel Division regarding the potential upgrading of conservation officers and biologists and aids. Dr. Mullins generally agreed to re-evaluate our requests and provide a response as soon as possible. Commissioner Harris suggested that Mr. Ryan and Mr. Chastain keep the Conservation Officers informed of what is being done to help out on this. Dr. Timmerman also reported the salary review report was passed on to the Chairman with no ratings out of the ordinary for this month.

Commissioner Glenn asked whether or not the Finance Committee has met. Commissioner Boykin stated that they had not and would as soon as more information is available.

G. Appointments: All appointments, re-appointments, non-salaried and salaried were approved as submitted with the exception of the recommendation for Charles Fleischmann, a student, McClellanville, S. C. as a non-salaried appointment. This recommendation was withdrawn by Commissioner Lumpkin. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve these recommendations. (Names available from the Executive Director's Office) These approvals are subject to the disgression of the resident Commissioner.

Commissioner Hudson stated that he has mailed out a letter to the Commission regarding Mr. Scott Creveling, who wants assistance through the Foundation to attend Clemson University. These funds have not been



utilized and we should put them to use. He reported that he has checked with Clemson and the people over there report that Scott has a lot of potential. He has worked with the Department on a part time basis with Walt Schrader. Commissioner Rhame made a motion to accept Chairman Hudson's recommendation to grant this scholarship to Scott Creveling for \$750 a year for the next two years to pursue his graduate studies in wildlife biology at Clemson University. The motion was seconded and passed.

There being no further business at this time, a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

(Miss) Chris Stapleton,
Commission Secretary

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