

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

MARRIOTT HOTEL
Hilton Head Island, S. C.
July 20, 1984
3:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in the Charleston Room of the Marriott Hotel, Hilton Head Island, S. C., at 3:00 P.M., July 20, 1984, with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included Commissioners Webster, Compton, Harrelson, Owen, Stokes, Thomason, and Bennett. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer, and various other staff. There were also various guests at the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. and welcomed all guests to the meeting. He noted this was a great day for South Carolina with the dedication of the Waddell Mariculture Center and he expressed thanks to Dr. Sandifer and his staff for doing a fine job on the dedication.

ITEM I. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Webster introduced newly appointed Commissioners G. B. Stokes of Florence and James O. Thomason of Spartanburg and he welcomed them to the Commission.

ITEM II. READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the June 15, 1984 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM III. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that a study is being conducted to reallocate law enforcement grades. The Department did not secure any funding in our budget for this reallocation, but we will be looking at ways to handle this matter. With this reallocation, Dr. Timmerman recommended that all law enforcement positions, new or existing, not be filled until after January 1, 1985. This action met with the concurrence of the Commission. With this change in grades, Dr. Timmerman noted that he will ask the State Personnel Division to do a study of grades for biologists and various administrative staff. Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of Conservation Officer vacancies (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) noting that these won't be filled until the first of the calendar year.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that employees which meet job expectations will be given a 1.8% merit raise and those which exceed job expectations will receive a 3% merit raise. Also, he noted the Department will give a 5% increase for reclassifications, promotions, and reallocations. Dr. Timmerman briefed the Commission on new payroll procedures adopted by the State this year.

Dr. Timmerman noted that a budget proviso on the use of state-owned aircraft was adopted this year. A copy of this proviso was distributed to the Commission along with a letter to the Attorney General seeking clarification on this budget proviso. Rich Roberson briefly discussed the budget proviso and the key elements of the new law.

Dr. Timmerman stated that he had received some petitions to request that the Styx Fish Hatchery be renamed to the Cohen Campbell State Fish Hatchery. This was discussed with staff and such is recommended to the Commission for approval. Following discussion, the Commission by consensus approved renaming the Styx Hatchery to the "Cohen Campbell State Fish Hatchery".

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that he will attend the Atlantic Flyway Council meeting next week.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that the President has signed the D-J Expansion legislation which will increase funding for marine and freshwater fisheries in South Carolina.

Dr. Timmerman distributed to the Commission, the Department's six-month Employee Vehicle Accident Report (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

Dr. Timmerman introduced guests at the meeting including former Commissioner Archie R. Stubbs, Fran Smith of the "Hilton Head Island Packet" and Jim Douglas of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

ITEM IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a copy of the 1984 Comprehensive Legislative Report (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). This report was discussed briefly with the Commission.

ITEM V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Status Report on Carolina Refinery Permit Application: Ed Duncan updated the Commission on the Carolina Oil Refinery Permit Application noting the Final Environmental Impact Statement will be completed in a few weeks at which time the Corps of Engineers will make a final decision on the permit. Mr. Duncan noted the state has not acted on the state permit application. Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to reaffirm its previous position to oppose a refinery in this area and to recommend that all permits be denied. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Procedures - Registration for Dogs/Kennels: Benny Reeves noted the proposed procedures for initiating the registration for dogs and kennels were mailed to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission approved the procedures as submitted to include a \$5.00 fee for registering a dog and a \$20.00 fee for registering a kennel.

B. Proposed Game Management Area Check Station Guidelines: The proposed guidelines were mailed to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve the guidelines as submitted.

C. Proposed Migratory Bird Regulations: Brock Conrad noted the proposed regulations have been mailed to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve the regulations as submitted. Chairman Webster asked the staff to do a survey before next year's season to determine if the public wants morning dove hunting.

D. FY 1985-86 Budget Proposal: Benny Reeves noted the FY 85-86 Budget Proposal has been mailed to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve the budget proposal as submitted.

E. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain recommended to the Commission that the Pickens County Emergency Preparedness Agency be allowed to operate under the Department's frequency and that the Refuge Manager of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge be loaned a surplus Department radio, if available. The Commission adopted a motion to approve these recommendations by Mr. Chastain.

4. Information & Public Affairs: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: There was nothing further to report.

F. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted the Marine Resources Self-Study Report has been sent to the Commissioners for comments. Commissioner Compton recommended that the Commission appoint Mr. Billy Silcox to the Marine Resources Advisory Board. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation.

G. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve all recommendations as submitted.

H. Other Remarks: Chairman Webster noted that with Calvin Dawson's term expiring on the Commission, the Vice-Chairman's position is open. The floor was opened for nominations and the Commission elected Commissioner Compton Vice-Chairman by acclamation. Chairman Webster noted that with Commissioner Compton becoming Vice-Chairman, he was appointing Commissioner Harrelson as Chairman of the Marine Advisory Board. Commissioner Harrelson agreed to accept the Chairmanship of this Board.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that the Commission will hold an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and invited participants into the meeting. Chairman Webster asked Commissioner Harrelson to report on the Executive Session. Commissioner Harrelson stated that the Commission took no action and there was nothing to report.

I. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster noted the next meeting will be held in Columbia, 10:00 a.m. on August 17, 1984. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has been asked to speak at the National Ducks Unlimited meeting on the third Friday in February, 1985, and he asked the Commission to reconsider the February meeting date. The Commission adopted a motion to change the February meeting date so as to enable Dr. Timmerman to speak at this meeting. Chairman Webster stated the specific date for the February meeting will be picked out later.

ITEM VII. ADJOURN

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