

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
June 20, 1986
10:00 A. M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., June 20, 1986, in Room 335 of the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., 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, Quackenbush, Stokes, Thomason and Bennett. Directors and staff present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain, Charles Bearden, and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed all guests to the meeting.

ITEM I. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE

Chairman Webster and Dr. Timmerman presented a plaque and a Boykin Spaniel Art Print to George Gehrken who is retiring as a biologist with the Union Camp Corporation. Mr. Gehrken expressed thanks for this recognition and noted that he has enjoyed working with the Department during his career.

ITEM II. CHECK PRESENTATIONS - HARRY HAMPTON WILDLIFE FUND

Commissioner Charles Compton, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund, presented a \$10,000 check to the Riverbanks Zoological Park as a grant for a Veterinary Internship Program. The check was received by Larry Johnson, Chairman of the Zoo Commission, Palmer Krantz, Director and Dr. Barbara Thomas-Baker who expressed thanks for this financial support.

Commissioner Compton introduced Frank Sistare and Larry Cook of Spartanburg who helped establish the Spartanburg Association of the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund and held a banquet on May 16, 1986, at Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium which attracted over 600 people. Mr. Sistare and Mr. Cook presented the Hampton Fund with a check for \$26,293.12 which was the proceeds from the Banquet. Commissioner Compton expressed thanks for the effort and success of the Spartanburg Association, and presented a plaque with the forty-five Charter Member's names of the Spartanburg Association which will be placed in the Commission Room.

ITEM III. READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the May 16, 1986 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM IV. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that Dennis Waddell in the Division of Administrative Services has been approved for a monetary award under the Employee Suggestion Program. Larry Cartee and Benny Reeves presented Mr. Waddell a check for his suggestion made under this program.

Bill Chastain presented a 40-year retirement certificate to Captain John Robinson who is retiring on June 30th. Captain Robinson expressed thanks for this certificate.

Dr. Timmerman extended a special thanks to Dan Dobbins for his hard work on the HELP legislation. Dr. Timmerman commended the entire staff for their efforts on this legislation. He noted that Commissioner Bennett was very helpful on approval of recent bond legislation for our Department's radio system.

Dr. Timmerman went over the FY 86-87 budget noting the manner in which license revenue will be allocated in the Department and stated that we are taking a conservative approach with these revenues. He discussed our FY 87-88 budget request noting that we will meet with the Commission Finance Committee in early July and present our budget request at the July Commission Meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted the Personnel Study is completed and he will ask Benny Reeves to pull together recommendations to present at the July Commission Meeting. The Commission noted that they would like to receive a full copy of the study ten (10) days prior to the July Commission Meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that travel reimbursement for employees, without overnight lodging, has been reinstated in the FY 86-87 budget.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that a special Staff Meeting will be held in August to discuss public relations.

Dr. Timmerman stated that a new telephone system will be implemented on July 5th and the new telephone numbers will be sent to the Commissioners.

Dr. Timmerman noted the SEAFA meeting will be held November 20-23 in Baltimore, Maryland, and he invited the Commissioners to attend.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commissioners that the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fair will be held on June 20-21, 1986, at the Marine Center.

Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that an Executive Session will be held following the regular meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

ITEM V. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dan Dobbins distributed the Legislative Report to the Commissioners for their information. Mr. Dobbins noted that Dr. Timmerman led the way on the HELP legislation and he commended numerous legislators, including Commissioner Dennis, for support of this legislation. The Commission asked Chairman Webster to send a letter to Commissioner Dennis expressing thanks for all his support on the HELP legislation.

ITEM VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update - Project WILD: Dennis Gunter updated the Commission on the success of Project WILD noting that 1500 teachers have been trained in this program. Mr. Gunter noted that numerous anti-hunting organizations are approving Project WILD and he passed out some of the booklets and materials they are circulating in the State. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion for the Commission to not endorse this information or what it represents being included or taught in our Project WILD Program.

ITEM VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Heritage Trust Dedication and Registration Agreements: Dr. Wade Batson noted the Heritage Trust Advisory Board met on May 22 and he discussed the items acted upon by the Board. These items included approval of the following dedication agreements:

1. Registration Agreements - Egg Bank Island
Santee Coastal Reserve Carolina Bays
Goose Creek Reservoir
2. Dedication Agreement - Flat Creek Natural Area
(Copies attached to original Commission Minutes)

The Commission adopted a motion to approve these dedication and registration agreements as presented.

B. Proposed 1986-87 Duck Stamp Budget: John Frampton went over the proposed 1986-87 Duck Stamp budget as mailed out to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this budget as presented.

C. Discussion - Sunday Hunting: The Commissioners discussed the differences in allowing Sunday hunting in some parts of the State and not allowing such in other parts of the State. Brock Conrad noted that the Commission took action at one time to allow Sunday hunting, but later rescinded that action. John Frampton noted that one of the biggest concerns is the impact this could have on the cooperating landowners in the Wildlife Management Area Program. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion for the Department to survey all private landowners that have land in the Wildlife Management Area Program as to their position on having Sunday hunting on their lands or any one day of the week being closed to hunting, and that the Commission set up a series of public hearings on a proposed resolution to do away with any regulation banning Sunday hunting, and, also, public hearings on the question of having any day of the week closed to hunting. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Linda Amick distributed the new duck stamp poster to the Commissioners. Benny Reeves went over the changes in the license fees with the Commissioners.

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

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

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines advised the Commission that a very successful Camp Wildwood was completed last week with 120 students. Mr. Baines expressed thanks to the S. C. Wildlife Federation and the Garden Clubs of South Carolina for their support with this camp.

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

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen went over the items discussed at the recent Board meeting.

2. Heritage Trust: These items were discussed previously in the meeting by Dr. Wade Batson.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Harrelson noted the Board met recently and they are continuing to work with the industry on the turtle extruder devices. He noted that the shrimp season opened on June 18th and catches have been fairly good and prices have held up. Commissioner Harrelson informed the Commission that the Saltwater License Committee will hold its first meeting on June 27, 1986.

Following this discussion, the Commission held an Executive Session as approved earlier in the meeting.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting. Chairman Webster asked Commissioner Harrelson to report on the actions taken in Executive Session. Commissioner Harrelson reported that the Commission adopted a motion to approve all appointments, re-appointments and promotions of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers as presented (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve and ratify this action.

F. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commissioners.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster announced that the next Commission Meeting will be held in Columbia on July 18, 1986, at 10:00 A.M.

ITEM VIII. ADJOURN

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