

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

SPARTANBURG COUNTY COURT HOUSE
Spartanburg, South Carolina

March 15, 1974

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Spartanburg County Court House, Spartanburg, South Carolina on March 15, 1974, with Chairman Hudson presiding. Also present were Commissioners Harris, Glenn, Lumpkin, Rhame and Dennis; Advisors Cantey, Hayes and Ford; also in attendance were Mr. Webb, Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Jeff Fuller, Pat Ryan, John Culler, Wash Belangia, Dr. Laurent, Dr. Burrell, Chief Chastain, Ned Pendarvis, Bill Cotty, Ed Latimer, Joe Logan, Brock Conrad, Bob Joyner, Al Courie, Bob Campbell and various other staff members and members of the press. Also present was Mr. Ed Johnson, Former Chairman of the Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as they were mailed out.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Department Policy on Use of Myrex: It was suggested that this subject be brought up in the Advisory Board Reports.

B. National Audubon Society - Alexander Sprunt, Jr. Sanctuary: Mr. Webb requested that this be carried over to the next meeting due to the fact that he has had no further communication on this matter.

X C. Department improvement/construction of Facilities: A copy of this list of facilities has been mailed out to all Commissioners. It was suggested that these proposed improvements be numbered in order of precedence. Mr. Webb suggested that the Commission allow the department to move ahead on these projects and that he will keep them informed. The figures shown on this proposal are strictly estimates and subject to change. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Santee Delta Diking Operation: \$150,000 is the most important project at this time and that we should go ahead and try to get Federal Funding. There was a motion made by Commissioner Lumpkin to proceed to get Federal Funding on this project and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Harris and passed. The Commission will be kept informed on these projects and what is being done. Chairman Hudson suggested that the houses where our men live have second priority after the Santee Delta Diking Operation. Mr. Webb asked the Commission to approve proceeding on house at Heath Springs subject to getting county funds. Commissioner Harris made



motion that we proceed on this project contingent to getting county funds. Commissioner Lumpkin seconded the motion and it was passed.

REQUEST FOR NEW COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM: Chairman Hudson asked Chief Chastain to brief Commission on this matter. Chief Chastain reported that he has met with GE and Motorola and Mr. Gaines Boone, who has been in charge of all enforcement agencies in S. C. as far as LEA funds are concerned. Reported that we are a part of that plan. Discussed the type of system that he would recommend for the department and the advantages of this system. The new system would give us 24 hour communication and Federal Funding would pay for the system. Will continue working on it and get back to Commission with recommendations and reports.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Game & Freshwater Fisheries: Mr. Fuller stated that his Division Report has been mailed out prior to this meeting. Also noted that Rock Fish Hatchery is ready to go into full scale operation.

2. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph stated that his Division Report was mailed out prior to this meeting. Also thanked the Advisory Board on behalf of Marine Resources for the Bar-B-Que held at Eutawville on March 8, 1974. Reported that they had a very successful National Coastal Zone meeting in Charleston and thanked Pat Ryan and Chief Chastain for the help and excellent work from the Law Enforcement Division. Dr. Timmerman thanked Dr. Joseph and his staff and the secretaries that worked on the Conference.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Mr. Ryan stated that his Division Report has been mailed out prior to this meeting. Thanked Chief Chastain and his men for the work they did in Camden on a manhunt. Chastain reported that they worked on a three day shift basis and commended the work done by the men and the pilots.

a. Jack's Hole Project: The need of this facility is a building with two boat slips and a working area and a storage area. Have contacted an Architect and should have the plans within a week or ten days. Chairman Hudson stated that there was a boat house at Clarendon not being used and suggested towing this boat house down to this area until we can get something done. There was discussion on this idea. Santee Cooper would be willing to dredge, if necessary, in order to get this boat house through there. Commissioner Glenn made the motion to proceed in moving this boat house from Clarendon, if feasible, until we can get the new house built. Commissioner Lumpkin seconded and the motion was passed.



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Chairman Hudson asked Mr. Ryan to look into this and report at next Commission meeting whether the house has been moved or can be moved.

b. Evaluation of Transportation: Reported that they are still working on this and will have a report at next meeting.

Xc. Weapons: The department has done much research on the idea of changing from .38 to .357 magnum. County Funds are available and the cost would be small to change over. Have taken three bids on this weapon and they have agreed to buy our weapons back at \$31.00 each. Smith and Wesson was best bid and everyone consulted has recommended it. It was suggested that we allow our men to purchase the used weapons at the \$31.00 if they wish, or they can turn them back in. Chairman Hudson suggest that Pat Ryan apply to the counties to get this money and make the official weapon of the department the .357 magnum. Commissioner Dennis made the motion that the suggestion of Chairman Hudson be approved by the Commission. Commissioner Rhame seconded and the motion was passed. There was some discussion in regard to ammunition. There is a new ammunition out used only for law enforcement agencies. Commission asked Mr. Ryan to check into this and get some bids on ammunition. Major Cantey brought out the fact that the recoil of a .357 magnum opposed to a .38 is greater and that there should be training with these new weapons before official use. Chief Chastain said there would be an inservice training program on this.

d. Progress Special Group: Mr. Ryan reported on undercover work being done on illicit fur traffic in State. We trained six people at Sled Headquarters by Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife on undercover work. Warrants are being made up now. We have agents working on all facets. Fur tagging system will be changed next year. Will keep Commission advised on program and will have a better report at next meeting. Ed Latimer reported on legal aspect of this. Fine for sale of venison was discussed and Commissioner Dennis asked Mr. Latimer for statutes on this fine and that he and Bill Cotty make recommendations for consideration of Commission. Commissioner Dennis suggested that Mr. Ryan put intensive patrol in the Francis Marion area during gobbler season.

FUEL SUPPLY: Commissioner Dennis suggested setting up a fuel supply at the Dennis Center for a matter of economics and convenience in that area. Ned Pendarvis will check into this. Chief Chastain and Ned Pendarvis have met with the head of the Governors Energy Program group and we should not have any problem in getting what we need if we go through the right channels and file appropriate forms. Enforcement section should be able to get 100% allocations.

4. Information and Public Affairs: Mr. Culler reported that his Division report has been mailed out prior to this meeting. Also that a survey has been done on hunting attitudes. The result



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showed that better than half of the people either hunted or wanted to but didn't have time. The majority of the rest of the people believed that hunting was a good sport. Attitude in general was good. Also reported that Mr. Ed McTeer was selected in Beaufort County as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

5. Administrative Services: Report has been mailed out prior to this meeting. Arthur Andersen and Company has been contacted and plan to come down latter part of April for one day visit and latter part of May for one day visit and after first of year they will come down for three days and give formal reports back to the Commission on how the new system is working.

VICTORIA BLUFF: Chairman Hudson brought Commission up to date on Victoria Bluff. The Legislature has turned over Victoria Bluff to the Wildlife Department with the exception of the part owned by Chicago Bridge & Iron. CBI has agreed tentatively with the Secretary to turn over the marsh lands to Wildlife and on the 175 acres that was retained by Ports Authority, we have veto power over any industry that they are going to put in there. Secretary of Interior has withdrawn their objections and Audubon has said that if all of these things are done they will not oppose it. Chairman Hudson told Commission that he went down and looked this property over with Mr. Joe Fraser on the PRT Board. There is a small 40 acres over there that they would like for us to work out something on with them. It is an open field and is cut off by a road and they want to put a boat ramp in there and have a primitive tent site there. Chairman Hudson recommends that if this transpires that we work out something with PRT and let them have this land. There is a rookery on Hilton Head Island and it looks like they are going to let the department have it, but it is still in negotiable stages. Chairman Hudson suggested to them that they put this through the Heritage Trust Program.

HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM: Chairman Hudson asked Dr. Laurent to report on this. Part of the Governor's program when he set this up was a fifteen man advisory board committee with seven to be recommended by the Nature Conservancy. This list has gone to the Governor and a tentative advisory board has been appointed. Senator Waddell and Rep. Sam Manning are on this board. Moving rapidly along with the program and offices for the Conservancy should be opening in about a month.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER TO COMMISSION AND ADVISORY BOARDS: Chairman Hudson suggested having Information & Public Affairs Division work up a weekly newsletter to Advisory Boards and Commission. Commission was in favor of this and Chairman Hudson asked John Culler to proceed with this.



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B. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS: Commissioner Harris reported to Commission that minutes of this meeting has been issued. Asked Dr. Timmerman to draw up definition of trespassing. Advisory Boards felt that there was a need to clarify who may release confiscated equipment. Do not want Supervisors releasing this equipment without advice and consent of headquarters. Do want better weapons for officers. Would like to have a study made of pay scales of conservation officers and asked Administrative Division to look into this. Reported on letters to Mr. Shipley in regard to two big lakes and the action that has been taken on their requests. Dr. Lumpkin stated that the Marine Resources Advisory Board recommends a third airplane in coastal area and a pilot. Horseshoe Crab matter was discussed. The blood is being used as a test for bacterial contamination. This could become quite an industry for the state. They want to get these all year around. The Advisory Committee recommends that we go ahead and implement that. Dr. Joseph stated that about 500 crabs per week are being taken and they are paying the fisherman \$1 each. The problem is that there is a period of about 60 days when there are no available trawl fisheries to supply this and they need a continuous flow. Will issue one or two experimental permits to trawl in one sound. Should not create any problem. Recommend a guide line for oyster leasing so people leasing will know what the lease entails, etc. This is being developed by Mr. Bearden and his group now, and will be ready at next Advisory Board Meeting. Also discussed fines. The fines should be set so that the fine would be equivalent to confiscation of some of the smaller units which at the same time would represent a significant financial deterrent. Dr. Joseph commented on use of Myrex to control the Fire Ant situation. Have met with Jeff Fuller and reported to Advisory Board that the department will undertake more research on this problem. Also have met with Entomology Department at Clemson and will meet jointly at a later date, and will launch a study. Recommendation of Advisory Board was that they are opposed to aerial spraying until we have more information and to stay away from critical areas with any other application. Commissioner Harris asked Mr. Latimer to get in touch with Gaines Smith in reference to the authority of Conservation Officers. Latimer will do so and get back to Commission on this. Commissioner Rhame told Commission that Commissioner Dennis has recently been appointed to the National Wild Turkey Federation Board. They have now moved their headquarters from Richmond, Va. to Edgefield, S. C. and their Annual Meeting will be held at Hickory Knob. Our Commission will probably be asked to participate in that meeting. Commissioner Rhame told Commission that the Game & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board discussed the 16,000 acres of land from Santee Cooper to be used in our Game Management Program. Guidelines for fish disposal have been set up and circulated to Commission. When fish are taken for scientific study the biologist in charge must be present. The fish that are taken must be delivered to an institute if still eatable, or they must be buried and the biologist in charge will send a report of the disposal to the office.



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This board was also opposed to the proposal for roadside planting. Felt that money could be used in a better way, if available. Took exception to Migratory Bird Regulations in regard to hours. Recommend that we take the stand to retain the 1/2 hour prior to sunrise to sunset as the shooting hours.

C. GAME MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS: Motion was made to accept staffs recommendations on this. The motion was seconded and passed.

TRESPASSING: Senator Dennis suggested that a warrant should be signed by landowner and the our staff should look into this. Also release of confiscated vehicles should be under control. There is a need for someone to have immediate authority to act with some digression. Asked Mr. Latimer to make recommendations on this.

PAY SCALE OF GAME WARDENS AND DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL: There was some discussion on this matter and Chairman Hudson suggested that we get Arthur Andersen & Company to do a study on this and make recommendations to the Commission.

D. APPOINTMENTS: All appointments mailed out prior to this meeting were approved. Motion was made by Commissioner Lumpkin and seconded by Commissioner Glenn and passed.

Mr. Webb asked Commission to approve appointments of Walter R. Walton and Junius G. Ellis III in Beaufort County. These men will be paid out of County Funds. Commissioner Harris made motion to accept and Commissioner Lumpkin seconded. Approved subject to approval of Commissioner in that District. Recommended Lee Morse, Sumter County as salaried officer. Recommended appointment of George L. McClain in Oconee County as a salaried officer. Commission approved this appointment subject to approval of Commissioner in that District.

Senator Dennis disqualified himself and left room.

Mr. Webb told the Commission that Mr. Mac Flood has been sick and asked to be relieved of his supervisor responsibilities. Mr. Webb recommends that Mr. Flood be continued temporarily as supervisor and that Rembert Dennis, Jr. be made his assistant until Mr. Flood's retirement. There was some discussion on this matter and Commissioner Harris made the motion that the Commission approve this. It was seconded and passed.

CATAWBA FISH KILL: Mr. Burris wanted to be here today but could not. There is a possibility to continue negotiation for settlement. Mr. Burris would like to appear before Commission at the May meeting.



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Chairman Hudson introduced Mr. Ed Johnson, Former Chairman of Wildlife Commission.

Commissioner Glenn suggested that Chairman Hudson write a letter in the name of the Commission similar to the resolution made for Mr. Clyde Eltzroth thanking various people for the work they did with getting the Marine Center at Ft. Johnson started.

Commissioner Lumpkin suggested that we should have some way or recognizing a retiring Conservation Officer and the work he has done, such as a plaque with his badge on it or something of that nature to showing our appreciation of faithful service. Chairman Hudson asked John Culler to work on this and present recommendations at next meeting.

Bill Cotty reported that they are having some problems with the construction company on the Bankers Trust Building. Furniture purchase is going through General Services now. Should be in office by first week in April.

It was suggested that we meet at Hickory Knob in April.

Dr. Joseph told Commission that he has asked Dr. Burrell to serve as director of the Marine Research Institute and asked Commission to approve this appointment. The motion was made and passed. Dr. Burrell thanked the Commission.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

(Miss) Chris Stapleton,
Secretary to Commission

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JOINT MEETING OF ADVISORY BOARDS TO
THE S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
Friday, March 8, 1974 2:00 PM
Eutawville, South Carolina

A joint meeting of the Advisory Boards to the S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held Friday, March 8, 1974 at 2:00 pm at Eutawville, South Carolina with Commissioner Harris presiding. Commissioners present were Robert Rhame and Robert Lumpkin; Advisors present were Marvin Thomas, Walt Zachowski, Gaines W. Smith, O. B. Heyward, Sam Crouch, David C. Bryan, Jr., Frank C. Ford, Claymon C. Grimes, Robert B. Russell, Marion Burnside, Carroll Godwin, and Arthur Williams. Also present were W. E. Howell, T. C. Welch, Pat Ryan, Joe Logan, J. O. Sullivan, Edwin B. Joseph, Charles M. Bearden, Wade T. Batson, Bob Joyner, R. M. Gifford, Jeff Fuller, J. E. McTeer, Jr., Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain, Jim Timmerman and Bill Mahan.

MR. WILLIAM F. SHIPLEY'S LETTER: Commissioner Rhame read letter from Commissioner Harris and himself to Mr. Shipley, attorney representing a group of sportsmen in reply to the action taken on the requests of Mr. Shipley's client. The action that has been taken is as follows: (1) INADEQUATE LAW ENFORCEMENT ON THE SANTEE COOPER LAKES: Mr. Flood and Mr. Weeks have placed extra Conservation Officers on patrol in this area. Both day and night patrols are underway. The Conservation Officers are maintaining records of the names and license numbers of every fisherman checked, as well as the number of hours the officer works the lakes for netting. (2) DECREASE IN STRIPED BASS CATCH, ESPECIALLY LARGER FISH: Extensive samplings to determine the relative number of naturally produced fingerlings will be conducted annually. In the event these data indicate a poor reproduction year an appropriate number of hatchery bred striped bass will be stocked to supplement that year. Careful consideration is being given to the possibility of establishing a minimum size of striped bass in these waters. However, this will require legislative action and will be difficult to do so immediately. Additional studies by the fisheries division to gather concrete evidence of the need of such legislation are underway and will be expanded during the calendar year. The information thus collected will permit a much stronger presentation by the Commission to the legislature and enhances the possibility of favorable legislation. We also want to look more closely at the economic impact of such legislation. In summary the proposed action will have far reaching affect and we feel that they deserve more study. (3) POOR LARGE MOUTH BASS FISHING, ESPECIALLY FOR LARGER FISH: Plans of several areas have been furnished to help alleviate this problem. Representatives of the Florida Fish and Game Department have already agreed to supply an adequate number of Florida strain of large mouth bass for experimental work in this field beginning this spring. We plan to work on growth rates and comparison of strains. Also a selective breeding program



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utilizing our own large mouth bass to produce faster growing more vigorous fish will begin this year. In addition we are looking into the benefits of crossing the Florida strain with our domestic strain. The same situation described for minimum size length on striped bass also pertain to large bass; especially we want to look very closely at delayed mortality associated with previously hooked and released large mouth bass. This work will be done and we will have recommendations ready by the end of the calendar year. (4) THE HERRING FISHERMEN, BUT NOT SPORTS FISHERMEN PERMITTED TO FISH ABOVE THE RAILROAD TRESTLE AFTER SUNSET: As we understand this problem, this is just a misunderstanding as you will see by the attached copy of last year Herring Regulations that the area upstream from the railroad bridge is open to all fishermen from March 1st to May 1st until 10:00 pm. (5) ELECTRO FISHING: The entire electro fishing is being investigated by an independent team of scientists including a representative of the local fishing interest. This group will report their findings directly to the S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission and to the participating fishing groups interested. We feel sure the studies will also be available to you. We have been assured by the biologists that very little electro fishing has been done in the Santee Cooper lakes and that such activities will be held to an absolute minimum in the future. (6) OPENING THE DOCKS DURING THE FALL TO PERMIT LARGE STRIPED BASS PRESENTLY IN THE SANCTUARY TO ENTER THE LAKES: We are in favor of this on an experimental basis and have requested the biologists to contact the S. C. Public Service Authority to solicit their assistance in this matter.

Commissioner Rhame read Mr. Shipley's reply, stating that Mr. Shipley will discuss the action taken by our department with the people he represents and reply to our letter at the earliest possible date.

Commissioner Harris read the reply from Mr. Shipley which has now been received. Appreciates extra patrol on lakes by our Officers. Would like to have a change in the Herring Regulations in the Tailrace Canal whereby the area between the sanctuary line fence and the Seaboard Coastline Railway bridge be closed from sunset to sunrise with no provision for that area to be open from March 1st to May 1st until 10:00 pm, or in the event this area is open from March 1st to May 1st that the limit for the entire period of time be 100 pounds or 300 specimens per boat. They feel that this limitation is necessary due to the obvious reduction of population of Herring in the Tailrace Canal during the period of March 1st to May 1st last year from that which it has been in the past. Advisory Boards asked Mr. Jeff Fuller to investigate



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this matter. Also request that competent Conservation Officers be present in boats in the Tailrace Canal during the Herring season to enforce the rules and regulations, as the officer in charge of the sanctuary last year was not available at times and did not have another officer available. The close connection with the Conservation Officer in charge last season with Commercial fishermen last year apparently had some bearing on his availability. As to trot lines and set hooks in the Santee Cooper Lakes it is requested that serious consideration be given to the Rules and Regulations to completely eliminate this type of fishing. It is further requested that regulation to the marking of catfish traps be more strictly enforced as they constitute a boating hazzard. It si further suggested that a study be made as to the feasibility of having catfish considered a game fish, due to the fact that many sports fishermen in the Santee Cooper lakes fish for only catfish and they appear to be getting smaller in size due to the large amount of catfish harvested by commercial fishermen. Recommend that further consideration be given to an ammendment of the present penalty for netting with the penalty being increased to a \$1,000 fine and confiscation of equipment. Present fine is \$100. This would be comparable to the penalty for night hunting for deer.

The Advisory Board will continue consideration of these requests and studies and reports will be made by department personnel and this matter will be carried over to the next meeting.

Commissioner Rhame asked for a motion from the Advisory Boards to endorse the action taken by himself and Commissioner Harris in replying to Mr. Shipley's letter. Motion was made and passed.

LETTER FROM JUDGE HEMPHILL: Commissioner Rhame read a letter from Judge Hemphill saluting the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department and the Commission for the fine work they are doing.

FIRE ANT SITUATION: There was much discussion on the use of Myrex in control of the fire ant situation. Studies and tests are being made and Myrex appears to be the most effective and safest method at the present. The Advisory Board feels at this point objection to aerial spraying with the information we have at this time. Would like to have other approaches tried on an experimental basis, but feel that we should stay away from critical areas until further studies are made. This matter will be carried over until more information is available.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND BOATING: Mr. Pat Ryan told Advisors of undercover activities on illicit fur market commercialization on deer, alligator and hides in South Carolina. Have sent



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some people out undercover to see what they could find. Up to now they have confiscated some \$10,000 worth of furs. There seems to be about twenty people involved in this and he will have a more full report on this matter at the next Commission and Advisory Board meetings.

Also, told Advisors of reward given by the Commission for information leading to the conviction of the persons who fired on Officer Holcombe in Pickens County. The Commission added \$700 to the \$300 reward being offered by the Sheriff's Department in that County making a total reward of \$1,000. Investigation in this matter is continuing.

Mr. Welch reported that the Boating Titling Bill is presently on the calendar for repeal.

GAME AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES: Mr. Jeff Fuller passed out the new seasons Turkey brochures.

COMMENTS: Dr. Timmerman commented on the usefulness of the Advisory Boards to the Commission and the Department. He briefed the Advisors on the Heritage Trust Program and the work being done with the Nature Conservancy to preserve natural and historical areas in the State to be set aside for future development.

Commissioner Harris asked for individuals comments on matters that should be considered by the Advisory Boards. A few of these were the fire ant situation and the use of myrex, assistance in Oyster Leasing, protection of certain species of salt and freshwater game, and present fines in our state.

There being no further business, this joint meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 pm and the three Advisory Boards met separately to have their individual meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Stapleton

(Miss) Christine Stapleton,
Secretary to Commission

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