

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
March 15, 1985
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Room 335 of the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a.m., March 15, 1985, 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, Owen, Stokes, Thomason, Bennett and Quackenbush. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Bill Chastain, Jeff Fuller, Paul Sandifer, Benny Reeves, Dan Dobbins 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. READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the February 22, 1985 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Senator Dennis is progressing quite well and is keeping abreast of all state matters.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Commissioner Quackenbush will arrive later in the meeting and introduce some local members of Quail Unlimited.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the resolution on the Dingell-Johnson funds approved by the Commission has been sent to the President and the Congressional Delegation. A similar resolution has been introduced in the South Carolina General Assembly.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Commissioner Harrelson had asked the staff to review the shad law as it relates to the disposal of non-game fish in shad nets. The staff has reviewed this matter and recommends to the Commission that a legislative amendment be sought to allow shad fishermen to take non-game fish during the shad season. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Thomason asked about the use of a bow and arrow to hunt turkey during the spring season and Dr. Timmerman noted the staff will report to him on this matter.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that some of the timber companies are withdrawing land from the GMA program and we are doing everything we can to encourage a balanced program. Dan Dobbins updated the Commission on the work of the Land

Procurement Committee. Chairman Webster asked Dr. Timmerman to inform the Commission of the date and time when the Governor will meet with this Committee.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Rich Roberson is leaving his position of Assistant Attorney General and he expressed his thanks for his service.

Dr. Timmerman noted there are very few shrimp in the sounds which would not require a meeting in Charleston during April. The Commission could meet in Edgefield on April 12th or 19th, if it so desires.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had recently met with Ducks Unlimited and signed the MARSH Agreement which will provide over \$79,000 for funds for use in the state. The staff and Ducks Unlimited will work together to establish priorities for expenditure of these funds.

Dr. Timmerman noted the Turkey Symposium was held on March 13th and it was an excellent program that was well attended.

Dr. Timmerman invited the Commissioners to the Lake Oak Grove dam repair groundbreaking ceremony to be held at 1:30 p.m. on March 22, 1985, at Lake Oak Grove.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic will be held at the State Fairgrounds on March 22 and 23, 1985. Dr. Timmerman noted that other scheduled events include: 1) a meeting in Atlanta on March 26, 1985 with Georgia Pacific; 2) Press Outing at Hunting Island State Park on March 26-27, 1985; 3) Service Pin Awards Day for employees on March 28, 1985, at 10:00 a.m.; and 4) Quail Symposium at Southern Railroad on April 4, 1985. Dr. Timmerman noted that he will leave Saturday to go to the North American Wildlife Conference in Washington, D. C.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a report on Conservation Officer positions by county from 1971-1985 (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). This was discussed with the Commission and such will be on the agenda for the next Commission Meeting for further discussion. Commissioner Compton recommended that this be pursued further on where officers are assigned.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recommendations - Commission Finance Committee: Commissioner Compton reported that a meeting with legislative leaders has been held to discuss budget needs and to seek their guidance. These leaders were receptive to seeking funding changes for law enforcement and funding for the mandatory hunter safety program was also discussed. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will pursue this direction in the budget process if such is satisfactory with the Commission.

B. Marine Resources Organization Plan: Dr. Sandifer noted this was distributed at the last Commission Meeting. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this plan as submitted at the February 22, 1985 Commission Meeting.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted the Ways and Means Committee will meet next week to consider the budget. Dr. Timmerman asked Mr. Reeves to send the Commissioners a list of the names and addresses of these members for them to contact if they can.

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

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

4. Information & Public Affairs: John Evans distributed a new issue of "The Resource" noting that this publication goes to over 30,000 people at a cost of .12¢ per copy.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer informed the Commission that the Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium will be held in Charleston on March 30, 1985.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Heritage Trust: Stu Greeter noted the Board met on February 22, 1985, and he went over the items discussed by the Board. Mr. Greeter noted the Board approved the Cowbane Preserve Dedication Agreement which is recommended to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve this agreement as submitted.

C. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations of appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted motions to approve this list as submitted. Commissioner Stokes expressed concern over the number of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers being appointed. Following discussion, Chairman Webster asked the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board to review the current DWCO policy and bring any recommendations to the Commission.

D. Other Remarks: Brock Conrad informed Commissioner Thomason that the use of bow and arrow for turkey hunting in the Spring Season is allowed under current regulations.

E. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Edgefield, S. C., on April 19, 1985. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that the Commission would recess the regular meeting to hold an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting. Chairman Webster asked Commissioner Compton to report on the action taken in Executive Session. Commissioner Compton reported

that in Executive Session, the Commission approved a motion for the staff to pursue the replacement of the legal counsel in the Department. Commissioner Quackenbush moved for the Commission to adopt and ratify this action. Commissioner Bennett seconded this motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Thomason asked that the matter of Sunday hunting in the upstate be looked at for the next meeting.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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