

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
March 16, 1984
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Room 335, Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a.m., with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Webster, Compton, Harrelson, Owen, Dawson and Stubbs. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Jeff Fuller, Sonny Baines, Dr. Sandifer, Bill Chastain and various other staff.

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 17, 1984 Commission meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES FROM SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS - NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM

Mr. Leonard Killian, Executive Director of the S. C. Forestry Commission, presented Certificates from the Society of American Foresters recognizing two Heritage Preserves -- the Stevens Creek Natural Area and the Victoria Bluff Natural Area. Chairman Webster expressed thanks to Mr. Killian and the Society of American Foresters for these two certificates recognizing our Natural Areas Program.

ITEM III. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman introduced Mr. Rich Roberson to the Commission who is the newly assigned Assistant Attorney General.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Senator Rembert C. Dennis was recently elected President Pro Tempore of the S. C. Senate and Chairman Webster has sent a letter of congratulations to him on behalf of the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted the staff recently met with the S. C. Shrimpers Association. With the cold winter weather, it is not felt that a sound recommendation on opening of the shrimp season can be made in April, thus, the Shrimpers Association has asked the Commission to meet in Charleston on May 11, 1984. Commissioner Dawson recommended the Commission meet in May at Direlton near Georgetown. The Commission agreed to meet on the coast in May with the date to be decided upon at the April meeting. For the April meeting, Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission could meet at the National Wild Turkey Federation offices in Edgefield if they chose to do so. Following discussion, the Commission agreed to meet on April 20th in Edgefield.



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Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission's policy requires that a new employee moving into a Department house is required to pay their own utilities. At the Dennis Center, the Chief's house has utility bills running about \$310 per month. Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission to consider an exception to this policy in this instance. Dr. Timmerman stated that we will look at making the house more energy efficient. Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the Department paying one-half of the utility costs at the Chief's house at the Dennis Center until the house is made more energy efficient. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a copy of the latest Legislative Report and he went over the status of various bills. Several bills were discussed and advice was received from the Commission on various proposals.

ITEM V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion - Project WILD: Dennis Gunter distributed the Project WILD brochure and the proposed Implementation Plan (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) to the Commission for information. Mr. Gunter went over the history of the development of this educational program. Mr. Gunter noted that a Project WILD Advisory Committee has been established and a four-year implementation program has been developed. Dr. Timmerman noted that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has endorsed this program and several Southeastern states have begun the program. Dr. Timmerman noted that funding for the program is being sought through the Department and the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund. Following other discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to endorse this program. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. Discussion - Duck Stamp Budget: Dr. Timmerman distributed a summary of revenues and expenditures from the state duck stamp funds (copy attached to original Commission minutes). Dr. Timmerman noted that \$50,000 of the duck stamp funds were set aside for land acquisition and the Commission had approved \$57,000 for the mottled duck study. With these actions, there are not enough funds for both activities. Dr. Timmerman noted that in the future, all of the duck stamp budgets will go through our budget office in order to carry out what action the Commission approves. Commissioner Compton moved for the Department to not discontinue the cross diking on Santee Delta and Bear Island, and the mottled duck study, both programs which are very important. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Harrelson noted that we need to get serious on land procurement because South Carolina is far behind other states in this area. Dr. Timmerman noted that a wetlands bill is under consideration in Congress, but some matching funds would be needed. Dr. Timmerman noted that we recognize that acquisition funds (10% or \$25,000, whichever is greater) need to be included in future duck stamp budgets. Dr. Timmerman stated that the staff will develop some options for the Commission to consider relative to land procurement.



C. Victoria Bluff Management Plan: Jim Sorrow noted that a copy of this management plan was sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). This plan was discussed with the Commission noting the plan has been recommended by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. Commissioner Stubbs moved for the Commission to approve this plan as submitted. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that he is following proposed license fee legislation in the General Assembly. Mr. Reeves also showed the Commission the financial status report which is being placed on our computer system. He advised the Commission that they may note some changes in the financial report in the future.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Billy McTeer noted that a copy of the Department's bicolor program was sent out to the Commission. Mr. McTeer noted that the S. C. Forestry Commission has agreed to grow bicolor for the Department for \$15/thousand. Mr. McTeer recommended that the Department cease growing bicolor, but take applications from people and distributing bicolor. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to adopt this recommendation. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Tom Kohlsaas advised the Commission that classes at Rosewood and Colleton Elementary Schools have raised money for endangered species. Mr. Kohlsaas recommended that the Commission officially commend these actions and approve resolutions regarding such (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve the resolutions as submitted. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

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

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

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

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was no report from the Board this month.

2. Heritage Trust: Jim Sorrow noted that a proposed access easement to the Delk property through the Watson tract was distributed to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Sorrow noted the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommends that a conservation easement for access be granted with details of restrictions and control to be brought back to the Advisory Board and Commission for approval. Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve an easement in principle with details to be brought back to the Commission. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.



Tom Kohlsaat distributed a copy of the Heritage Trust Annual Report to the Commission for information (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

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

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to the regular meeting and participants were invited into the meeting. Chairman Webster announced that no formal actions were taken in Executive Session.

C. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommended appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion approving all appointments, re-appointments and promotions as recommended including the DWCO appointment of David Morris in Georgetown County. The Commission deferred the appointments of new Conservation Officers until the April Commission meeting.

Bobby Gifford noted that Jimmy Breazeale has a SLED commission and the staff recommends that the Commission appoint Mr. Breazeale as a Conservation Officer so he will have the same commission as our other officers. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation.

D. Other Remarks: Dr. Timmerman noted that an existing budget proviso requires that timber sales revenues go to the state's general fund. Dr. Timmerman stated that we are seeking some legislative relief so that we are able to keep our timber sale revenues for operating our various projects. The Commission adopted a motion to support these efforts by Dr. Timmerman and staff. The Commission noted that we could look at using timber sale revenues for land acquisition. The Commission agreed that language regarding use of timber sale revenues for maintenance and acquisition for public hunting should be included in our legislative package next year.

E. Time and Place of Next Meeting: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

ITEM VII. ADJOURN

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

