

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION Santee Coastal Reserve

March 19, 1976

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at the Santee Coastal Reserve near Georgetown, South Carolina at 10:00 am, March 19, 1976 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Rhame, Lumpkin, Buchanan, and Harris. Others present were Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Dr. Laurent, Culler, Fuller, Chastain, Welch, Robertson, Stansell, Conrad, Strange, Cotty, Pendarvis, Cartee, Latimer, Bill Davis (Public Service Authority Commission), Harold Benson (Atlanta, USFWS), Curtis J. Corley (Beaumont, Texas USFWS), Claymon Grimes (Advisor to Commission), McKenzie, Kenny Williams (Kinlaw Plantation) Frank Caggiano (Director, Research and Administration, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, House), and various other staff members.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: The Minutes of the February Commission Meeting were approved as they were mailed out with no corrections or additions.

COMMENTS

Commissioner Rhame introduced his guest, Mr. Bill Davis, with the Commission on Public Service Authority.

Mr. Claymon Grimes, Advisor to the Marine Resources Committee to the Commission appeared before the Commission in regard to a group of private landowners to urge the Commission to take a look at the Department's Game Laws, which, in their opinion, need some changes. Some suggested changes are trespass laws, uping fines for all game violations, as well as trespass laws, State Courts should be parrell with Federal Courts on fines, penalties, etc., and a Point System Bill passed. Kenny Williams, Manager of Kinlaw Plantation, pointed out some of the daily problems a private landowner experiences. Mr. Grimes stated that his group proposes to follow up these comments with a letter to the Commission setting forth these points and with signatures from some private landowners in the state urging the Commission to take some action in this matter. Chairman Hudson stated that he has talked to Senator Waddell at some length about revising all of the Game Laws in an effort to allow the Executive Director of the Department to set these seasons, etc. and there is some feeling in the Committee that this should be done and feels that we are moving in that direction. Bill Cotty commented on the Points System Bill that is still pending in the House Committee. There is substantial support for the Bill and at the same time there is some opposition claiming that there will be a lot more cost in the courts, etc. If the Judicial Reform Bill goes through, this would clear this problem somewhat. Feels that we will see some action in this session, but if not, we should keep pushing the Bill.

Dr. Timmerman stated that the Southeastern Game & Fish Commission Directors have a meeting on the 15th and 16th of April, which is this Commission's normal meeting date. He requested that the Commission consider changing their meeting date to April 23rd. If the Commission so desires, Timmerman stated that he could check to see if the PRT facilities are available at that time at the Keowee State Park to hold the meeting there.

Dr. Timmerman reported that he has met with various Legislative groups in the past few weeks in Columbia and outside getting involved in our Public Involvement



Program. Also, met with the South Carolina Shrimpers Association to get input from them. Plan to hold a meeting of our staff and private landowner managers this year. We are interested in the lack of funds for waterfowl management in the state and problems that exist in Administration, Law Enforcement, biological problems and sportsmen problems and plan to hold a joint symposium with Ducks Unlimited and our Department to discuss these mutual problems. Brock Conrad passed out a brochure on this symposium to those who have not already received one. The purpose of this symposium is to provide better communication between our department and the sportsmen who are interested in duck hunting or waterfowl management in general. One of the items on the agenda is the possibility of a state duck stamp to generate funds for waterfowl management. Dr. Timmerman encouraged all Commissioners and Advisory Board Members to attend this symposium if at all possible.

Conrad reported that the Catawba Timber Company has agreed to give the Department \$25,000 to co-sponsor a program with Clemson for the small game program, particularly in the Piedmont Area. They are interested in how they can improve the habitat for small game and we think we know how to do this already. The purpose of this project is to make food plantings on these regeneration areas which would provide hunting for four or five years until the pines get above head high. Once we show them how to do it and can document what is the best food plant that they can plant during the time that they are planting their pines, they would be willing to do it themselves. All of this land is open for public hunting. Staff feels that this will provide guidelines for other companies to do the same thing.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS

A. PROGRESS ON PERMANENT COLUMBIA OFFICE FACILITY: Dr. Timmerman asked Ned Pendarvis to report on this matter. Pendarvis stated that at the last Commission Meeting Chairman Hudson requested that staff develop a cost estimate projection on building a new wildlife complex if the Commission were to direct staff to undertake such action. He reported that staff has contacted Lockwood-Greene Engineers in Spartanburg and they helped them put together an estimate. The estimate given (which can not be held for any length of time) by Lockwood-Greene was \$40 per square foot on the new type construction that we are talking about. The estimated need for our Department would be approximately a 50,000 square feet building. We are currently leasing in the Columbia area approximately 36,000 square feet. This would be in anticipation of any expanding that we would be doing in the future. Thus, the total estimated cost of such a building would be approximately \$2,000,000. The reoccurring cost to the department for such a building would be approximately \$115,000 per year which would cover water, insurance, maintenance, etc. The Auditors Office, Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee are all somewhat reluctant to recommend at this time that we request Capital Improvement Bonds for a new facility. Dr. Timmerman also noted that the Highway Department is building a new building and vacating the one that they have. This building could be renovated to our basic needs and we would consider this rather than build a new building. No action is needed at this time on this matter.

B. STATUS REPORT ON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS: No report was given on this



item at this time.

C. PLAN FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM: Dr. Timmerman asked John Culler to report on progress in this program. Culler stated that there are things that we can start on right away such as having public forums whereby we meet in certain communities and have a representative from our Department to talk with sportsmen in an area. A questionnaire will be sent out to determine the particular needs of the public. Specialized presentations will be developed on quail management etc. We have some of this material already printed and ready to be sent out. Department biologists will run information columns in the local newspapers to identify our people with the general public.

D. PROGRESS REPORT ON DEPARTMENTAL NEWSLETTER: Culler reported that his findings are that our Department can put out a newspaper (showed copy of Nebraska newspaper) on a monthly basis consisting of eight (8) pages, putting out twelve (12) issues and send it to eight hundred (800) people for approximately \$8,500 per year. If we send it to the magazine subscribers and put out twelve (12) issues a year it will cost approximately \$43,000. If we send it to 250,000 license holders, it will cost approximately \$130,000 a year. If we put it out quarterly we could send it to all the license holders for approximately \$42,000 and all the magazine subscribers for approximately \$15,000. Culler recommended to the Commission that we charge \$1.00 per year for the publication for twelve (12) issues which would pay for itself. It would be complimentary to all lawmakers, magistrates, and department personnel, etc. It could be promoted through the magazine. Culler estimated that we would have at least between 30-40,000 subscribers by the end of the year. Commissioner Harris made a motion that we charge \$1.00 a year, promoting the newspaper through the magazine, for one year and then take a look at the program to see if we are breaking even on it. Commissioner Rhame seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Chairman Hudson instructed Culler to proceed with the Newspaper.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS

A. RED WOLF RECOVERY PROGRAM: Ken Stansell gave background information on the Red Wolf Reintroduction proposal stating that the recovery of the endangered species was greatly stimulated by the passage of the 1973 Endangered Species Act which provided funding and an endangered species office in Washington to coordinated endangered species activity. As a result of that act, recovery teams were formed. These teams are groups of individuals with particular expertise whether they are with Fish and Wildlife Service, State Agencies or private conservation organizations. These teams put together plans for recovery of various endangered species. In November of 1975 the recovery team approached the Department with a request to consider the potential reintroduction of the Red Wolf into coastal islands, possible off the coast of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and the Gulf Coast. Stansell presented a slide program going over the pros and cons of the reintroduction attempt which are covered in a report that was mailed out to the Commission prior to this meeting. The Recovery Team proposes to translocate a mated pair of red wolves to Bull Island in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. They are not requesting any funding, or anything else from the Department other than our permission to proceed with the experiment. Mr. Harold



Benson, Regional Director of Funding for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Atlanta, and, Mr. Curtis J. Corley, Project Leader, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Beaumont, Texas, commented briefly on what impact this reintroduction of the Red Wolf could possibly have psychologically on the general public and how these problems could be handled. Commissioner Harris proposed that the Commission accept this report as information at this time. It is a Federal project and whatever relationship we have with them will be one of cooperation and we would like to hear USF&WS's specific proposal and then comment further at that time. Stansell asked if staff could pursue the Public Information aspect of this and try to generate some public response to this to see what type of public response we would get to this type of program. Chairman Hudson felt that this would be in order. Mr. Bentson stated that time is critical, but they have to have the proposal as it is going to be directed by the Recovery Team to evaluate it, and he expressed some reservations about launching a public information program at this time.

B. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Administrative Services: Dr. Timmerman reported in Benny Reeves absence that a staff meeting was held yesterday and reported that everyone seemed to be within their budget guidelines.

2. Game and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller asked Tommy Strange to report to the Commission on the mottled duck project. Strange reported that in addition to the nineteen (19) Florida ducks we had from last year, one hundred and fifty-two (152) have been obtained from Texas recently. He plans to distribute a few pair around the state for propagation experiments. He has sighted some of the released birds in the last few days. One problem he foresees in this program is that if these ducks take to this area, there might be a disolution of the gene pool between mallards. He also reported that lunch would follow this meeting and tours of the Reserve would organize immediately following lunch.

3. Information and Public Affairs: Nothing further to report.

4. Law Enforcement: Nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph reported that the oral statement that was approved by the Commission last month was developed and presented at the Public Hearing in Washington. It was very well received, however, at this point there is no decision.

6. Heritage Trust: Chairman Hudson reported that Senator Laughlin at Aiken has contacted him and the Hitchcock Foundation would like to donate 1,500 acres in Aiken to the Heritage Trust Program. This was one of the areas that has been identified on the National and Local Level as being desireable to acquire. Dr. Laurent reported that this would be a good acquisition. It would primarily be an area for public use. The only concern is how much money they are going to give the Department to operate it. As it stands right now, we would get the 1,500 acres and \$70,000 operation money which is in a Trust Fund. Dr. Timmerman asked Chairman Hudson what he forsees longrange in getting money to continue financing this, since our financial situation is such that we can not take on additional expenses. Hudson replied that they have promised two things, one being \$70,000 which would produce some \$5,000 in interest income, and in addition to that the



group in the meeting yesterday promised that they would contact Mellon Foundation and others to attempt to get more money than the \$70,000 when they made the initial gift. Also the Governor has told Senator Laughlin that he will agree to manpower funds over there. In view of this, Chairman Hudson feels there we do not have an immediate problem. This would be total public use similar to a state park. Dr. Laurent and his staff will make a presentation to the Hitchcock Foundation on Tuesday.

C. SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Dr. Timmerman reported that this report has been reviewed and it is in line.

D. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS:

1. Marine Resources: Dr. Lumpkin reported that his group met last Friday in McClellanville. One item that did come up before that meeting was a cancellation on an oyster lease. He has not planted any shell in two years. The Advisory Board felt that they could not make an exception. This will be brought before the next Commission Meeting and the leaseholder wishes to appear. The opinion of the Advisory Board is that the lease be cancelled and not reassigned at the present time.

2. Law Enforcement: Commissioner Harris stated that he, Dr. Lumpkin and Mr. Rhame have met with Dr. Timmerman on the question of reorganization of Districts. Dr. Timmerman has submitted a brief outline of what may be a reorganization plan, however it is not in a form in which final action could be taken and in light of the money situation and time factors and in light of the Reorganization Committee the three of them reject the plan that has been submitted and ask for further documentation and detail.

3. Game and Freshwater Fisheries: Nothing to report at this time.

4. Heritage Trust: Chairman Hudson stated that the Heritage Legislation is still pending and something should come up on it within next two weeks.

E. APPOINTMENTS: Commission Rhame made a motion that the appointment recommendations that have been mailed out to the Commission prior to this meeting be approved subject to the resident Commissioners approval. The motion was seconded and Commissioner Lumpkin and carried. (A list of the recommendations that were mailed out are attached to the original of these Minutes for the records only.) Dr. Timmerman presented a recommendation from Commissioner Glenn that J. B. Glenn, Jr. of Spartanburg be granted a non-pay Commission. There was also a letter from G. W. Trask in the Beaufort County area recommending that Mr. Glenn be given a non-pay Commission in protection of the area. Timmerman stated that he has asked Law Enforcement to look into it, however, a thorough investigation has not been completed. Captain James McTeer talked with Mr. Glenn and the landowner and it is his recommendation that additional protection is needed on the property. Commissioner Harris proposed that the investigation be completed and if staff approval is obtained this Commission will approve the appointment subject to the concurrence of the resident Commissioner. Commissioner Lumpkin seconded the motion and it was carried. The resident Commissioner would be Chairman Hudson since the applicant resides in Spartanburg County.

There being no further business at this time, a motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Stapleton
(Miss) Chris Stapleton,
Commission Secretary

