

## MINUTES

### SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C.  
March 20, 1981

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C. at 10:00 a. m. , on March 20, 1981 with Chairman Edens 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 Edens, Stubbs, Dawson, Compton, Altman, Owen, Shuler, and Harrelson. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Pat Ryan, Mac Flood, John Evans, Sonny Baines, Jeff Fuller, Bill Chastain and other staff members. Guests at the meeting included Pat Robertson of the "Columbia Record", Dr. Jackie Jacobs of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Dr. Bob Lumpkin of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, Trish Jerman of the Governor's Office, Walt Schrader, Ray Moore, Don Branham, Carrole Harris, and J. F. Wyse of the South Carolina Wild Turkey Federation.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edens called the meeting to order at 10:00 a. m. Chairman Edens noted that the new Conference Room tables and chairs were purchased entirely from voluntary contributions and done so at no cost to the State of South Carolina. Chairman Edens expressed appreciation to those individuals which made these contributions and complimented Dr. Timmerman for organizing this effort.

Chairman Edens introduced all guests at the meeting and recognized Dr. Jackie Jacobs. Dr. Jacobs noted that the Operation Respect Conference last weekend was very successful and thanks was expressed to the Department for its assistance. Dr. Jacobs distributed some information to the Commission from the participants at this Conference.

Chairman Edens advised the Commission that Dr. Timmerman, John Evans and Charlie Snider received awards from the South Carolina Wildlife Federation at its recent Annual Meeting.

#### ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Edens noted that the Minutes of the February 20, 1981 Commission Meeting needed to be changed on page one in that Ed Bennett was appointed to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board and Terry Ehrlich of Chester was appointed to the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board. Subject to this change, the Minutes of the February 20, 1981 Meeting were adopted by the Commission.



ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that a company has recently taken 15,000 acres of prime hunting lands out of the GMA program to lease at \$2.00 per acre for private uses. Land was offered in its place, but it is of lower quality for hunting. Dr. Timmerman noted that there are strong sentiments in the House and Senate to take away timber companies' tax advantages if they lease land to non-residents for hunting. Dr. Timmerman noted that the loss of land in the GMA Program is a serious problem and in future meetings with landowners, we will point out that we offer more than financial advantages.

Dr. Timmerman presented a status report on the license fee bill noting that it will be considered in the House after the budget bill is completed. Dr. Timmerman noted that the tax donation (check-off) bill has passed the House and Senate, and sent to the Governor to be signed.

Dr. Timmerman noted that non-resident license sales have decreased this year, including the non-resident GMA permits. Benny Reeves and Pat Ryan will be working together to check license agents to make sure that non-residents are not buying resident licenses.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we face the loss of several positions with cuts in federal funds. This could affect about 30 positions in Endangered Species, Anadromous Fisheries and programs at the Marine Center which will be hit hardest.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Commissioner Shuler had requested information on personnel changes over the past five years in the Department. This information was passed out and discussed with the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the GMA regulations empower the director to deny GMA permits to individuals when it is not in the best interest of conservation and use of the land. This authority will be used in the future to revoke permits if a person misuses GMA lands.

Dr. Timmerman reported on Advisory Board appointments. Dr. Harry Freeman has been re-appointed to the Marine Advisory Board and Carroll Godwin has been re-appointed to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board. Lamar Dawkins of Orangeburg has been appointed to serve on the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board. With this full slate of Advisory Board members,



Chairman Edens noted that we should put out a new directory now.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we now have a final copy of the Marine Study Committee Report for distribution to the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that final approval of this report has not been given to the Commission and some editorial changes have been proposed. Dr. Timmerman stated that the editorial changes have been made and he recommended the Commission accept the report as information and to instruct the staff to implement phases as it sees fit. Chairman Edens noted that the report recommends as an alternative funding source, the development of a saltwater fishing license. This is not being proposed by the Commission. Chairman Edens suggested the Commission accept the report as information and make it available to the staff for use with any controversial items being brought back to the Commission for approval before implementation. Commissioner Dawson moved for the Commission to adopt this recommendation. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Chairman Edens noted that the Shellfish Study Committee Report has been completed and copies will be sent to the Commission. Commissioner Altman noted that legislation was being developed and public hearings will be held. Chairman Edens noted that this committee did an excellent job and has developed some significant changes for improvement. The Marine Advisory Board will be discussing this report at its upcoming meeting.

### ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Tire Disposal Project: This was discussed at the last meeting and staff recommendations were passed out to the Commission (copy attached to original Minutes). Tires are proposed for use on reefs and various costs are involved. Dr. Timmerman noted that a study is being conducted at Clemson University on wave action to see if a hurricane may dislocate tires on reefs. Dr. Timmerman recommended that the Commission accept the staff recommendations as information and get the results from the Clemson study and meet with DHEC staff to put together information and determine where to go. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to accept Dr. Timmerman's recommendation. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. Discussion on Hunting Accidents: Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission had requested the Department to analyze problems with hunting accidents and develop recommendations to help reduce the number of hunting accidents.



Dr. Timmerman stated that he assembled several staff members to look at this problem and various recommendations were discussed at the Directors' Staff Meeting. Larry Cartee distributed a copy of the proposed recommendations (copy attached to original Minutes) and discussed these with the Commission. These recommendations included: 1) proposed legislation on negligent or reckless use of firearms in hunting accidents; 2) study the feasibility of developing a mandatory hunter safety training program; 3) an intensified public relations program prior to the next deer season; and 4) consider public hearings on man-drives, doe days, etc. Dr. Jacobs noted that the proposed mandatory training was one of the items which came out of the Operation Respect Conference last weekend. Following discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Stubbs moved for the Commission to endorse the first three of these recommendations. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. On the recommendation of public hearings, the Commission agreed that the Commissioners in Game Zones 1, 2 and 4 would be appointed as an ad hoc committee to decide if they want to have hearings in this area.

#### ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Capers Island Archery Hunts: Chairman Edens introduced Dr. Bob Lumpkin, a member of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, who noted that proposed archery hunts at Capers Island were discussed by the Board at its last meeting. Dr. Lumpkin advised the Commission that he personally feels that in consideration of the management plan at Capers Island, the number of hunters could be limited to 40 for the archery hunts, two at each of the 20 sites, on a first-come, first-serve basis. This hunt should be conducted for one year and evaluated to see if it should be continued or not. Dr. Lumpkin suggested to have the bow hunts as proposed and reserve the water impoundments for wading birds and other uses. Brock Conrad stated that the proposed regulations include a two-week archery hunt, October 26-31 and November 16-21, two deer of either sex. Following discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Shuler moved for the Commission to adopt the archery hunt as proposed on a one-year trial first-come, first-serve basis with a limit of 40 hunters by application to the Department. This would be publicized in advance with successful and unsuccessful hunters being notified. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Mr. Ray Moore, of Camden, discussed several items with the Commission relative to hunting seasons and proposed legislation in the Central Piedmont. Mr. Don Branham asked if a fall turkey season is being considered. Chairman Edens noted that such was not being considered at this time and any such changes would



have to be implemented in 1982.

B. Proposed Registration Agreements: Stu Greeter presented two proposed registration agreements at John de la Howe School and Furman University (copies attached to original Commission Minutes). These are being recommended by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board to the Commission. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve these registration agreements. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

C. GMA Regulations: Brock Conrad presented proposed regulations to standardize hunting seasons in the Mountain Hunt Unit and to prohibit timber destruction and firewood cutting without written permission from the landowner on GMA lands (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to adopt these regulations. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman stated that we will try to get these regulations in effect this year, but if time does not permit, we will try to have them approved next year.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller noted that Commissioner Dawson had requested Mark Bara to present some information to the Commission on deer harvests. Mr. Bara presented an in-depth discussion with maps and data regarding deer harvest across the state. Mr. Bara recommended that the Commission consider this information and take a hard look at future proposals concerning deer harvests in South Carolina.

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

4. Information & Public Affairs: Sonny Baines noted that the new turkey rules and regulations have been completed and copies were distributed to the Commission for their use. Mr. Baines noted that they continue to key on the Operation Respect Program in their publications.

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

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was no report from the Board this month. The next meeting is on April 9th in Columbia.



2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Shuler noted that the Board discussed the Department's involvement in the nuclear destruction demonstration with other law enforcement agencies and a report will be sent to the agency on this activity. The Board also discussed retirement and this matter will be brought back to the Commission at a later time.

3. Marine Resources: There was no report from the Board this month.

4. Heritage Trust: There was nothing to report from the Board this month.

F. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman stated that this report is in order and a copy had been mailed to Chairman Edens.

G. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission approved all of these as recommended. In addition, Dr. Timmerman recommended that Jimmy Lee Stanley be appointed as a Conservation Officer in Beaufort County. Commissioner Dawson moved to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

H. Other Remarks: Benny Reeves advised the Commission that they could park in the same area as today for future Commission meetings. Mr. Walt Schrader requested that Mark Bara's presentation on deer harvests be presented to the Senate Fish, Game & Forestry Committee. Chairman Edens noted such could be done upon request from the Committee, but this would not represent a departmental presentation.

I. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Edens noted that he will be out of town the last two weeks in June and he suggested that the meeting be held on the second Friday in June. Without objections, the June meeting will be held on June 12, 1981. The Commission also agreed to meet in Charleston on April 17, 1981, to allow for input from shrimpers.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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

