

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING

Riverbend Sportsmen's Lodge
Spartanburg, S. C.
May 15, 1992
2:00 P. M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, May 15, 1992, at Riverbend Sportsmen's Lodge in Spartanburg, S. C., with Chairman Burnside presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Burnside, Miller, Owen, Poston, Leary, Graham, Compton and Pendarvis. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.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 April 17, 1992 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Department's budget is now in the Conference Committee of the General Assembly and they will continue their deliberations on the budget in the near future.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the Minutes from the Staff Meeting on May 11, 1992 and noted that we are working on news letters in the Department and seeking to come up with a new format that is more economical to meet the same needs.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the budget process in the Department has not produced very successful results this year and we will be working on our budget process to come up with a new procedure and "game plan" for next year.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Congressional Districts have been re-drawn by the courts and this has resulted in the appointments of various Commissioners being in different Districts and he distributed a letter to the Commission that he sent to the



Attorney General's office to ask for an opinion on the new lines and how it relates to the appointments of the Commissioners. Dr. Timmerman also noted that the Governor has sent, to the Senate for confirmation, the appointments as follows:

Tom Miller	-	District 3
Jake Rasor	-	District 5
Knox Haynsworth	-	At Large

Dr. Timmerman noted there is a new video on the ACE Basin that will be shown at the end of the meeting and that he has some appointments and personnel matters for consideration by the Commission in Executive Session.

ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a copy of the latest Legislative Report and went over the status of various bills in this report with the Commission.

ITEM IV - NEW BUSINESS

A. Alligator Harvest Program on Private Lands: Larry Owen noted that this proposed alligator harvest program on private lands had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Owen discussed this proposed program and noted that it had been recommended to the Commission for approval from the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the proposal as presented.

B. Mary's Island Management Plan: Brock Conrad noted this proposed Plan was sent out in the Commission packet and he went over the Plan briefly. Dr. Timmerman noted that a letter had been sent to the Commission from the Heritage Trust Advisory Board and he gave some background on the Heritage Trust Advisory Board not approving this Management Plan. Dr. Timmerman noted that there was a feeling that the Game staff had lobbied the Commission for approval on the Management Plan prior to the Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting and he asked the Commissioners if they were lobbied on this Plan prior to this Board Meeting and they noted that they were not. Following discussion, Dr. Timmerman gave the following recommendation:

"I recommend the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and a lease between the Department and Ducks Unlimited which transfers full management authority of Mary's Island properties to the Department, effective on September 1, 1992,



and commits the transfer in ownership of Council Tracts 1 and 2 and the Lodge Tract to the Department no later than February 28, 2002. Further, I recommend that the aforementioned documents eliminate reference to the dedication of any of the property as a Heritage Preserve. I am hopeful that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will, at a later date, recommend the dedication of Council Tracts 1 and 2 and the Lodge Tract as a Heritage Preserve under the currently proposed Wildlife Management Plan for Mary's Island, or under a more detailed plan when it is approved. I further recommend that the Commission instruct staff to work hard to resolve these issues to make a dedication agreement possible. Nongame Heritage Trust staff will have input into the detailed Plan under Division policy, but the Division Director makes the final decision."

Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve Dr. Timmerman's recommendations on the Management Plan with Commissioner Pendarvis voting in the negative. In addition, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement as presented. Commissioner Owen discussed the possible change of the Game Section to the Wildlife Section and Dr. Timmerman noted that he would ask Brock Conrad to review this matter and make a recommendation to the Commission at their next meeting.

C. Report on Broad River Fish Kill: This matter was held over for discussion in Executive Session.

D. Division Reports:

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

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

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain informed the Commission that Robert McCullough has been promoted to the new Training Officer.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: There was nothing further to report.

Commissioner Graham noted that the new Rules and Regulations brochure was very well done and this had saved the Department approximately \$32,000.



5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer noted that the shrimp season will open on May 20, 1992 and that a book on marine aquaculture had recently been published which presented findings for consideration by the various federal agencies. He further noted that the Marine Fishing Festival will be held the week of July 25-31, 1992.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Miller noted that the Board met last week in Edgefield and he went over the items discussed at the meeting, noting that there were no items recommended for action by the Commission.

2. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the Board.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board met on May 8, 1992 and he went over the items discussed at this meeting, noting that the next meeting of the Board will be held on July 31, 1992, at 10:00 a.m., in Charleston.

4. Marine Recreational Fisheries: Commissioner Poston noted the Board met on May 7, 1992 and began its organizational session.

F. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks to come before the Commission at this time.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Chairman Burnside announced that at this time, the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular Meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting.



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Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve all appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers as presented. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the Fish Kill Report for Greenwood County. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission. (Copy of report attached to original Commission Minutes.)

G. Appointments: This matter was previously acted upon by the Commission in Executive Session.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia on June 19, 1992, at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Timmerman noted that on Thursday evening prior to the meeting, he would like to have a cookout to honor outgoing Commissioners Owen and Compton.

ITEM V - ADJOURN

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

