

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

MARINE RESOURCES CENTER  
Charleston, South Carolina

May 17, 1974



The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Ft. Johnson at the Marine Center in Charleston, South Carolina on May 17, 1974 at 11:00 a.m. with Chairman Hudson presiding. Commissioners present were Glenn, Harris, Lumpkin, Rhame, and Dennis; Advisors Cantey and Ford; Mr. Webb, Dr. Timmerman, John Culler, Dr. Joseph, Pat Ryan, Wash Belangia, Bill Chastain, Ned Pendarvis, Dr. Laurent, Gene Howell, Walt Schrader, Peter Quick, Pat Robertson, Bobby Gifford, Dave Bruner, Dr. Vic Burrell, Tommy Welch, Bill Cotty, Joe Logan, Al Courie, Brock Conrad, Ed Latimer, Charlie Bearden and others were in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Dr. Timmerman stated that he was instructed by the Commission at the last meeting to draft a comment regarding Memo 16 - Consultants Activities - giving the primary responsibility of this to the Executive Office. He has done so and this will be distributed at the proper time. With this addition, the minutes stand approved as mailed out.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Catawba Fish Kill - Ed Latimer reported that he has been in contact with the law firm in Rock Hill that represents the chemical company and still has not received the report from SLED. Advised the law firm that if Mr. Burris wanted to appear before the Commission, that we were meeting here today. Mr. Burris advised that he would rather wait until the report came out from SLED and possibly meet with us then.

B. Improved Communications - Bill Chastain reported that we will ask for Federal funding from LEAA July 1st. There is a comprehensive Law Enforcement communications system which we now are included in LEAA's plan. We will probably tie in about six or seven of our base stations sometime within the next year with other law enforcement agencies. Estimated money that will be made available for initial phase will be between \$30 and \$50 thousand dollars depending on exactly what has to be done. Other project we will ask for Federal Funding on is for our Riot Control Team. This is a high band repeater system or a UHF. Also, reported on a EMS System being installed by the Health Department. They are receiving about \$10 million dollars to install this system, putting Micro Wave Towers in every major hospital and ambulances. They have about 300 telephone lines in this system and they are only going to use about 70 to 100 of them. The other lines are available. We could tie into this system at a very nominal cost. Showed charts and described how this system works. There would be no change in present equipment. One piece of equipment would cost about \$300 to \$500 to install in each base station which would be a special telephone. We asked for about thirty lines and we have received a letter over the phone stating that they will dedicate thirty lines of the Micro Wave System to our department. There would be no capital outlay for use of the lines. After three to five years, if the department would share about 10% of the operating cost of \$400,000 per year, it



would be helpful. This would be \$40,000 per year from our department. However, a cooperative agreement with the Wildlife Department Officers to accept calls for help in areas where they do not ordinarily have capability would negate any cost sharing from this participation. Our officers are doing this now. The timetable of two years has been set for full operation. This system could be tied in with any type of communications system we would have in the future. It would have to be a 24 hour operation, which we need anyway.

X C. Increased Fines - Wash Belangia reported that we have written eighteen states in the southeast to see how they handle their fur license tags, etc. and we will compile that information. A meeting has been held with people from law enforcement, licensing, Attorney General and after talking the problem over it was decided that there are several things that can be done administratively to correct the situation. The season will begin in January and we will get the data and compare it and come up with recommendations both for statutes and for an administrative way of handling. Will report back to Commission these findings. After these changes, if we find that the laws are still inadequate, we will come back with recommendations for changing.

? D. Trespassing - Commissioner Harris stated that the Law Enforcement Advisory Board has reviewed this recommendation and do agree that the policy of the Department be changed to allow our Conservation Officers to enforce the laws as set forth in Mr. Webb's recommendation to the Commission. Also suggested to the I & PA Division that we have some publicity on this so the public will be aware of it and that Mr. Ryan brief his Officers on this matter so that it will be clear to them. This will include all trespassing laws that we are responsible for enforcing, on private and public land. The motion was made, seconded and passed by the Commission.

E. Wage Survey - Arthur Andersen & Co. - Don Dixon of Arthur Andersen & Company was unable to make it to this meeting, therefore, Wash Belangia made the report. Arthur Andersen & Company representatives found that the Personnel Division of the State has made about four independent studies in the last two years. They took these studies and picked jobs in them and then verified that the studies were consistent. Their feeling was that it would be unwise spent money to hire their firm to do this study. Felt that we could give ourselves about 18 months working with the personnel division, and sending out questionnaires updating our information, giving the real problem areas first priority, and do this within our own department.

X F. Awarding Weapons Upon Retirement - This discussion centered around two problems. The first concerned the purchasing of weapons by Crowe's Ammo and Gun Shop of the department owned .38 Model 10. Wash Belangia stated that Mr. Crowe, in his contract with the S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, would purchase all of the old weapons at \$31 each. Mr. Crowe also stated that if any Law Enforcement Officer holding one of these weapons wanted to purchase that weapon, Crowe would then sell that weapon to that individual for \$31. Any other weapon being purchased from Crowe that does not meet the above condition's would be purchased directly from Mr. Crowe at a price to be determined by him and the individual.

The second portion of the discussion centered around an Officer being awarded his pistol and holster upon retirement. There is State statutes that require state owned property to be sold, not given away; therefore, it would be impossible for the S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department to award the weapon at no cost to the retiring officer. In an opinion by the Attorney General's office, the S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission could place a value on the weapon and its holster



to be paid by the retiring officer at which time state property would have been sold, not given away. A formal procedure for the handling of this exchange will be drafted and submitted to this Commission for approval at a later date. A motion was made, seconded and passed by the Commission that this be done.

G. Fishing Guides - Commissioner Rhame requested that this be carried over until the next meeting.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Division Reports:

1. Game and Freshwater Fisheries - Jeff Fuller was unable to attend this meeting and Brock Conrad reported for him. The subject of the articles that Mr. Fuller wanted permission to print came up. There was some question as to whether or not there was a duplication in these articles and the one that John Culler had approval to print. Conrad reported that the articles prepared by Culler was on "How to Have Game On Your Land", and this was prepared by the Game Biologists. The book that Fuller was requesting authorization on was more of a life history on different game animals in S. C. and information on Game Managements Areas. There would be a slight duplication. These booklets would be for sale and the money should be recovered. John Culler reported that the problem is with no distribution system. There are many problems and he suggests that before anything is done on this we look further into it. Commissioner Rhame will get together with Fuller, Conrad, and Culler and come back at the next meeting with some kind of a proposal on this.

2. Marine Resources - Dr. Joseph reported that the Marine Advisory Board Meeting in Beaufort was very successful. Need approval of the Oyster Guidelines which have been compiled by Charlie Bearden so the person applying for an oyster lease will be fully aware of the criteria we are using in issuing these leases. Copies of these guidelines were passed out, and Commissioner Lumpkin went over them with the Commission. These guidelines were tentatively approved subject to the rewording of number six (6) and will be submitted at the next meeting for final approval. These guidelines should be publicized in the newspapers, sent to shell fish dealers, and posted to eliminate confusion. Reported that a meeting was held of the Subcommittee on Higher Education Commission and the S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission in Charleston on the 16th. Representatives of Lockwood Greene presented a slide program showing the group the development on the new facilities and the cooperative program. Bids will go out on this Sunday week.

3. Law Enforcement - Pat Ryan reported on the work of the Special Investigators on the fish find and the piranha and walking catfish. Ed Latimer stated that he has negotiated a plea on a piranha case and it will go on appeal.

4. Information and Public Affairs - John Culler reported on a new program on freshwater game fish in our state. Have sent all current fish record holders a certificate that they can mount on wall; a sample was passed around. Are making an effort to get anyone that catches a big fish to go ahead and enter it because it could be a state record. There was discussion on this and the Rules and Regulations on the record fish holders states that any two individuals can witness the weight to be put on record, but a biologist has to be the one to identify the fish.

There have been several complaints on the magazine. Passed out copies of a procedure that has been worked out to handle this situation.

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5. Administrative Services - Wash Belangia reported that the Arthur Andersen representative has checked to see how we are coming with reporting package, receipting process and purchasing. A report should be in Commission office this week and Chairman Hudson stated that he would send this out to the Commissioners. Proceeding quite well and everything should be in operation by beginning of fiscal year.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Game and Freshwater Fisheries - Commissioner Rhame reported that his Advisory Board meeting was held at Belmont on the 9th. Copies of the minutes were mailed out. Several problems presented at last meeting were discussed. One was hunting regulations on the Western Piedmont and the Advisory Board recommends that the recommendations of the Game Department be put into effect. A motion was made, seconded and passed by the Commission to approved this. Chairman Hudson asked that in the printing of these Rules and Regulations, the wording that 'Hunting on Private Land Requires the Permission of the Land Owner' appear in a place and print to be easily seen in large letters.

Discussed licensing or registering of hunting guides and have asked two of the Advisory Board members to look into this and if they need any help from our Commission or staff, to clear this through himself and he would make the necessary arrangements.

Have asked two members of the Advisory Board to look into the request from Mr. Quakenbush for an increase in the amount of pounds of herring caught per trip.

Discussed the matter of stopping duck shooting at noon and the problems it may cause.

Discussed the 'Florida Duck' and asked Brock Conrad to report at the next Advisory Board meeting on his findings after looking into this.

Chairman Hudson stated that he has met with some people from Clemson and they are going to send us a proposal to do a study on the wood duck. Feel that they can do a comprehensive study on this which will take about three years and they would like for us to join them on this. Will submit their budgets on what their needs are and what we will need to do sometime later this summer.

2. Marine Resources - A report has already been given on this.

3. Law Enforcement - Commissioner Harris reported that he has asked his Board to send any requests they had to put on the department through himself or Mr. Ryan.

C. Game Management Area Regulations - A report has already been given on this.

D. Appointments - Mr. Webb asked for approval on the appointments that were mailed out prior to this meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve these appointments, subject to approval of the Commissioner in those Districts. There were two appointments approved at the last meeting subject to Chairman Hudson's approval for non-pay officers in District Four. Chairman Hudson rejects these appointments due to the fact that these people have no purpose for requesting a commission. Not mailed out in time for this meeting were recommendations for appointment of M. L. Snelgrove, non-pay; re-appointment of Harold S. Jarvis, non-pay; and James C. Fleming, non-pay. After discussion on these appointments, it was suggested that Commissioner Harris and his Advisory Board look into the matter and come back to the Commission with some criteria or requirements for giving non-pay commissions. Therefore, Commissioner Rhame would like to hold off on these three non-pay commissions until this information is available. Request for non-pay commission for Pierre N. McGowan, Beaufort, was approved by the Commission. Request for non-pay commission for Robert T. Kinsey, Jr., Beaufort was rejected by the Commission.





E. Comments - Chairman Hudson passed out a list of people to be invited to the Governor's Conference For Heritage Trust to be held on June 25th and 26th in Charleston at the Mills Hyatt House and asked the Commission to give us names of those interested people to be added to this list. Discussed the progress of the Heritage Trust Program. Dr. Laurent reported on his activities in this program and told the Commission the objectives that have been set forth on this.

Mr. Webb has a request for two Conservation Officers in Marion County from the Marion County Delegation and they have authorized us to use their funds to employ a new man. Recommended that we authorize this new position. A motion was made, seconded and passed by the Commission to approve this recommendation.

Also, have the same request from the York County Delegation. Motion was made, seconded and passed by the Commission to approve this recommendation.

York County would like to purchase a 250 acre tract of land out of their county funds and in turn give us title. Walt Schrader has looked into this and gave the Commission a description of the property. His opinion is that this land is ideal for a recreational area. There was discussion on whether or not we would be accepting the obligation to develop this property by approving this request. There were no specifications as to how we have to develop this land. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the request.

Request from Jasper County for our approval on a tract of land to be purchased that joins the Federal Wildlife Refuge in Savannah. Mr. Webb recommended that the Commission approve this request. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve this request.

Mr. Webb gave the Commission a report on the Improved Department Facilities. Plans for House at Heath Springs are almost completed. Should be out for bids next week. A \$10,500 contract has been awarded on the Newberry County Hatchery. Bids are being taken on the first phase of the repairs at Direlton. The Commission instructed Brock Conrad to go ahead and take bids on the second phase of repairs at the same time. X

Brock Conrad gave the Commission a report on the Santee Delta Dragline Operation. We now have two draglines working and two set up in next years budget.

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

Respectfully submitted,

(Miss) Christine Stapleton  
Secretary to the Commission

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