

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

**Riverbend Sportsman's Lodge
Spartanburg, S. C.
May 20, 1988
10:00 A.M.**

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., May 20, 1988, at Riverbend Sportsman's Lodge, Spartanburg, S. C., with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included Commissioners Webster, Compton, Quackenbush, Stokes, Thomason, Owen and Drummond. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer, Sonny Baines, Brock Conrad and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed all guests who were attending the meeting.

CHECK PRESENTATION - (Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs)

Chairman Webster introduced Chief Lewis Lee of the Newberry Fire Department to make a check presentation. Chief Lee presented a check for \$3,000.00 for the HOOKED ON FISHING - NOT ON DRUGS program in the Department and the Commission expressed thanks to Chief Lee and the volunteers for this donation. The Commission adopted a motion to secure an appropriate plaque of appreciation for the Newberry Fire Department and present to them for this donation.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the April 15, 1988 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that a lot of work has been done for the Department's budget and he will give a detailed report on this matter at the next Commission Meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that efforts are being made to establish a comprehensive waterfowl program in South Carolina and efforts are being undertaken through the development of a Coop Unit at Clemson and with work with the Delta Research Organization as well as DU through the North American Waterfowl Plan. He noted that we have an opportunity to be a lead agency on the east coast

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as it relates to establishing a comprehensive waterfowl program.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he has received comments from some legislators stating that we have too many bills proposed to the Legislature and that he strongly recommends that we try to limit our legislative proposals to ten (10) high priority bills so that we do not lose creditability in the Legislature.

Dr. Timmerman discussed the proposed aquaculture legislation and passed out some background material on this. He asked the Commission's advice on how they felt we should handle this matter as it appears there will be an aquaculture bill this year. Following discussions, the Commission advised Dr. Timmerman to move ahead to seek approval of aquaculture legislation and secure the best deal possible.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we had a recent case whereby an individual killed a hen turkey and charges were made and the individual lost his hunting license. Dr. Timmerman noted that he will ask the staff and Advisory Board to discuss this matter to see if we can develop a solution. Chairman Webster asked that this matter be referred to the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we have conducted a review of the Hunter Education Program and that staff has been developing ideas concerning a reorganization plan for the Division of Law Enforcement & Boating. Dr. Timmerman noted that it would be good if a Committee of the Commission could be developed to review this matter and he ask the Chairman to appoint a Committee to do such. Chairman Webster appointed Commissioners Quackenbush, Compton, Stokes and Thomason to review the Hunter Education Program and proposed reorganization of the Division of Law Enforcement & Boating and present their recommendations to the Commission in June.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Senate had confirmed the appointment of Mr. Tommy Miller as a member of the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he would like to have a cookout for the Commissioners in June and will be working to come up with a date on this cookout.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed the Legislative Report and went over various items in this report and discussed such with the Commission.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Revised Dewees Island Development Plan: Larry Cartee discussed the revised Dewees Island Development Plan with the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Cartee discussed the review process, including the public input period that was held in Charleston recently to seek comments on this revised plan. Mr. Cartee noted that following staff review, that the staff recommends the Commission approve the plan in concept with instructions for the staff to take appropriate steps to implement this plan. Mr. Cartee introduced Mr. Ed Royall who discussed the history of this development plan and asked the Commission to approve the plan as presented. Mr. Royall introduced Mr. Mike Sanders of the Patton Corporation as the developer and Mr. Sanders discussed his company's involvement and went over various details concerning the revised plan. Commissioner Compton gave the Commission a background of the discussion at the Heritage Trust Advisory Board meeting, noting that a request for a public hearing had been presented at the Board Meeting from the Isle of Palms and he further noted that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board took action to recommend that the Commission adopt the revised development plan. Following other discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the conceptual plan proposed, amendments to the existing comprehensive development plan, and direct the staff to work with the owners in finalizing the details of the plan, obtaining appropriate public input, and executing formal approval documents, including any necessary conditions to ensure the environmental integrity of the development plan. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.

B. Discussion - Turtle Excluder Device (TED) Regulations: Dr. Timmerman noted that a letter had recently been received by the Commission from Congressman Ravenel asking the Commission to reconsider its action on the TED regulations. Dr. Timmerman went over the background legislation and status concerning the regulations and noted that the Department can put in emergency regulations to use TEDs if such is needed. Following discussion, Commissioner Quackenbush moved for the Commission to reconsider its previous action on the TED regulations. This was seconded by Commissioner Compton and it was adopted by the Commission. Following other discussion, Commissioner Thomason moved for the Commission to reverse its previous action and go back to the original position to seek the enforcement of TEDs in state waters through the state regulation process. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. The Commission also discussed the need to be careful with telephone polls and it was noted through consensus of the Commission that the Commission would not be polled in the future through the use

of telephone polls.

C. Radio System Update: Steve Walters and Bill Pace presented an in-depth discussion of the radio system and advised the Commission of the status of implementation of this system. Dr. Timmerman asked for the Law Enforcement Advisory Board to review the policy on radios for non-department employees. Chairman Webster noted that we should not put out any radios to non-department employees until we have a policy on such and he asked that this matter be reviewed by the Law Enforcement Advisory Board for a recommendation to be presented back to the Commission.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 1988 Shrimp Season: Paul Sandifer advised the Commission that the cold weather this year has killed a number of overwintering shrimp and his staff has been sampling to determine when the season could be opened. At this time, it appears it will be mid to late June before the season could be opened. As such, Dr. Sandifer requested authority from the Commission to open the season when it is in the best interest of the resource and to notify the Commission of the date that the shrimp season will open. Commissioner Stokes moved to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. Proposed Coley Creek Project: Commissioner Owen discussed the proposed Coley Creek Project that is being proposed by Duke Power and noted that the Commission will be asked to take a position on this project in the future. Ed Duncan went over the background information concerning the proposed Coley Creek Project, noting that a draft project license application will be forthcoming from Duke Power in the near future. Mr. Dennis Chastain presented comments to the Commission noting the various concerns that he and people in the general area have concerning this project. Commissioner Owen noted some various concerns on this project and stated that additional information concerning this will be brought to the Commission at a later date.

C. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad informed the Commission there were two fish kills recently---one near Clouds Creek in Saluda County and another one in the Tiger River.

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

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines distributed a schedule of the various fishing rodeos to be held and those that have already been held to the Commission for their information.

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

D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that this Board will meet June 9th in Columbia.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush noted that there was no report from the Board this month.

3. Marine Resources: Dr. Timmerman noted that this Board would meet on June 3, 1988.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Thomason noted that there was no report from the Board this month.

5. Heritage Trust: Dr. Timmerman noted that there was no report from the Board this month.

At this time, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomason and adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that at this time, the Commission would recess the regular meeting to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers as well as promotions to lieutenant as presented to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Meeting). Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

E. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commission.

F. Appointments: This matter was previously acted upon by the Commission.

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G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster announced that the Commission will hold its next meeting in Columbia on June 17, 1988.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN

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