

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, SC
May 21, 1993
10:00 A. M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, May 21, 1993, in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, SC, 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, Pendarvis, Haynsworth, Leary, Rasor, Poston, and Graham. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all guests to the meeting.

ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 1993, Commission Meeting as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the minutes of the Directors' staff meeting of May 11, 1993, and went over various items in these minutes. He noted that a great deal of time has been spent on the restructuring legislation and House and Senate versions have passed, and that the staff prefers the Senate version over the House version. Dr. Timmerman distributed a proposed staff position statement requesting the Commission's support of the Senate version of the restructuring legislation and he asked the Commission to adopt this position statement. The Commission did not take any action on this proposed position statement.

Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission for input on producing a Fall issue of *The Resource*. Commissioner Graham noted the CEC Advisory Board recommends that this issue be published but given the budget situation, the decision on whether or not to do this publication should be left with the Executive Director and his authority to make this decision.

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Dr. Timmerman noted that he would like to present to the Commission information on the Department's personnel plan and budget priorities and he asked that these be included as items for discussion at the next Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Mandatory Hunter Education legislation is near passage in the General Assembly and we are hopeful that it will pass this year.

Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission for input on the 1993 Goals and Objectives and he also distributed a copy of the Personnel Goals and Objectives. He noted that he would like to bring these back up at the next Commission meeting for the Commission's input.

Dr. Timmerman noted that item A on the agenda which includes a policy for reporting criminal violations on waste or mismanagement of public funds and resources should be postponed until the June Commission meeting and he asked the Commission to do so at this meeting.

ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dan Dobbins noted that most of the time has been spent on restructuring legislation and that the Senate version of the state budget was adopted last night by the Senate. He noted that an amendment to the "Whistle Blower's Act" has been put into the Senate version of the Bill and the Bill by Senator Hayes (S.448) on vehicle management was included in the Senate version of the Bill which was adopted.

Benny Reeves distributed a copy of a letter that has been sent to Senator Drummond on this legislation to the Commission for their information, and Dr. Timmerman noted that there are vehicle management provisions in both the House and Senate versions of the Budget Bill, and these will be reconciled in some manner and probably passed by the General Assembly.

ITEM IV - NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy for Reporting Criminal Violations on Waste, or Mismanagement of Public Funds and Resources: This item was delayed for action and presentation to the Commission at the June Commission meeting.

B. Proposed License - St. James, South Santee Community Center: Chairman Burnside noted that this item would be discussed by the Commission in Executive Session.

C. Access to Great Pee Dee River Heritage Preserve:

Chairman Burnside noted that this item would be discussed by the Commission in Executive Session.

D. Progress Report on Vehicle Management: Commissioner Pendarvis distributed a Vehicle Management Plan for the Division of Marine Resources. He went over this proposal and asked the Commission to advise Dr. Timmerman to work with the staff of the Marine Resources Division in implementing this plan as soon as possible and to experiment with the small utility type vehicles.

E. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves informed the Commission that the Retirement Bonus is in the Legislature now and looks like it may pass this year. He noted that this could cost the Department \$1.1 million for all employees who are eligible for this bonus.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that a fisheries study on PCB at Lake Hartwell has been done and a hearing will be presented on June 3, 1993, concerning this matter. He stated that a report would be presented at the next Commission Meeting.

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

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

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer noted the Marine Recreational Fisheries Advisory Board met on May 4, 1993, and a copy of the recommendations for spending the Recreational Fish Stamp funds was distributed to the Commission. The Marine Recreational Fisheries Advisory Board also recommended using \$90,000 to \$100,000 of these funds for hiring two conservation officers along the coast. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the funding recommendations as presented by the Marine Recreational Fisheries Advisory Board.

F. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Graham went over the items discussed at the recent meeting of the Board and noted the Board had adopted a video policy. Commissioner Graham also informed the Commission that Don Winslow had received the National Council of Garden Clubs' Silver Seal Award.

2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted the Board met on April 30, 1993, and went over the items discussed at that meeting. Sally Murphy presented a report on leatherback turtles and noted that the federal government may develop a closure area as it relates to leatherbacks based upon data that

is collected. Commissioner Pendarvis noted the Marine Advisory Board recommended the Commission support the Shrimper's Association on a Bill they are proposing regarding the various hours for shrimping. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to endorse and support the Shrimper's Association as requested.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain briefly went over the items discussed at the recent Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board.

4. Heritage Trust: Stuart Greeter noted the Board met on May 6, 1993, and went over the items discussed at the meeting. He noted that a 29,000 acre conservation easement at the Greenville watershed will be implemented in the near future.

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

Commissioner Graham moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. Commissioner Pendarvis 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 legal and personnel 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.

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the staff recommendations for a license to the St. James, South Santee Community Center. Commissioner Haynsworth did not participate in the vote on this matter (copy of license attached to original Commission minutes).

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The Commission adopted a motion to accept staff recommendations on the public access to the Great Pee Dee River Heritage Preserve (copy attached to original Commission minutes).

The Commission adopted a motion to accept staff recommendations on Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers, including those approved and those disapproved.

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the use of a radio call number for the City of Edisto Beach.

H. Appointments: This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

I. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia on June 18, 1993, at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM V - ADJOURN

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

