

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING
Kingstree Inn, Kingstree, S. C.
November 15, 1991
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, November 15, 1991, at the Kingstree Inn in Kingstree, S. C., with Chairman Marion Burnside presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Burnside, Compton, Owen, Snow, Graham, Poston, Pendarvis and Miller. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Dan Dobbins, Paul Sandifer, Sonny Baines, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain and various other staff members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the October 18, 1991 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman said that anti-hunting forces are organizing an Ecology Day on the same day that National Hunting and Fishing Day was being observed, as a way to get their message before the people.

Dr. Timmerman passed out the Minutes of the most recent Directors' Staff Meeting, stating that they had a presentation by the Division of Motor Vehicle Management leadership on a program of repair and maintenance for the Department's vehicle fleet. He stated he felt that this had the potential to save the Department significant amounts of money.

Dr. Timmerman stated that all federal grants require a statement that the receiving agency has taken steps to ensure a "Drug-Free Workplace". He stated that he and key staff will be reviewing the Department's position on this matter to ensure that the steps that are being taken are adequate and to investigate the possibility of further steps to better ensure a "Drug-Free Workplace".



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Dr. Timmerman stated that outstanding staff service awards were scheduled to be presented at this Commission Meeting, but because it was held away from Columbia that it would be rescheduled for the January Meeting.

He stated that Larry Cartee had been doing a lot of work with the staff on formulating publications and education policies and stated that at the January or February meeting, he and Larry would like to make a presentation to the Commission on the results of that effort.

Concerning the budget, Dr. Timmerman stated that the Department had already had to reduce its base budget by 6.6% because of budget cuts during this year, and that 1992-93 looks at least as bad. He stated that the budget office had asked the Department to reduce our 1992-93 base by \$250,000. He reminded the Commission that part of this year's reduction from the Marine budget was \$160,000 for non-recurring equipment and if these non-recurring equipment funds were not replaced, this would result in an additional \$160,000 reduction in the Department's base budget. He stated that he and staff are exploring every possible option to soften these reductions impact on the Department's operation.

ITEM III - OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Changes in Dove Management/Hunting Options:

Brock Conrad briefly described the proposal that had been sent to the Commission suggesting changes in dove management and hunting options for future dove seasons, stating that this had been approved by the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board. Dr. Graham stated that he understood that the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board had met very recently on this matter and that he had not had a chance to digest the alternative proposal that they had developed. He suggested that in the event the half-day option was chosen, that the season be moved back to September 15th. Commissioner Owen made the motion that the appropriate staff of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and the Law Enforcement and Boating Division meet to reconcile the positions taken by their respective boards, as well as taking into consideration the suggestion made by Dr. Graham, and report to the Commission on Friday, November 22nd at the called meeting. Commissioner Snow seconded the motion and Chairman Burnside then asked for discussion. Dr. Timmerman stated that he would also try to call John Turner, Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as Jim Pulliam, the Southeastern Regional Director, to get an understanding of how they plan to enforce this situation in the future. He stated



that at some point in time, all of the southeastern wildlife directors will be meeting in South Carolina with him to discuss this matter further. Commissioner Pendarvis urged strongly that whatever position is developed by the staff and the commission, that we make every effort to ensure that our position is adopted as part of the federal regulations and that our concerns are dealt with at the federal level, if possible. The question was then called on the pending motion and the motion passed.

ITEM IV - LAW ENFORCEMENT & BOATING ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

Commissioner Miller stated that since his Advisory Board Report did include consideration of the dove management program, he would give his report at this time. He stated that most of the meeting has been taken up with the dove hunting situation and that his Advisory Board had asked him to make a motion to the Commission that the matter be dealt with by halting the morning hunting of doves for the entire dove season. In light of the action that had just been taken, he would withhold that action until the appropriate time.

Commissioner Miller stated that the Board had also discussed the night hunting problem and understood that night hunting was up considerably, especially in the upper part of the state. He stated that the Board had received a report from a committee investigating the "ADOPT A BOAT RAMP" program, and that the conclusion had been drawn that because of lack of funding and lack of staff time, that this program should be dropped. He stated that they had also received a report on hunting accidents and that we appear to be at about the same level as last year. He stated that the next meeting of the Advisory Board would be at the Santee Coastal Reserve, January 15 and 16, and invited other members of the Commission to attend.

ITEM V - NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Changes in 1992 Spring Turkey Season: Brock Conrad stated that the Commission had been mailed a proposal for 1992. After brief discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for adoption. Commissioner Owen seconded and the motion was passed.

B. Proposed Licensing of Permanent Trout Fishout Ponds: Joe Logan stated that a proposal had been mailed to the Commission for their consideration. After brief discussion, Commissioner Compton made a motion that the proposal be approved in concept as presented, with the Commission retaining its right to reconsider this matter at a later date. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion and the motion passed, with Commissioner Pendarvis abstaining.



C. Proposed Change in the Bird Dog Training Season and License of Professional Bird Dog Trainers: Breck Carmichael briefed the Commission on the proposal that had been mailed to them. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Pendarvis made a motion that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Poston seconded and the motion passed.

D. Proposed Increase in the Cost of Freshwater Fishing License and Expansion of License Requirements: Joe Logan made a detailed presentation of the Division's recommendation for increases in freshwater fishing license and expansion of license requirements, asking the Commission to consider the proposal itself, and whether or not it should be proposed to the General Assembly in 1992. Following extensive discussion of this matter, Commissioner Compton made a motion that the Commission approve the matter in concept only, the staff continuing to work with the Freshwater Fisheries Coalition and the leadership in the General Assembly to further develop the concept. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and the motion passed.

E. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Dr. Timmerman stated that the Commission must approve the purchase of the replacement furniture for the Marine Administration Building which had been destroyed by the hurricane and will be replaced with insurance money. Commissioner Pendarvis made the motion to approve, Commissioner Poston seconded and the motion passed.

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

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

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

5. Marine Resources: John Miglarese stated that the commercial shrimp harvest was in excess of 4.5-million pounds this year, which is the best year on record since the Division has been keeping records. He also handed out a letter from David Cannon of Edisto Shrimp Company for information (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). He stated that on February 13, 14 and 15, 1992, the Wildlife Expo would be in Charleston and the Commission had historically held their February meeting in conjunction with that event. He proposed that the Commission hold a re-dedication of the new Administration Building on February 14, 1992 at Fort Johnson, and asked that the Commission hold their meeting at Fort Johnson on that date to facilitate such a program.



F. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Marine Resources: Chairman Pendarvis stated that Beaufort County had appointed a Victoria Bluff Task Force to develop a land-use plan for the property at Victoria Bluff. He stated that the Task Force Chairman gave a report to their Board at the last meeting and briefed them with the land-use plan, copy of which he distributed to the Commission for information (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). He stated that Senator Hollings had been successful in putting \$1,000,000 for land acquisition into the Federal Budget and that the General Assembly had put an additional \$1,000,000 in the bond bill. He stated that his Advisory Board asked the Commission to write Governor Campbell asking him to allow that bond bill provision to stand. Commissioner Pendarvis put this in the form of a motion, Commissioner Compton seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Pendarvis reminded the Commission that the saltwater fishing legislation provided for an Advisory Board and that the Commission has a seat that needs to be appointed. The Chairman said that he would take action on this before the next meeting. Commissioner Pendarvis stated that the art contest for the stamp will be held on December 7, with a reception following, and asked the Commission to attend.

2. Heritage Trust: Dr. Timmerman reported that the owner of Medway Plantation has decided to create a foundation similar to that at the Yawkey Center and that DU will manage the property. He did state, however, that all of the land would be placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust.

3. Conservation Education & Communications: Dr. Graham reported that his Advisory Board had received information on the new publications guidelines and educational guidelines, and would propose Commission action in January or February.

G. Other Remarks: Commissioner Miller brought up the goose hunting permitting program and stated that he felt there had been some confusion in information that the Department had put out. Tim Ivey confirmed this and stated that additional publicity had already been put out to clarify that matter, further publicity is planned and that the permits will be available for the general public within two (2) weeks. Commissioner Miller asked that field offices have permits available for the public and he was assured that this would be the case. Dr. Graham also suggested that additional information needed to be put before the general public concerning the dove season dates.



Commissioner Burnside then cautioned Commission and staff about discussions of real estate matters being considered by the Department. He asked that anyone having knowledge of real estate transactions in which the Department was involved to please keep these confidential as information being leaked to the general public could result in an increase in the price of that land when ultimately purchased.

Commissioner Miller moved that the Commission hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, Commissioner Compton seconded, and the motion was passed. Chairman Burnside noted that the Commission would, at this time, hold an Executive Session to discuss 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 appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers to include the appointment of Edward G. Lee with Statewide Authority.

I. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Dr. Timmerman asked that the Commission take formal action to approve the meeting in February as requested by the Marine Advisory Board, and such action was taken.

Chairman Burnside announced that the next meeting would take place in Columbia at the Dennis Building, 10:00 A.M., on the third Friday of the month, January 17, 1992.

ITEM VI - ADJOURN

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

