

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
November 16, 1984
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Room 335 of the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C. at 10:00 A.M., November 16, 1984, with Vice-Chairman Compton presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included Commissioners Compton, Harrelson, Owen, Stokes, Thomason and Quackenbush. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer, Jeff Fuller, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Jim Goller, R. M. Gifford, and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Compton called the meeting to order and welcomed all guests to the meeting. Mr. Compton introduced Mr. Bill Rose of Shikar-Safari to present an award. Mr. Rose noted that his organization recognizes outstanding Conservation Officers across the country. Mr. Rose presented a Certificate of Award to Conservation Officer Robert J. McIntyre who is the Outstanding Conservation Officer of the Year in the Department. Officer McIntyre expressed thanks to Mr. Rose and Shikar-Safari for this award.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the October 19, 1984 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that new Commission letterhead has been secured and a supply for each Commissioner has been distributed.

Dr. Timmerman commended Sonny Baines and his staff for displaying the newly developed Department seal in the Commission Room.

Dr. Timmerman presented a budget update to the Commission noting that a Staff Revenue Committee is developing recommendations to present to the Commission Finance Committee around the first of the year.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the first meeting of the Land Procurement Committee will be held on November 27th. Dan Dobbins presented an update on this committee noting that it is hoped they will complete their work around the first of the year.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he held a Directors' Staff Meeting on November 13th and notes from this meeting will be sent to the Commission.



Dr. Timmerman stated that the Governor has made various appointments and reappointments to the Advisory Boards and he has sent letters to these individuals.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. 1985 Legislative Proposal: Dan Dobbins distributed a copy of the draft proposal which contains draft bills for each proposal (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Dobbins noted that we need to also include legislation for a reciprocal fishing license agreement with the State of Georgia on Lake Russell. Following discussion, the Commission approved the 1985 Legislative Proposal and the proposal to develop legislation on a reciprocal fishing license agreement with Georgia on Lake Russell. Commissioner Owen expressed concern over people taking large numbers of small fish out of Lake Russell noting that we may want to seek legislation to raise the fines for this action. Vice-Chairman Compton asked the staff to review this matter and develop a proposal for consideration by the Commission.

B. Discussion - Law Enforcement Vacancies: Dr. Timmerman noted that we have had various budget problems in the Department this year and funds are not available to fill the thirteen Conservation Officer positions on January 1st. As such, Dr. Timmerman recommended filling positions in law enforcement as follows: 13 Conservation Officer positions - March 1; Assistant Chief - January 1; Administrative position - January 1; Radio Operator - January 1; and Pilot - February 1. The Commission discussed this matter and agreed by consensus to follow this schedule.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Policy on Trout Streams: Ed Duncan distributed a proposed resolution on protecting trout streams in the state (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Duncan also noted that the South Carolina Water Resources Commission will consider an eligibility study of the Whitewater and Thompson Rivers under the State Scenic Rivers Act. Following discussion, the Commission approved a motion to adopt the resolution on protecting trout stream and to endorse the eligibility study of the Whitewater and Thompson Rivers under the State Scenic Rivers Act.

Commissioner Harrelson expressed concern about securing federal grants for programs to which we become accustomed and when these funds are no longer available, it creates various problems. Dr. Timmerman noted that we need to look at federal cutbacks which may be forthcoming and the staff is currently reviewing this matter.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that bids on repairing the Lake Oak Grove Dam were opened and we are about \$50,000 short of funds for this project. We are now seeking to secure the necessary funds to complete this project. Mr. Reeves also informed the Commission that we received the following allocation from the State Budget and Control Board for FY 85-86: Law Enforcement reallocation - \$200,000; Alligator Project - \$102,000; and IPA - \$100,000.



2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad informed the Commission that an either-sex day will be added on the Hellhole and Waterhorn Units of the Francis Marion Game Management Area. This information will be sent to the media to advertise to the public.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bobby Gifford recommended that the Commission approve the assignment of the Department's radio frequency to Bill Scott of Scotts Woodlands at no cost to the Department. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation.

4. Information & Public Affairs: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Sandifer noted the 1984 shrimp season does not look very good as landings are well below the long-term average. Dr. Sandifer stated that they are continuing to sample, but are seeing very few small shrimp. There is concern that if the small shrimp move into the sounds and bays, it could affect next year's population. The sounds and bays normally close to shrimping on or around December 15, 1984. Dr. Sandifer asked for authority from the Commission to close the sounds and bays to shrimping on short notice on the basis of sampling if the small shrimp move into the sounds and bays. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to give authority to the Division of Marine Resources to close the sounds and bays to shrimping based on sampling when it is the most biologically advantageous. Dr. Timmerman commended Dr. Sandifer and his staff for working closely with commercial and recreational fishermen. Dr. Sandifer noted that a proposal on a catch limit with cast nets is currently being developed by a recreational fisheries group and this recommendation will probably be available for the Commission's consideration in January.

C. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and reappointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve all appointments and reappointments as presented.

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

E. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission adopted a motion to not hold a meeting in December with DWCO appointments and reappointments to be sent to the Commission by mail and unless there are objections within ten (10) days, they will be approved by the Commission. The next Commission meeting will be held on January 18, 1985.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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

