

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza, Columbia, South Carolina
November 17, 1978

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in the Conference Room of the Dutch Plaza Office, Columbia, South Carolina at 10:00 a.m., November 17, 1978, with Chairman Trask presiding. Notice of the date, time and place for the meeting was mailed to the state's newspapers, radio and television stations through a news release dated November 13, 1978. Commissioners at the meeting included Commissioners Trask, Boykin, Stubbs, Dawson, Dennis, Edens, Shuler and Buchanan. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Ed Joseph, Dan Dobbins, John Frampton, Mac Watson, Joe Logan, T. C. Welch, Linda Amick, John Culler, Tom Kohlsaas, Bob Campbell, Fred Zeigler, Pat Ryan, Jim Mills, Ned Pendarvis, Jeff Fuller, Johnny Evans, Brock Conrad and Benny Reeves. Guests at the meeting included Mike Copeland, Research Director of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee; Pat Robertson of The Columbia Record; Tom A. Stallworth of Chester; and Sam Crouch of the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Trask called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Edens moved for approval of the Minutes of the October 4, 1978 meeting as submitted. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission. In addition, Commissioner Edens moved for approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session on October 4, 1978 as submitted. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman introduced all guests in attendance at the meeting. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission has been polled and unanimously approved the enforcement of steel shot regulations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the upcoming waterfowl season. In order that this action will be on the record, Commissioner Boykin moved that the Commission formally adopt this action regarding approval of enforcement of steel shot regulations. Commissioner Buchanan seconded the motion and such was unanimously approved by the Commission. Commissioner Edens noted that the Department's news release regarding this matter did not state that the regulations applied to twelve gauge guns only this year, and such should be corrected in the state's newspapers if this has not already been done.

Dr. Timmerman stated that the Commission had approved leasing of a helicopter to be used in the coastal area. Benny Reeves noted that we have an agreement with the S.C. Coastal Council whereby funds will be transferred to our Department to lease the helicopter with an option to buy after five years. In March, a Cessna 180 will be due for an engine replacement and such will be sold so that the number of aircraft will not be increased. Mr. Reeves noted that the Budget and Control Board must approve this lease and this approval has not been obtained yet. Chairman Trask stated that such an aircraft would be quite valuable in spotting illegal shrimp boats in the Beaufort area. Dr. Timmerman



noted that the helicopter would be used primarily in the coastal area but can be used in other areas of the state if needed. As a matter for the record, Commissioner Boykin moved that the Commission endorse its earlier action regarding its approval to lease a helicopter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dawson and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Commissioner Bennett and Department staff had attended the Southeastern Association meeting in Virginia recently. In order to save funds, a bus was chartered and about fifty individuals attended rather than one-hundred as had been reported in the newspaper. Pursuant to the Commission's request, the proposed increase in bag limit on doves was brought up and received support from most of the other state directors. This was referred to a committee of the directors for developing a plan of action and discussion at the spring meeting. Commissioner Edens stated that he would be glad to give any support needed regarding this matter at the spring meeting that will be held in Charleston. In addition, Commissioner Edens commended Dr. Timmerman's action on this matter.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the American Fisheries Society have contacted us to see if South Carolina will sponsor their meeting in 1982. If there are no objections from the Commission, they will be invited to meet in South Carolina. It was the general agreement of the Commission that they should be extended this invitation.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the staff has met with Commissioner Edens concerning the DWCO process. This procedure is being reorganized internally and actions are underway to cut down on the paperwork required for DWCOs. Commissioner Edens stated that several alternatives were discussed and plans were made to reduce the paperwork so that only one form will be required for DWCO appointments.

Dr. Timmerman presented a progress report on potential property acquisitions in the Heritage Trust Program. One is a 375 acre tract in Pickens County known as Eastatoe Creek which is to be donated to the Department. This property meets the criteria for a trout stream and no significant management expense will be involved. As a donation, the value of this property can be used as a match for federal funds which can be used to construct a boat ramp on a 1200 acre tract of land at Port Royal from the State Ports Authority. Legislation was adopted whereby the property would be given to the Department as a buffer around the Chicago Bridge and Iron site. The area will also be managed for hunting to remove surplus animals. In addition, the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will look at a site known as the Tillman Sand Ridge in Jasper County which contains the rare gopher tortoise. Possibly, the federal government may purchase this property and turn it over to the Department.

Dr. Timmerman noted that those Commissioners that haven't had their picture made can have it taken following the Commission Meeting.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a letter to the Commission from Representative Sol Blatt and residents of Barnwell County praising the Department for its work at Lake Edgar Brown.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that on Sunday at 4:00 p.m., November 19, 1978, a tower at Magnolia Gardens will be named in honor of George Burbbage and the Commission is invited to attend.



ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Advisory Board Chairman Recommendations for Appointments to Advisory Boards:
Chairman Trask noted that it was requested at the last meeting that the Chairman of each Advisory Board make recommendations for Commission appointments to the Advisory Boards. Commissioner Edens moved that Mr. C. Wofford Josey, Jr. of Elliott be appointed to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board replacing Mr. Dan Maret. Commissioner Shuller moved to nominate Mr. Charles L. Hutto of Holly Hill for appointment to the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board to replace Mr. Lawson Hayes. Commissioner Boykin seconded both nominations and such was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Dawson nominated Mr. Kenneth Williams of Georgetown for appointment to the Marine Resources Advisory Board to replace Dr. George Fulton. Commissioner Buchanan seconded the nomination and it was approved by the Commission. It was noted that these new appointments are three-year terms to expire October, 1981. Chairman Trask suggested that the former Board members be sent a letter of thanks for their service and a letter for the new appointees be sent to inform them of their appointments.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 1979-80 GMA Regulations: Dr. Timmerman noted that he had received complaints from constituents on poor conduct at camp sites on GMA lands. As such, it is recommended that the GMA regulations contain a statement on conduct while on GMA lands. Brock Conrad stated that the proposed GMA regulations had been mailed to the Commission and discussed and recommended by the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board. A number of alternatives have been considered and an attempt has been made for all interest groups. Under the State Administrative Procedures Act, these regulations would be permanent but could be modified as needed. Mr. Conrad noted that Jim Mills has some information regarding the international orange portion of the regulations which allows for a hat, coat, or vest. Mr. Conrad stated that the either sex days will be set as needed after evaluation of harvest data, except for archery hunting. In addition, the deer season will be closed two weeks after Thanksgiving to allow for small game hunting. Commissioner Buchanan stated that he has received a large number of complaints from deer hunters concerning this matter.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the GMA regulations must go through the State Register process which will take 45-50 days to get to the General Assembly for their review. Commissioner Dennis noted that some controversy had developed concerning license fees for non-residents. Mr. Conrad stated that non-resident license costs are \$62.75 compared with \$11.50 for South Carolina residents. This non-resident license fee is higher than any non-resident license fee in adjacent states. Commissioner Edens stated that the recent letter to the editor in "The State" newspaper concerning this matter should be answered so that the facts are correctly presented. The Commission endorsed this idea and directed Dr. Timmerman to reply to this letter.

Mr. Sam Crouch of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board stated that he is quite proud of the Department's GMA program. The biologists are doing a fine job of managing the resource but people must be considered also. There is an overpopulation of deer in the Western Piedmont and an earlier season is needed to allow hunters to harvest deer. This earlier season should begin maybe in August to enable the harvest of deer to help with some of the crop damage which is occurring. Commissioner Dennis suggested that the season should open in September rather than in August since the fawns are primarily born in August. Commissioner Buchanan suggested that the archery season open for a month beginning



September 1 with gun hunting opening on October 1. In addition, Commissioner Buchanan recommended that the either-sex hunts in the Western and Central Piedmont Hunt Units be at the same time to disperse the large numbers of hunters that come into the areas and cause trespassing problems.

Mr. Tom Stallworth of Chester spoke to the Commission noting that on either-sex days, it is horrendous and some help is needed. He stated that the Commission must modernize its thinking concerning the harvest of doe deer. Mr. Stallworth suggested that the Department get away from the doe-day concept and develop a tag system for doe deer where people would apply for the tags and maybe pay for them to allow the harvest over a period of time during the season. Dr. Timmerman noted that a great number of people in the upstate have small tracts of land and we have a problem in evaluating the numerous small tracts to issue doe tags. As such, Dr. Timmerman asked Mr. Stallworth if a size limitation on a tract of land could be set for issuing doe tags. Mr. Stallworth stated that rather than setting this on the size of a tract of land, we could get with county agents to work on specific problem areas.

Commissioner Buchanan noted that given a longer season, more deer will be taken. He suggested that we go to a permit system for doe deer to allow the harvest during any time in the season. Brock Conrad noted that there are four either-sex days in the Western Piedmont to harvest the over-population. The either-sex days in the Western and Central Piedmont are held on different days as the people are needed to hunt in each area. Relative to having an earlier season in the upstate, the law would have to be changed to allow for such. Commissioner Dennis stated that this would be handled legislatively to have an earlier season. Mr. Conrad also stated that the fawns are dependent on mother's milk up until about October 1, and the rut season doesn't get into full swing until late October.

Chairman Trask suggested that Mr. Conrad and staff study this matter and come up with a better solution for the December Commission Meeting. Chairman Trask suggested that some combination of doe days and doe tags may be considered. Commissioner Edens noted that the doe problem is the worst problem facing the Department. Chairman Trask appointed Commissioners Edens, Boykin and Buchanan as an ad hoc committee to work with the staff regarding this matter to develop a better solution for discussion at the December Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Dennis suggested that the Commission consider having the December 15th meeting at Westvaco or Wampee. Commissioner Boykin moved to adopt this suggestion, seconded by Commissioner Stubbs and approved by the Commission.

B. Proposed Commercial Fishing Laws and Regulations: Commissioner Edens noted that the proposed commercial fishing laws and regulations had been mailed to the Commission. Joe Logan has coordinated this set of regulations with district biologists and law enforcement personnel. As such, a comprehensive thought process has gone into the development of these regulations. Joe Logan stated that the primary contents of the proposed laws and regulations include a commercial fresh-water fishing license, standardization of gear, allowing a 2,000 hook trot line, placing a maximum size on blue catfish and requiring commercial fishing boats to have decals. Commissioner Edens noted that the Law Enforcement section is opposed to the 2,000 hook trot line as it would be 8,000 feet long and impossible to enforce. Mr. Logan stated that the 2,000 hook line was included for the benefit of commercial fishermen. Commissioner Shuler suggested that the 100 hook line



would provide uniformity for law enforcement purposes. Commissioner Edens moved that the regulations be amended from 2,000 hooks per line to no more than 100 hooks per line. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission. As such, Commissioner Boykin moved that the proposed commercial fishing laws and regulations as amended be adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Buchanan seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

C. Proposed Commission By-Laws: Commissioner Boykin, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee, noted that the Committee had developed a draft set of By-Laws and mailed them to the Commissioners. Commissioner Edens asked if the section on voting required that five members be physically present at a meeting to constitute a quorum. Commissioner Dennis noted that such a majority would be required. Commissioner Edens noted that if five members are present at a meeting, other members could vote absentee. Following other discussion, Commissioner Boykin moved that the Commission adopt the By-Laws as submitted. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves informed the Commission that the Department's computer tie-in with the Division of General Services has been inadequate over the last eighteen months. A lot of down-time has been experienced and everything comes to a halt when this occurs. This problem has been discussed with staff at General Services but matters have gotten worse. Mr. Reeves noted that some modifications in equipment are needed and funds will be required from the Budget and Control Board. The staff is going out for a quote on computer equipment as a backup measure if the problems at General Services cannot be worked out.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing to add to the written report by Mr. Fuller.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: There was nothing to add to the written report by Mr. Ryan. Commissioner Dennis noted that he is receiving complaints from boat dealers because they are being required to title their inventory. Benny Reeves stated that this is law and is being implemented accordingly. Commissioner Dennis stated that he felt this was an error in the law and unless there are any objections from the Commission, he plans to prefile a bill to change the law so that titling of inventory is not required.

4. Information and Public Affairs: There was nothing to add to the written report by John Evans.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph informed the Commission that Representative Bennett and members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee met at the Marine Center and it was a mutually productive meeting.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Edens noted that the Board met on October 12 and the items for discussion have already been brought up during the meeting.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Shuler stated that he did not have anything to report.



3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Dawson stated that the Board will meet on December 1 in Beaufort.

4. Heritage Trust: Commissioner Boykin noted that the Board had a meeting scheduled for November 30.

F. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman stated that the Committee had met and there was one outstanding and one marginal appraisal to report.

G. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed the recommendations for appointments and reappointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and the appointments and reappointments of Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission approved all of the appointments and reappointments as recommended. In addition, Dr. Timmerman noted that Mr. Walcott Moultrie has taken the test and meets all the requirements and is recommended for appointment as a Conservation Officer in District #5. Commissioner Boykin moved for approval of this appointment, seconded by Commissioner Stubbs and approved by the Commission.

H. Other Remarks: There were no other remarks to come before the Commission.

I. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Earlier in the meeting, the Commission had approved a motion to meet at Westvaco or Wampee on December 15, 1978.

J. Call for Executive Session: There was no call for an Executive Session.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting, a motion was made, seconded and adopted to adjourn the meeting.

