

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
November 17, 1989
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, November 17, 1989 in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., 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, Compton, Pendarvis, Owen, Miller, Stokes, Thomason, Bennett and Drummond. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Paul Sandifer, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines, 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 dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the October 20, 1989 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - 1988-89 EMPLOYEE AWARDS PRESENTATION

Dr. Timmerman and the Division Directors presented awards to the Department employees who were selected from each Division for 1988-89.

ITEM III - DRAWING FOR STRIP BOAT - EDISTO RIVER FISH TAGGING STUDY

Chris Thomason went over the Edisto River Fish Tagging Study and noted that a drawing for a strip boat was being held to encourage fishermen to return tags for this study. Mr. Thomason noted that the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund had contributed the funds to secure this strip boat. Dr. James Timmerman drew from the tags for this boat and drew number 232 which was assigned to Mr. Jimmy Bodiford from Barnwell, SC. Mr. Thomason noted that he would contact Mr. Bodiford to advise him that he had won the strip boat.



ITEM IV - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman discussed Hurricane HUGO and Larry Cartee went over with the Commission, the amount of funds that have been collected to assist employees in the Department and how these funds were allocated to these employees based on need.

Dr. Timmerman noted that FEMA funds have been sought in the Department and Benny Reeves gave an update concerning the status of this matter. The Commissioners raised a question about the provision of overtime for Law Enforcement and other employees in the Department.

Dr. Timmerman discussed the status of our license revenue sales, noting that the revenues currently are down. He noted that we will have to follow this closely to see if this trend continues.

Dr. Timmerman distributed an article to the Commission from the newspaper on the Santee Coastal Reserve which noted concerns on public use and the use of federal funds. Dr. Timmerman noted this was presented to the Commission for their information. Dr. Timmerman noted that he had received a letter of request from a member of the Moreland Hunt Club to use the boat ramp. Following discussion, the Commission advised Dr. Timmerman to continue with the same policy from last year whereby the Moreland Hunt Club should try to get an agreement with The Nature Conservancy and the Gun Club concerning this matter.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we had recently completed the acquisition of Lewis Ocean Bay which was the largest land purchase ever made in the Department comprised of 6400 acres.

Dr. Timmerman noted that efforts are being made to have a dedication in the ACE Basin and that Ducks Unlimited has set up an ACE Basin fund with \$40,000 being contributed to this fund at this point and time.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we had a Retreat with the Commission last July and plans were made to have another Retreat in January 1990. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Chairman has invited the Commission to use his facilities at Millaree and it was agreed that this Retreat would be done in conjunction with the January Commission Meeting.

ITEM V - OLD BUSINESS

A. Deer Season Options: Commissioner Owen noted that the committee had met to discuss deer season options as previously



discussed at the Commission Meeting. Commissioner Owen noted that for Game Zones 2 and 4, commencing with the October 1990 deer season, it is recommended that the season will open for archery only hunting on October 1st unless the 1st falls on Sunday, in which case it will open on October 2nd. The archery season will remain open until the 10th of October unless the 10th is on Sunday, in which case it will close on the previous Saturday. Archers will be able to take either sex deer throughout the entire open deer season. The open season for all gun hunting will commence on October 11th unless the 11th is on Sunday in which case it would commence on October 12th, and continue until the end of the season. The Commission discussed this proposal and Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to endorse the proposal. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission with Commissioner Pendarvis voting in the negative and Commissioner Bennett abstaining from voting on the motion. Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that this action sets the stage to begin the regulatory process in which the proposed changes will be filed as proposed changes in the regulations and such will be subject to review by the General Assembly.

B. Proposed Farm Pond Stocking Program: Brock Conrad noted that the proposed farm pond stocking program proposal was sent to the Commission prior to the meeting. Mr. Conrad distributed information on the recent stocking of fish in public waters and went over this briefly with the Commission. Mr. Conrad noted that the recommendations on pond stocking sent out to the Commission include that we continue to provide fish at a break-even cost of .07¢ per fingerling. Following discussion of this proposal by the Commission, Commissioner Stokes moved for the Chairman to appoint a committee to study this proposal to include a review of contracts for farm ponds and to report their findings back to the Commission at the Retreat in January. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM VI - NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that a public hearing was held in Edgefield on November 16th concerning the fall turkey season and the Department had good support concerning this matter. Mr. Conrad also distributed two letters to the Commission on the Ridgeway Gold Mine and bird mortality.

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 distributed to the Commission, an assessment of the impacts on fisheries created by Hurricane HUGO.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Stokes noted the Board met November 15th at the Criminal Justice Academy and had a tour of these facilities. Commissioner Stokes noted the Board discussed commercial bait fish and asked that the staff review this matter and report back to the Board. Commissioner Stokes went over other items discussed at the Board meeting, including a report on the FBI Academy by Conservation Officer Roy Butler.

2. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Thomason noted this meeting was delayed awaiting the new appointments to the Board from the Governor's Office.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted the Board met on November 9, 1989 and went over items discussed at this meeting. Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the January meeting will be a joint meeting with Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board to discuss various items of mutual concern. Commissioner Pendarvis noted that \$50,000 has been allocated from the Governor's Discretionary Funds to be distributed to commercial fishermen impacted by Hurricane HUGO.

4. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the Board this month.

C. Other Remarks: Commissioner Owen noted that six (6) doe deer were recently found that had been killed and thrown away. Commissioner Owen noted that the only Wanton Waste Law is for federal migratory birds and that we need a Wanton Waste Law in South Carolina that relates to certain species. Mr. Owen asked the staff to review this matter and Chairman Burnside appointed the Law Enforcement Advisory Board to set up a committee to review this matter and develop appropriate recommendations.

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



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Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to approve the conservation officer hiring priority list as presented by committee (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the appointments and reappointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers to include adding the appointment of George Hardwick to a DWCO commission with statewide authority and to approve for him to purchase a radio, approve the purchase of a radio for Ken delGuercio, and to approve the DWCO application of Porky Rhodes pending the appropriate checking out of his application and also to approve Mr. Rhodes to purchase a radio. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission. (Copy of DWCO appointments attached to original Commission Minutes).

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

E. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed not to hold a meeting in December unless one is needed, subject to the call of the Chairman and to meet again on January 19, 1990. The Commission also agreed to defer its February meeting until March 2, 1990 in order to meet during the National Wild Turkey Convention in Charleston.

Commissioner Miller informed the Commission that the radio study is being prepared and will be sent to the Commission for discussion at the next regular Commission meeting.

ITEM VII - ADJOURN

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

