

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Fort Johnson
November 18, 1977

The regular monthly meeting of the S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at the Fort Johnson office in Charleston, South Carolina, at 10:00 a.m. on November 18, 1977 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Lumpkin, Bennett, Boykin, Edens, Buchanan, Shuler and Trask. Directors and staff members present were Dr. Timmerman, Reeves, Fuller, Dr. Joseph, Cartee, Pendarvis, Chastain, Evans, Welch, Lachicotte, Ziegler, Smoak, Kohlsaas, and various other staff members. Guests present were Dr. Bartow Culp, past president of the S. C. Wildlife Federation and Mr. Frank Ford, member of the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no call for Executive Session.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Edens pointed out a correction to the October 1977 Commission Meeting Minutes on page three, third paragraph and noted that the Minutes should read members of the Commission rather than Delegation. The secretary noted the correction. Commissioner Buchanan made a motion to approve the Minutes with the noted correction. Commissioner Edens seconded the motion and it was passed.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman passed out a chart showing the total State Budget for FY 77/78 and noted that of this \$1,193,911,313 the Wildlife Department received approximately 0.5% or \$6,013,159 state appropriated funds. Commissioner Edens suggested that this item be published in the Resources or some other publication since it is an excellent public relations item. Chairman Hudson asked that staff follow up on this.

Dr. Timmerman reported that he had received a request recently from a member of the Legislature for information concerning Commission members and Advisory Board members as to race, sex, judicial circuit, political affiliation, spouse name, address, etc. The individual requesting the information asked that this information not be distributed to any of the Commission members. Dr. Timmerman checked with the Attorney General's office and found that he was not required to supply this information, therefore, he wrote the individual back and gave him the names and addresses of the Commissioners and Advisors, which is shown in the legislative manual and the dates of their appointments so that he can contact each individual and request additional information if so desired. A copy of the letter received was passed around to the Commission for their information.

Dr. Timmerman reported that he had received a Resolution from the National Association of Boating Law Administrators who met recently praising Mr. Welch and department staff for their work.



It was reported by Dr. Timmerman that his meeting in Washington, D.C. with Assistant Secretary of the Interior Herbst regarding the lands in Alaska went very well and Herbst agreed that the States should go ahead and push the fact that they have jurisdiction over the wildlife on public lands. A copy of a letter from the Executive Vice President of the International Association of Game and Fish Commissioners to Herbst was passed around for the Commission's information.

Dr. Timmerman stated that beginning the first of the year he will give a report on accidents twice a year and this information will be available in the files for inspection at any time.

An inquiry has been received by Dr. Timmerman from various members of the Advisory Boards as to whether or not it was mandatory that they take the training course that is required by the Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers. A new Deputy requires a one week training course at the Criminal Justice Academy and then annually a two day course in the district. Chairman Hudson noted that these Advisory Board Members are constantly subjected to the policy of the department as a result of attending Board Meetings, whereas others are not. Commissioner Shuler commented that these Board Members do give their personal time to attend these meetings and he feels that they should be exempt from the training program. Therefore, Commissioner Shuler made a motion that all Advisory Board Members be exempt from the training program as long as they are serving on the Advisory Board. If they should drop off the Board, they will fall under the same regulations as other Deputy officers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed. It should be noted that those Advisory Boards concerned are Marine Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and Law Enforcement.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Capers Island Dedication Agreement: Tom Kohlsaas passed out a copy of the Dedication Agreement and Easement on Capers Island for the Commission's information and stated that he will bring the original for signature to the December 1977 Commission Meeting.

B. Proposed Departmental Groom and Uniform Policy: Dr. Timmerman reported that the proposed policy on Grooming and Uniforms was passed out at the last Commission Meeting and asked if there were any comments from the Commission. There were no comments regarding the policy. Dr. Timmerman stated that this is an Administrative procedure and that the policy would take effect immediately, however the uniform policy will not be implemented until the spring.

C. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that the additional \$550,000 requested in the Budget was granted by the Budget and Control Board. Reeves stated that in the financial reports the Divisions as a whole do not look good for the time of the year. This has been discussed with the Executive Director and each Division Director has been contacted regarding slowing the spending rate down. The matter will be reviewed again after the first of the year. It was reported that the bid received back on a four wheel drive vehicle was \$8,100, therefore, geographical location will be taken into consideration in



assigning these vehicles in order to cut down on cost. General Services uses the low base bid and does not take into consideration what the final cost will be when extras are added. Dr. Timmerman asked them to rebid and told them that he would go to the Budget and Control Board if necessary. The Commission asked staff to look into the matter further and see if it can be handled differently and report back to the Commission.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller had nothing to add to his written report. Dr. Timmerman asked Fuller to comment on the ferry at South Island. Fuller reported that the Corp is going to insist that something be done to change the type of ferry in use at South Island. The Highway Department has devised a system where the ferry will operate every hour on the hour twenty-four hours a day except for emergencies. This will reduce ferry operation approximately 25%. The highway department is having signs erected on either side of the ferry as well as one on Highway 17 indicating this. Four sirens have been installed - two above and two below the ferry. Five mile per hour speed limit signs have been placed in the waterway and safety precaution stripes have been painted on each side of the ferry. The highway department is coming up with an estimate of installing a self contained ferry that does not require a cable.

3. Information & Public Affairs Division: John Evans reported in John Culler's absence that the proposal on Direleton has been accepted by Mr. Sandworth. He indicated that he might give the department all of his photographic files. Evans will negotiate on this.

4. Law Enforcement & Boating Division: Chastain and Welch had nothing to add to their written report.

5. Marine Resources Division: Dr. Joseph had nothing to add to his written report other than the fact that channel net permits were issued.

D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Edens reported that the next meeting of this Advisory Board will be December 1, 1977 in Columbia.

2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Lumpkin proposed Mr. W. A. Johnstone of Georgetown, South Carolina to replace Mr. Russell on the Marine Advisory Board. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to approve Commissioner Lumpkin's request. Commissioner Edens seconded the motion and it was passed. Mr. Johnstone will serve the remainder of Mr. Russell's term on the Board.

Commissioner Buchanan stated that the rabbit hunters would like to appear before the Commission at the December meeting rather than the Advisory Board. Chairman Hudson stated that he would work with Buchanan on this matter.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Boykin had no report.

Dr. Timmerman stated he has assigned John Culler to making plans for the hearing to be held and a system will be devised to go through a hearing process similar to a legislative hearing. Staff will report back to the Commission on this at the December meeting.

Dr. Timmerman also stated that plans are made for the Governor and department staff to visit the Georgetown area on Monday to see the Direlton operation and to discuss the problem of locating a public boat ramp in that area for the duck hunters. A report will be given back to the Commission on the outcome of the meeting.

E. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that all reviews



were in order and a copy of the report was handed to the Chairman for the Commission file.

F. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman passed out a list of the recommendations for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer appointments and re-appointments and Conservation Officer appointments and re-appointments. Information on these applicants were mailed to the Commission prior to the meeting. Commissioner Edens noted that the acreage amount on Oley M. Thompson is incorrect and should be corrected. A motion was made by Commissioner Boykin to approve the Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers re-appointments and new appointments as submitted. Buchanan seconded the motion and it was passed. There was discussion as to whether or not all the paper work being done on appointments was necessary. After talking it over, the Commission decided that after a full year on the present system, the Executive Director would be requested to come up with a simplified method on re-appointments. Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion to approve Virgil E. Dugan of Georgetown for re-appointment subject to the paperwork being completed. The landowner is out of the country and this has held up the paperwork. The motion was seconded and passed. A recommendation was made that E. B. Williams commission be cancelled due to actions made by the individual. A motion was made to accept the recommendation for cancellation. The motion was seconded and passed. Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission if it would be satisfactory if he mails the information on the four (4) officers to be recommended for Horry, Georgetown, Charleston and Colleton Counties that are being funded by the Coastal Council in order to get these positions filled. A telephone poll would be made to get approval. A motion was made to approve this request. The motion was seconded and passed. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to approve the recommendations on Conservation Officer re-appointments. The motion was seconded and passed. Chairman Hudson asked about the possibility of getting the legislature to change the policy to appoint an officer until time to revoke it. Dr. Timmerman stated that staff would look into the matter and report back to the Commission.

Dr. Bartow Culp, past president of the S. C. Wildlife Federation, was recognized by the Commission. Dr. Joseph went over the plans for the Dedication Ceremony to be held at 3 pm and announced that an open house would be held on Sunday for the general public to view the new building.

It was noted that although the Minutes of the October 1977 Commission Meeting indicated that an Executive Session was held, there was no quorum, therefore no session was held.

The December Commission Meeting will be held on December 16th in Columbia.

There being no further business at this time, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine S. Murray,
Commission Secretary

