

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
November 19, 1982
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., on November 19, 1982, with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present at the meeting including Commissioners Webster, Altman, Stubbs, Dawson, Quackenbush, Owen, Harrelson, Compton and Dennis. Directors and Staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Jeff Fuller, Pat Ryan, and various other staff. Guests at the meeting included Paul Hilson of Goose Creek, Allen Montgomery of Charleston, Senator Dewey Wise of Charleston, Mike Rowe and Martha Craig of the Governor's Office, Al Dozier of the "Greenville Piedmont", Dr. Jackie Jacobs of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Andrew Jordan, Otis Zankin, Ronnie Campbell and Thomas Poston of Georgetown, Jim Workman and John McAlister of the Clarks Hill/Russell Authority and Representative Jennings McAbee of McCormick.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and introduced all guests at the meeting.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Owen noted the discussion of man-drives in Item III of the October 15, 1982 Minutes should include that this also pertains to the elimination of man-drives on either sex days. Subject to this addition, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the Minutes as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman distributed notes of his recent Staff meeting to the Commission for information and he briefly went over several items in these notes.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission, this past July, approved a priority list for filling law enforcement vacancies. Since that time, four vacancies have been filled and four more vacancies have occurred, thus, a revised priority list for filling vacancies was distributed to the Commission for consideration (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

Dr. Timmerman noted that ten vacancies have to be maintained to meet the payroll. Commissioner Dennis noted it is the policy of the Budget and Control Board to make adjustments for filling critical positions such as law enforcement. Dr. Timmerman noted that he will pursue this when the Board meets next month. Following other discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the priority list as presented by Dr. Timmerman. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that information on Advisory Board appointments had been sent to the Commission for their information.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that all supervisors have been going through a detailed training session on the new performance evaluation system and how to detect problems on alcoholism and drug abuse. He stated that he will recommend revisions in the Salary Review Committee policy at the next Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that a slide show on the values of hunting and fishing is being developed and will probably be shown to the Commission at its January meeting.

ITEM III. APPEARANCE - Mr. Paul Hilson

Mr. Paul Hilson appeared before the Commission to discuss the Department's plans for separating still and dog hunters in the Francis Marion GMA. Mr. Hilson noted the Department's plan for still and dog hunting to be separated on different days of the week for the various hunt units had several disadvantages and he presented an alternate proposal for the Commission to take under consideration (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Hilson presented an in-depth discussion of this matter with the Commission. Following this discussion, the Commission asked for the biologists to meet with Mr. Hilson to see if a proposal can be worked out which is acceptable to both sides and to report actions back to the Commission.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Santee Reserve Boat Ramp: Chairman Webster introduced Senator Dewey Wise to discuss this matter on behalf of a client. Senator Wise noted that he was appearing before the Commission on behalf of Mr. Robert Knoth whose family has used the Santee Reserve ramp for about thirty years to get to Moreland Plantation in the Santee Delta. Senator Wise discussed the details of the use of this ramp by the Knoth family and noted that his client has the strongest case for use of the ramp at Santee Reserve. Senator Wise noted that they are trying to look at equity of use of this ramp. Senator Wise stated that he was requesting that the Knoth family and individuals accompanying them be allowed

to continue use of the dock and ramp at Santee Reserve to provide access to Moreland Plantation. Senator Wise noted that he has a brief prepared which will be discussed with Buford Mabry. Commissioner Quackenbush asked Senator Wise if he would like to appear before the Commission again after meeting with Mr. Mabry. Senator Wise stated that he would like to do so. Dr. Timmerman discussed efforts by the Department to construct a ramp on the Santee River which were unsuccessful due to safety reasons. A strip of land about fifty feet wide is needed to make this site suitable, but the landowner will not sell this land. Following other discussion, Commissioner Dennis moved for the Commission to ask our Assistant Attorney General to look into the legality and feasibility of condemnation of the land needed to make the site suitable for construction of a ramp, and to report back to the Commission. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. The Commission further discussed use of the ramp this year and Commissioner Dawson moved for the Commission to extend the privilege of using the Santee Reserve ramp as in the past to Dr. Morrison, Fred Felder and Robert Knoth until the end of this duck season. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman stated that he would send a letter to these individuals on this action.

B. Discussion - Proposed Release of GMA Lands Near Clarks Hill Lake:
Dr. Timmerman noted this was discussed at the last Commission meeting and he asked Ed Duncan to provide a background of this request. Mr. Duncan noted the Clarks Hill/Russell Authority is requesting the Commission release approximately 2,000 acres under lease in the GMA program for purposes of development by the Authority. Mr. Duncan stated that about 550 acres of mitigation lands from the Russell Dam Project is included in this 2,000 acre tract. Mr. Jim Workman, John McAlister and Representative Jennings McAbee appeared before the Commission to request that they approve the release of this land so efforts can be made toward development of this tract by the Clarks Hill/Russell Authority. It was noted the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has indicated that it would cooperate in the release of this land if there is a unified state position on the proposed development and if the lands involved in mitigation can be worked out. Following discussion of this matter, Chairman Webster noted the options presented by staff on this request include approving the request, denying the request, or do not approve the request at this time, but refer the matter to the Governor's Office for a thorough evaluation and development of a unified state position which would give full consideration to our wildlife management efforts and the economic needs of McCormick County. The Commission discussed these options and several motions were made which failed to pass. Following these motions which failed to pass, the Commission adopted a motion to refer the matter to the Governor's Office for the development of a unified state position and further requested action by the Governor on this matter with a report back to the Commission within sixty days, if at all possible.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Advisory Board Appointments: Dr. Timmerman noted the information on the terms of Advisory Board members had been mailed to the Commission. The Commission approved motions re-appointing Frank Lesesne to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board and Jim Kinard to the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board. The Commission also approved a motion to send a letter to the Governor requesting that he re-appoint Marion Burnside to the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board, Jonathan Kronsberg to the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board and X. O. Burch to the Marine Advisory Board.

B. Proposed 1983 Legislative Package: Dan Dobbins distributed a draft legislative package to the Commission for its consideration over the next month and action at the December meeting. The Commission suggested that the proposed legislation on antlerless deer be changed where such violations will be kept in Magistrate's Court.

C. Discussion of Mountain Bridge Project: Dan Dobbins noted this matter will be deferred until the December Commission meeting.

D. Division Reports:

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

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Pat Ryan noted that due to the lack of funds, the Ridgeland Office will be closed based upon recommendation of the District Captain. Commissioner Harrelson noted that unless there is a better use for the radio in this office, it could be put in the Colleton County Sheriff's Office for them to monitor on a 24-hour basis.

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

5. Marine Resources: There was nothing further to report.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted the Board met on October 19th and he briefly went over the items discussed at the meeting.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush discussed the items taken up at its recent Board meeting noting the Board recommended that the penalty for the illegal taking of doe deer be increased to a maximum fine of \$200. The Board also discussed the need to clarify liability of the Commission with Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers carrying firearms.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted the Board met on October 22 and he briefly went over the Minutes of this meeting.

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

F. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman noted this report is in order and a copy has been forwarded to the Chairman.

G. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve these as recommended. Dr. Timmerman recommended that the Commission approve the transfer of Conservation Officer Craig Campbell from District #9 to District #8 in Horry County and the transfer of Conservation Officer Betty Jean McCaskill from District #5 to District #9 in Charleston County. The Commission adopted a motion to approve both these transfers.

H. Other Remarks: Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session at the appropriate time to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that an Executive Session will be held following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Andy Jordan of Georgetown addressed the Commission noting that he is a channel netter and some rumors have been circulating that legislation will be proposed to restrict the use of channel nets. He stated that the channel netters would like to leave the channel net fishing as it currently exists. Chairman Webster noted the Department does not have any recommended changes developed for channel netting legislation.

I. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Commissioner Dennis invited the Commission to meet next month at Wampee, either December 20th or 27th, depending upon availability of the facility. The Commission agreed to meet at Wampee. Commissioner Dennis noted he will check the dates and advise Dr. Timmerman.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting, the Commission voted to recess the regular meeting and go into Executive Session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and invited participants into the meeting. The Commission announced that no action was taken on any matters in Executive Session.

There being no further business, the Commission adopted a motion to adjourn.

