

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza, Columbia, S. C.

November 21, 1980

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Dutch Plaza, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a. m. on November 21, 1980, with Chairman Edens presiding. Notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Edens, Dawson, Compton, Shuler, Harrelson, Owen and Dennis. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Dan Dobbins, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines, Mike Creel, Dr. Vic Burrell, Joe Logan, Tommy Edwards, Tommy Strange, Dr. Paul Sandifer, Dr. Edwin Joseph, Pat Ryan, Captain Bobby Joe Smith, Sumter Moore, Duncan Grant, Carol Hedrick-Collins, and Bill Chastain. Guests at the meeting included Dr. Jackie Jacobs of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Ben Campbell of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee, and the CAROLINA SLAM award winners which were recognized.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Compton moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the October 17, 1980 meeting and approve them as submitted. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM II. CAROLINA SLAM AWARDS

Chairman Edens stated that we have several outstanding sportsmen to recognize as this year's CAROLINA SLAM winners. Chairman Edens and Sonny Baines presented these awards to the following individuals:

1. Randy Bickley - Newberry
2. Robert R. Brown, Jr. - Winnsboro
3. Joseph Kelly - Mountville
4. W. W. Fennell - Rock Hill
5. W. D. Morris - Columbia
6. J. Enoch Sox - West Columbia
7. James W. Henderson, Jr. - Lancaster
8. Wayne Strange - Laurens

Following the presentation of these awards, Sonny Baines and Mike Creel went over changes in the CAROLINA SLAM Program noting that in the future, it will be a lifetime program with new requirements.



At this point in the meeting, Chairman Edens presented a plaque to Commissioner Bennett expressing the appreciation of the Commission for his service to the Department and the Commission over the last six years. Commissioner Bennett expressed his appreciation for the plaque and the honor of serving on the Commission. Chairman Edens invited Commissioner Bennett to meetings at any time in the future.

ITEM III. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that it has been under discussion for some time, to honor Lieutenant Franklin L. Gravely for his years of faithful service by changing the name of the Horsepasture Game Management Area to the Franklin L. Gravely Game Management Area. A proposed resolution was passed out to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) and Dr. Timmerman recommended such to the Commission. Commissioner Shuler moved for the Commission to adopt this resolution. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Lieutenant Gravely was brought into the meeting at this time and Commissioner Owen read and presented the resolution to Lieutenant Gravely.

Dr. Timmerman distributed copies of correspondence to the Commissioners where-by contributions have been requested to pay for the tables and chairs in the new Conference Room at the Dennis Building. Dr. Timmerman asked the Commissioners to provide the names of individuals that may contribute to the tables and chairs. In addition, the Commission recommended that the wood for the tables be left in its natural state, rather than being stained. Dr. Timmerman noted that funds which are contributed for the tables and chairs are being put in the Wildlife Education and Training Fund. Dr. Timmerman requested blanket approval to withdraw these funds for the ear-marked contributions. Commissioner Harrelson moved for Dr. Timmerman to be authorized to expend funds from the Wildlife Education and Training Fund for the tables and chairs in the same amount of that contributed for such. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission which acts as the Board of Directors.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the terms of Bill Edwards and Ben Williamson on the Heritage Trust Advisory Board have expired. They have been on this Board since it was first organized. Dr. Timmerman recommended that \$59.60 from the Cantey Memorial Award Fund be approved for plaques for these two Board members. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission which acts as the Board of Directors.



Dr. Timmerman noted that a request has come in recently from a group in the Georgetown area wanting ten (10) acres of land at the Santee Reserve to build a recreational facility. This was discussed by the staff and Dr. Timmerman suggested that he send this group a letter that this property is for wildlife management and that they should not be given any encouragement on this request. The Commission supported the suggestion and Chairman Edens noted that without objection, Dr. Timmerman should follow through on this as he has suggested.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the budget bill has been passed by Congress. In this bill, there was a cut in endangered species funds by 25% and the anadromous fish program was cut by \$1-million. These cuts will have some affect on funds we receive from these sources.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Publicity for Landowners Participating in GMA Program: Sonny Baines had distributed a packet to the Commissioners prior to the meeting concerning means for providing publicity for landowners participating in the GMA Program (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Baines and his staff discussed the publicity that has been given landowners and plans to provide future publicity through radio/TV spots, special publications, magazine, news releases and The Resource. It was noted that landowners participating in the GMA Program will be included on the various Hunt Unit maps. Mr. Baines noted that various tools are used for this effort and many ways are employed to get the word out on those landowners that participate in the GMA Program. Dr. Timmerman suggested that the IPA staff meet with the wildlife and public relations committees of the South Carolina Forestry Association to advise them of our efforts in this area and provide information for them to pass out to their constituents. Chairman Edens stated that we need to focus on the contributions of landowners to help continue the GMA Program.

B. Recommendations on Wildlife and Education Training Fund, Inc.: Dr. Timmerman noted that we do not have a full recommendation to make at this time but such is being developed. The basic idea is to develop means to broaden this foundation. Some of the items being considered include the K-9 Program, RESPECT Program, plaques for retiring employees, expenses for Study Committee activities, and the like. Tommy Edwards stated that there are no real legal problems in expanding the Foundation as it can be done with a minimum amount of amendments. Chairman Edens noted that we need to solicit and seek contributions for the Foundation. This has been discussed a great deal and specific recommendations and efforts to promote this Fund will be drafted for discussion at the next Commission meeting.



ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Mr. Reeves did not have anything to add to the written report. Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the license revenue report mailed out shows that the revenue status has improved since the end of September. Dr. Timmerman asked that this license revenue report be included in the Commission packet each month.

Dr. Timmerman provided an updated report of the work of the Study Committee on Program Funding. Dr. Timmerman discussed the priority recommendations, such as the license fee increase, that have been developed. In regard to the proposed state duck stamp, Dr. Timmerman stated that he was working with Ducks Unlimited on this proposal. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Final Report is being put together and will be out shortly. Contacts have been made with legislators and constituents which have resulted in a good response in support of the funding recommendations. Chairman Edens suggested that a plan of action be included when the final reports are distributed to show how the funding recommendations will be presented. Dr. Timmerman noted that it would be good if the funding proposal could be introduced as a Ways and Means Bill. A general agreement on this is needed with the various Committee Chairmen in the House and Senate. Dr. Timmerman asked Commissioner Dennis if he would talk to Senator Waddell about this approach and he stated that he would do so.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad reported that over 5,000 deer have been harvested this year in the Piedmont Hunt Unit. There has been a light turnout on the either sex days and two additional ones will be scheduled on December 19th and 20th. Mr. Conrad noted that we are concerned about recent hunting accidents and efforts will be made to caution hunters in some special news releases. Dr. Timmerman stated that we plan to carry out a total media campaign to encourage people to be careful when hunting.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Pat Ryan noted that the Officers are making a lot of cases on people with a resident license when they are supposed to have a non-resident license. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Southeastern Association has a Law Enforcement Committee which has discussed the various types of violators. Some thought is being given to coming up with warnings for unintended violations that occur. Any developments in this area will be reported to the Commission.

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



5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph informed the Commission that the Shellfish Study Committee met on November 19th and 20th. Dr. Joseph stated that Senators Rushing and Poag, as well as Representatives Altman and Winstead, have been very active on this Committee. Dr. Joseph noted that the Committee is close to formulating policies and recommendations which should be out in the next few weeks. Dr. Joseph commended the work of this Study Committee and its members.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen stated that the Board will meet on December 11th in Columbia. The Board will discuss depre-dation permits and accidents which have occurred on deer hunts.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Shuler stated that the Board did not meet this month.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton stated that the Board met on November 7th and he went over the Minutes of that meeting. Commissioner Compton noted that the Commission had approved the Waddell Mariculture Facility Project in 1979. The cost of this project was estimated to be \$1.5-million. Since that time, the plans have been developed and \$3.5-million will be needed for this project. Contact has been made with Senator Waddell and he will work to have these additional funds in the bonding bill. Master plans for this project were passed out to the Commission for their information. Operation costs for the facility have not increased, but the additional funds are needed for construction and engineering. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Budget and Control Board made a commitment for the development of this mariculture facility. We need to request the additional bonding funds through the bonding committee. Commissioner Compton moved for the Department to proceed with requesting the increased bonding funds for this facility. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

4. Heritage Trust: Dr. Timmerman noted that the Board met yesterday and the Minutes of the meeting will be sent out to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Commission needs to appoint a representative to the Board and the Governor will be making two appointments. Chairman Edens stated that he is asking if there are any Commissioners who will volunteer to serve on this Board. Unless there are objections or contact is made by a Commissioner by the first of the week, Chairman Edens stated that he will appoint Dr. Bob Lumpkin to the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. Commissioner Dennis moved that the Commission approve the



appointment of Dr. Bob Lumpkin to this Board to serve on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

C. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman stated that this report is in order and a copy has been sent to the Commission Chairman.

D. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission approved all appointments and re-appointments as recommended. In addition, the Commission also endorsed not appointing or re-appointing individuals as DWCOs as recommended by the staff. Dr. Timmerman also recommended the appointment as DWCOs, three individuals whose correspondence was not sent out in the mail. These included R. R. Thomas of Cope, S. C., and Albert W. Dennis and William E. Dennis of Moncks Corner, S. C. Commissioner Dennis noted that William E. Dennis has a terminal illness and that his application could be withdrawn. The Commission approved the appointment of R. R. Thomas and Albert W. Dennis as DWCOs (copies of authority attached to original Commission Minutes).

E. Other Remarks: Commissioner Dawson advised the Commission that the loading dock at South Island has been completed and should be in the water by next week. This was done without cost to the Department.

Chairman Edens noted that discussion is needed regarding the landing at the Santee Reserve. Commissioner Harrelson noted that the Commission was to receive legal advice on this matter and, as such, he moved that an Executive Session be held following the regular meeting for this purpose. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens announced that an Executive Session would be held following the regular meeting for the purpose of receiving legal advice.

Commissioner Dennis expressed his regrets at the loss of services of Commissioner Bennett to the General Assembly and the Commission, noting that he has been a very dedicated public servant.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed not to hold a meeting in December and a tentative meeting date of January 9, 1981, at Wampee, was scheduled subject to arrangements being made for this date. The Commission adopted a motion giving Dr. Timmerman authority to mail out the December appointments and re-appointments for approval, if there are no objections from the Commissioners within a ten-day period.



ITEM VI. ADJOURN

Chairman Edens announced that the regular meeting is tentatively adjourned for an Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and invited participants into the meeting. Chairman Edens announced that, in the Executive Session, the Commission adopted a motion to notify all the individuals that have been using the landing at Santee Reserve by permission from the Department, that they will be permitted to use this landing this duck season with conditions on its use to be developed by staff, and that this will be the last season they will be given permission to use the landing. These individuals will also be advised that the Department will try to develop another landing in the area near the Santee Reserve for public use. The Commission approved a motion to adopt and ratify this action with Commissioner Dennis abstaining from voting. There being no further business, the Commission adopted a motion to adjourn the regular meeting.

