

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, SC
October 15, 1993
10:00 A. M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., on Friday, October 15, 1993, in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, SC, 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, Miller, Pendarvis, Rasor, Poston, Haynsworth, Graham, and Leary. Directors and staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Paul Sandifer, Brock Conrad, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Sonny Baines, Dan Dobbins, and various other staff members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the September 17, 1993 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Charlie Bearden was retiring as of this date and requested that the Commission sign an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and Aide-De-Camp to the Commission to be issued to Charlie Bearden. He also requested they sign one to be issued to Col. Robert Brantly, Executive Director, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, who will be retiring soon.

Dr. Timmerman reported that this period of transition was going real well, and that this agency would be hosting a meeting on October 26, 1993 at 1:30 p.m. at the Criminal Justice Academy where he had invited various environmental organizations to discuss the future role of the Department of Natural Resources. He stated that he would report the results of the meeting back to the Commission at their November meeting.

Dr. Timmerman reported that Benny Reeves has been working on the FY 94/95 budget and we have submitted our basic needs to the Governor's office. Benny reported that he had merged the needs

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of the Wildlife Department, Land Resources, Water Resources, the Migratory Waterfowl Commission, and the Geodetic Division to come up with a budget request for 1994-95 which has been submitted to the Governor's office for him to include in his budget proposal. Benny stated that he would like a clarification from the Commission in that when he and Dan Dobbins are in Legislative meetings and problems arise, they needed one person to take directives from and it was his understanding that this person was Dr. Timmerman. If that was not correct, he needed to know. The Commission responded that Dr. Timmerman was the correct person to be giving final decisions. Dr. Timmerman stated that he would be visiting with each member of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee to discuss the Department of Natural Resources' budget request during the next few weeks. Dr. Timmerman requested that Benny provide a copy of the report submitted to Mr. Charles Brooks for their information. (Copy attached to original minutes.)

Dr. Timmerman reported that he had distributed the Quarterly Accident Report for the third quarter and stated that he had included a column for the accident frequency rate for each employee. (Copy attached to original minutes.)

Dr. Timmerman requested that Terry Hughey give the Commission a report on the vehicle assignment status. Terry stated that justification forms need to be completed by each Department employee who has an assigned vehicle. He stated that a criteria had been established by the Division of Motor Vehicle Management and in order to retain the vehicle, each employee would have to fall within this criteria. After a lengthy discussion, Dr. Timmerman indicated that law enforcement would be exempt and unless otherwise instructed, this agency would treat our law enforcement as the other agencies do. All other employees will complete a vehicle form to be submitted to DMVM. Terry indicated that no one in the agency is exempt from the commuting requirement and each person must pay 28¢ per commuting mile.

Dr. Timmerman stated that at the November Commission meeting each year the Department normally presented awards to each division's outstanding employees and requested permission to do this at the next Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman reported that at the Commission's request to investigate the possibility of meal reimbursement for employees, he had conducted an informal survey of other state agencies. It was noted that these agencies, for the most part, do not reimburse their employees for meals not associated with overnight travel. After a brief discussion, he presented several recommendations to the Commission for their consideration.

Commissioner Haynsworth made a motion that this not be acted on by the Commission until the November meeting so they could study it further. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission. (Copy attached to original minutes.)

Dan Dobbins reported that he had been working with the staff of Legislative Council on technical and substantive changes on the restructuring bill. A draft copy of this bill should be available sometime in November.

ITEM III - NEW BUSINESS

A. 1993 Turkey Survey: Brock Conrad reported that each summer the Department conducts a survey of the turkey population and asked Dave Baumann to give a report on the results of this year's survey. Dave gave out copies of the survey and stated that even though the state experienced a good hatch in 1993, we were going to need several years very similar to 1993 before we would be back to where we were in the 1980's. After a brief discussion, this report was accepted as information.

B. Rocky River and Rocky Ford Branch Fish Kills: Brock Conrad reported that the Memorandum of Understanding with DHEC requires approval by the Commission before any details can be released concerning fish kills. Wade Bayles gave a report on the Rocky River fish kill in Anderson County and stated that 500 fish were killed and AFS replacement cost would be \$928.00. Dan Rankin gave a report on the Rocky Ford Branch fish kill in Spartanburg County and stated that 1,264 fish were killed and AFS replacement cost would be \$983.00. Following discussion, a motion was adopted to proceed with the recovery of the replacement cost.

C. 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: There was nothing further to report.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines reported that Glen Connelly and the graphic staff had been working very hard in coming up with the new logo for the Department of Natural Resources. He stated that a committee had been set up of representatives of the divisions of the Wildlife Department, Land Resources, Water Resources and the Geodetic Division, and held up the final five designs that had been agreed upon. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made that a final draft be submitted to Chairman Burnside for his review and to all divisions involved in the DNR for their review and comments. A final decision would be made at the November Commission meeting.

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

D. Advisory Board Reports:

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

E. Other Remarks: Commissioner Pendarvis requested that if we get a request from the handicapped organization that they be placed on the November agenda.

There were no further remarks from the Commissioners and at this time, Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Commissioner Pendarvis 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.

Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to accept staff recommendations on DWCO appointments, including those approved, disapproved, change of authority and the appointments of retired conservation officers. Commissioner Poston seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

F. Appointments (Executive Session): This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Burnside noted that the next meeting would be held in Columbia at 10:00 A.M., on November 19, 1993.

ITEM IV - ADJOURN

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

