

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Kingstree Inn
Kingstree, S. C.
October 16, 1987
2:30 P. M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 2:30 P. M., October 16, 1987, at the Kingstree Inn, Kingstree, S. C. with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Webster, Owen, Stokes, Harrelson and Thomason. Directors and Staff present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Sonny Baines, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain, Benny Reeves and various other individuals and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 2:30 P. 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 September 18, 1987 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Chairman Webster noted that he and Dr. Timmerman had met with a reporter from the Charleston News and Courier to tell our side of the story concerning the Dewees Island Conservation Easement.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we have a pond stocking policy where we charge for stocking fish and fish were recently stocked for a pond for the Adjutant General's Office and a check was received from this office. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Adjutant General's Office has been of tremendous assistance to us in the past and consideration may be given to making an exception to this policy and returning the check to the Adjutant General's Office. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion whereby the charges for the fish stocked for the Adjutant General's Office would be waived and the check returned to their office.

Dr. Timmerman noted that there had been recent news articles concerning the misuse of State vehicles and he asked for the Commission's guidance on developing a policy for vehicle use as we

have in place now concerning our policy on aircraft use. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion for Dr. Timmerman to review this matter and develop a policy for consideration at the November Commission Meeting.

ITEM III. 1988 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Dan Dobbins noted that the 1988 Legislative Proposal had been sent to the Commission for their review. This Proposal was discussed and the Commission adopted a motion to approve the 1988 Legislative Proposal as submitted and to forward such to the General Assembly.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion - WMA Funds (U. S. Forest Service): Brock Conrad noted that the U. S. Forest Service has requested that the Department pay \$200,000.00 for lands that they have in the WMA Program. Mr. Conrad noted that a survey of federal lands is being conducted by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and when the results of this survey are completed, we will develop a definite recommendation to the Commission concerning this request. Dr. Timmerman noted that when this is developed and presented to the Commission, he will invite Don Eng to come to the Commission Meeting to discuss this matter.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed License - Hutchinson Island Associates: Buford Mabry presented some background information concerning a request from the Hutchinson Island Associates to receive a license for access at Hutchinson Island. Mr. Dewey Wise, a representative of the owners of Hutchinson Island, discussed this request and went over the details concerning the proposed license. Following discussion, Chairman Webster noted that we would take this matter under advisement and act on this request at the November Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that such a request may require approval of the State Budget and Control Board.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves reported to the Commission that representatives from the Burroughs Corporation are currently looking at the Department's computer system to seek some detailed information which they hope to use throughout the country.

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

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 informed the Commission that the Division is hosting the U. S./Japan Panel on aquaculture next week and he invited any of the Commissioners to attend. Dr. Sandifer also noted that the Marine Division has been growing channel bass the past two years and some good results have been attained from this project.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board met at the Webb Wildlife Center on October 15, 1987. Commissioner Owen noted that a request to stock triploid grass carp in the Back River Reservoir has been made and the fisheries biologists have no problems with this request, but the waterfowl interests do have some concerns. The Board recommended that this request be approved on an experimental basis. Following discussion, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve this request to be done on experimental basis under the watchful eye of our biologists. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Owen noted that the Board also discussed and requested that the Board and the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board and staff work together on developing criteria and planning procedures for the development of proposed firing ranges. Commissioner Owen noted that it was recommended that such be developed and brought back to the Board for their action. The Commission adopted a motion to approve the pursuant of this matter in concept for action through the respective Boards and the Commission.

Commissioner Owen noted that the Springfield Dedication will be held on October 25, 1987 and he invited all Commissioners to attend this Dedication.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was no report from the Board this month.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Harrelson noted that the Board met recently and held an in-depth analysis of the blue crab resource. Commissioner Harrelson noted that the Board came to the conclusion that the blue crab resource is not in danger at this time.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Thomason noted that this Board will be meeting next month.

5. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the Board at this time.

Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session at this time to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that the Commission would now recess the regular meeting to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting.

At this time, Commissioner Harrelson referred to the recommended appointments and reappointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers, Conservation Officers and new Conservation Officer hiring recommendations (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve the reappointments, appointments and new Conservation Officer hiring recommendations as submitted with the exception of Item III (2), without any change in policy and as a courtesy to the Resident Commissioner who is absent so that such may be carried over. The motion failed to receive a Second from the Commission. Following this, Commissioner Harrelson moved to approve all appointments, reappointments and new Conservation Officer hiring recommendations as submitted without the exception noted in his previous motion. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Other Remarks: Commissioner Stokes expressed thanks to the staff which assisted with holding the Commission Meeting in Kingstree and also expressed thanks to Longlands Plantation for their hospitality while in Kingstree.

E. Appointments: This matter was acted upon by the Commission previously in the meeting.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting at 10:00 A. M., November 20, 1987 in Columbia at the Rembert C. Dennis.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN

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

