

MINUTES  
SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES  
COMMISSION MEETING

Table Rock State Park, Pickens, S. C.  
October 17, 1980

The regular monthly meeting of the S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Table Rock State Park, Pickens, S. C., at approximately 11:00 a.m., on October 17, 1980 with Chairman Edens presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the State's media. Prior to the regular Commission meeting, a joint meeting was held with the S.C. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission to discuss the Mountain Bridge Project. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Edens, Compton, Dawson, Stubbs, Owen and Shuler. Directors and staff members present at these meetings included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Mac Flood, Benny Reeves, Pat Ryan, T. C. Welch, Bill Chastain, Jeff Fuller, Joe Logan, Brock Conrad, Doug Raynor, Sonny Baines, Mike Creel, Billy Durant, Ed Joseph, David Cupka and Gene Smoak. Guests at the meeting included Dr. Jackie Jacobs and Betty Spence of the S.C. Wildlife Federation, Ben Gregg of the Governor's Office, Ben Campbell of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee, Dick and Keats Taylor of Charlotte, North Carolina, Dr. Sid Gauthereaux of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, Bob Sergeant of Greenville, Mrs. J. Drake Edens, Jr. and Mrs. Calvin Dawson.

JOINT MEETING WITH PRT COMMISSION

PRT Commission Chairman Gene Rickenbaker presented some introductory remarks and welcomed the Commission and staff to Table Rock State Park. Chairman Edens thanked the PRT Commission and staff for their hospitality and noted that the Commission welcomed the joint meeting as an opportunity to work on the Mountain Bridge and other projects. Chairman Edens introduced guests at the meeting and turned the meeting over to Dr. Timmerman. Dr. Timmerman noted that the South Carolina Wildlife magazine has an article this issue on the Mountain Bridge Project which identifies the valuable natural resources in South Carolina. Dr. Timmerman then presented the following comments:

"I would like to express my thanks to those members of the Governor's staff, Ron Carter, the HCRS State Liaison Officer, the staff of PRT and those with the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department for the effort they have put forth to carry the Mountain Bridge Recreational/Wildlife Area Project forward to this point. I believe this project has afforded us an opportunity to make a very significant contribution to the improvement of both general recreation and wildlife and fisheries management in South Carolina. For the first time, our two sister agencies are working together to develop and manage a recreation and wildlife project of major proportions, one that will continue to provide valuable benefits for the people of our state for years to come. We are taking the first major formal step toward accomplishing that goal today, with the signing of the agreement now before our two Commissions. If this project is to be accomplished, it is going to require that both agencies continue to work together with a cooperative spirit. We will prove here that the goals and responsibilities of our two agencies can be met by working together for the common good. By working together, our children and their children's children will be able to benefit from a natural area that's been set aside for future generations for recreational purposes and general wildlife enjoyment."



Dr. Timmerman then asked Fred Brinkman, Executive Director of PRT, to make a few comments. Mr. Brinkman commended the Department on the publication of South Carolina Wildlife magazine and the recent article on the Mountain Bridge Project. Mr. Brinkman noted that the PRT Commission has adopted a resolution commending the magazine at its last meeting. Chairman Rickenbaker read this resolution and presented it to Sonny Baines, Director of Information and Public Affairs (copy of resolution attached to original Commission minutes). Mr. Brinkman went over the joint efforts of the staffs in both agencies regarding the Mountain Bridge Project. A copy of the proposed Cooperative Agreement for the Mountain Bridge Recreation/Wildlife Area was distributed. Buddy Jennings of PRT discussed this agreement and went over the maps regarding land use for the property already acquired and to be acquired. Mr. Jennings noted that the Cooperative Agreement provided that each agency would jointly develop a master plan for the development, operation and maintenance of the Mountain Bridge Recreation/Wildlife Area. The plan will delineate those areas that are to be designated as (1) intensive recreation use for State Park development, (2) general recreation use for trails, primitive camping, heritage trust sites, etc., and (3) game management areas for fishing and hunting. The Cooperative Agreement also provides for the development of a detailed joint management plan for the project which will delineate management responsibility to be approved by both Commissions. (Copy of the Cooperative Agreement attached to original Commission minutes). Dr. Timmerman noted that it had been recently discussed regarding land use in Item 1.(2) to include adding fishing and provisional hunting. Item 2 would then read "general recreation use for tails, primitive camping, heritage trust sites, fishing, provisional hunting, etc." Mr. Jennings noted that this language should be included in the Cooperative Agreement. Commissioner Stubbs noted that there is a lot of talk in his area about hunters wanting to keep existing hunting lands. Chairman Edens noted that this would be worked out later in the detailed joint management plan which is to be approved by both Commissions. Following other discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the Cooperative Agreement with fishing and provisional hunting being added in Item 1. (2). Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. The PRT Commission also adopted the Cooperative Agreement, as amended.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we are also working with PRT on the Lake Warren project whereby PRT will manage lands acquired for a park and the Department will continue to manage the lake for fishing. Mr. Brinkman briefly discussed the Lake Russell Project noting that the Lake Russell lands will be kept under game management as long as possible before it is developed as a park. Following discussion, the joint meeting was adjourned and each Commission held its regular monthly business meeting.

#### WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES BUSINESS COMMISSION MEETING

##### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edens called the regular meeting to order at approximately 11:00 a.m.

##### ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Dawson moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 19, 1980 meeting and approve them as submitted. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

##### ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that we are concerned about license sales which



are about \$131,000 below September 1979 in collections, including the non-resident big game permit which we did not have last year. The license sales collections will be watched closely and if they don't pick up some steps will have to be taken.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Chairman Edens had asked about the policy and procedure for issuance of uniforms. Chairman Edens stated that a question has come up on how we determine uniform issue for our people. Chairman Edens asked that Law Enforcement and Boating and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Boards to take a look at the procedure on how uniforms are issued.

Dr. Timmerman stated that he has received a letter and talked to Mr. Tom Stallworth concerning doe harvest as he wants to harvest does other than the days set aside for doe harvest. In addition, a letter from Senator Drummond has been received concerning depredation permits which will be passed out. Following a brief discussion of these matters, Chairman Edens asked the Wildlife and Fishwater Fisheries Advisory Board to review the depredation permit procedure and the doe harvest situation and report back to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman suggested that someone from the agriculture area at Clemson meet with the Board to discuss this matter.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the package of information has been mailed out to the Commission on the Southeastern meeting. Room reservations need to be made by October 18th and pre-registration is due by October 31st.

Dr. Timmerman asked Tommy Edwards to discuss the suit pending against the Department by Leroy Chauvin concerning the butterfly net. An emergency rule and regulation on the butterfly net was promulgated and the suit is questioning this regulation. Tommy Edwards presented some background information regarding this suit. Commissioner Compton noted that since this is a pending lawsuit and will involve legal advice, he moved that the Commission hold an Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss this matter. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens announced that an Executive Session will be held following the regular meeting for the purpose of legal advice.

Dr. Timmerman noted that letters from Dr. John Armstrong and Senator Waddell were sent out to the Commissioners concerning changing the name and expanding the membership of the Sea Grant Consortium through proposed changes in the Sea Grant Act. Dr. Timmerman stated that he has talked to Dr. Armstrong about these changes and discussed the form this would take and what powers the Director of the Consortium would have. Dr. Timmerman asked for the Commission's advice on this matter. Following discussion by the Commission, a motion was adopted to invite Senator Waddell and Dr. Armstrong to the November Commission meeting to discuss these proposed changes in the Sea Grant Act. (NOTE: Since the Commission meeting, Chairman Edens and Dr. Timmerman met with Senator Waddell and Dr. Armstrong to discuss the proposed changes and their concepts discussed and general understandings were communicated to the Commission in a memo from Chairman Edens dated October 24, 1980 and a letter sent to Senator Waddell dated November 6, 1980--copies attached to original Commission minutes.)

Dr. Timmerman stated that NOAA is looking at a site in Charleston to relocate its National Ocean Survey vessel and mapping operations. The Ft. Johnson site is one of two sites being evaluated. About twenty acres of land will be needed which could limit future expansion of our Marine Center Operations. Dr. Timmerman noted that Dr. Joseph has looked at the advantages and disadvantages of having this facility at Ft. Johnson. Dr. Timmerman stated that we have communicated on this



matter for them to consider all other options and if the Ft. Johnson site is desired we will give it further consideration. Dr. Timmerman noted that we may have further information on this at the November Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we will be moving our offices to the Dennis Building around the first of March. For our Conference Room, walnut has been donated for the conference tables. The cost of making these tables is about \$2,100 and we have received \$1,600 in contributions for this cost leaving about \$500. We would like to purchase new leather chairs at a cost of about \$400 each for this conference room. Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission if they would like for us to set up honorariums whereby people could contribute to purchase the chairs and we could place a nameplate on the chair regarding the donation. Dr. Timmerman stated that it would be nice if this could be done at no cost to the Department or the State. Chairman Edens noted that the Commission will be discussing suggested revisions in the existing foundation which will be discussed at a later meeting. In regard to the \$500 needed for the table and \$400 each for twelve chairs, there are a number of people that would like to contribute to the Department's activities. Chairman Edens noted that some publicity needs to be put out on this so people will know they can contribute. Dr. Timmerman noted that if the Commission desires, we will put out information to seek funds for the table and chairs. The Commission adopted a motion for Dr. Timmerman to pursue this as he has suggested. Dr. Timmerman stated the recommendations on the Foundation will be discussed at the November meeting.

#### ITEM III. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Chairman Edens asked Billy DuRant to discuss the contributions of Mr. Dick Taylor to the Department. Mr. DuRant noted that Mr. Taylor has done a lot of work for the Department including the narration of 8 - 10 films and various TV spots at no charge to the Department. Mr. DuRant stated that Dick Taylor has won a number of awards and part of Mr. Taylor's efforts have helped the film section win numerous awards. Chairman Edens presented the first Certificate of Meritorious Service Award to Dick Taylor and expressed the Commission's appreciation for his work and contributions to the Department. Mr. Taylor expressed his appreciation to the Commission and staff for the award.

#### ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mountain Bridge Joint Management Agreement: Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission has already discussed and acted on this matter. The staff will be working out the details of a joint management plan and reporting back to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that the area at the base of Ceasars Head is a prime hunting area and this remains to be worked out in the management plan so as to allow hunting on this property.

B. Update on Funding Committee Recommendations: Chairman Edens noted that the Study Committee on Program Funding held its final meeting on October 10th in Columbia and adopted priority funding recommendations. Larry Cartee distributed a copy of these priority funding recommendations (copy attached to original Commission minutes) to the Commissioners noting that all of these recommendations have been endorsed by the Commission as priority items plus the recommendation to consider options to increase funds provided to landowners participating in the Game Management Area Program. Dr. Timmerman noted that there is a lot of interest to increase the payments made to landowners participating in the GMA Program and he recommended that the Commission endorse this recommendation as a priority item. Commissioner



Shuler stated that he felt this recommendation needs some emphasis placed upon it. Chairman Edens suggested that when the final report is published, it should include those items that were considered by the Commission and rejected in order to show people what was turned down. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Marine Study Committee is developing funding recommendations and the Study Committee agreed to include these recommendations in the Final Report. During the discussion, it was noted that we need to give more publicity to timber companies and landowners participating in the GMA Program. Dr. Timmerman stated that Sonny Baines will discuss this at the November meeting to tell what has been done and what they plan to do in providing more publicity for landowners. Commissioner Shuler suggested that we try to get payments to landowners up to \$.75 per acre the best way we can. Following other discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt the priority funding alternatives recommended by the Study Committee. Chairman Edens noted that a letter was received from the State President of Ducks Unlimited and he was disappointed that it is recommended that if a state duck stamp is adopted that the funds would stay in South Carolina. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

#### ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 1981 Proposed Legislative Package: Dr. Timmerman noted that this package had been mailed out to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission minutes). Dr. Timmerman stated that the Study Committee on Program Funding had legislative members and it was their concensus that funding proposals be handled separate from our regular legislative package. The Study Committee also recommended that we meet with the Chairman of the four committees represented on the Study Committee to discuss with them the best way of handling any funding proposals legislatively. Chairman Edens noted that efforts will be made to have the funding proposals as a Ways and Means Committee bill if this meets with the approval of the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that the legislative package was developed in coordination with the staff and division directors. Some items in the proposal are carried over from last year and some of the proposals are new. The biggest recommendation is the commercial freshwater fishing proposal. Dr. Timmerman stated that the proposals will be put into a bill form by the first part of November. Commissioner Owen recommended that proposal #3 under Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries be given consideration to closing streams 120 days rather than 150 days in Game Zone #1 unless it is discretionary on the time for closing a stream. Following other discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Stubbs moved for the Commission to approve the legislative package subject to a ten-day review period by the Commissioner's and contact with the staff with any additions and/or deletions. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. In approving the legislative package, the Commission also approved proposed regulations for 1981 (copy attached to original Commission minutes).

B. Proposed Endangered Species Cooperative Agreement for Plants: Dr. Doug Raynor noted that this was mailed out to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission minutes). Dr. Raynor noted that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can enter into cooperative agreements with states and fund projects on plants provided there is an official list of endangered and threatened plant species for use in specifying research priorities. The Heritage Trust Advisory Board has approved the recommended list that was mailed to the Commission and recommend such to the Commission. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this list as recommended.

C. Division Reports:



1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report. Dr. Timmerman asked Benny Reeves to include the monthly license sales revenue report in the package sent to the Commissioner's next month.

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

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: There was nothing further to report.

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

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph noted that the Marine Resources Study Committee met in early October and a report is being developed. The format of this report was passed out to the Commission for information. Dr. Timmerman stated that the report will be completed by mid-December and he asked that Dr. Bob Hutton appear at the January Commission meeting to present this report. Dr. Joseph advised the Commission that the Shellfish Study Committee will meet in Charleston on October 24, 1980. Chairman Edens asked that all the Commissioner's be put on the mailing list for correspondence concerning the Shellfish Study Committee.

✓ D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen reported that the Board met at Bonneau Ferry on October 3rd. The Samworth Management Area report from Coy Johnston was discussed and the Board concluded that Coy Johnston and Buddy Kronsberg will work with Jeff Fuller and Brock Conrad to set up 2 - 3 public meetings in the Myrtle Beach/Georgetown area to get input and work out problems by next season. Other reports on phragmites and catfish farming were received by the Board. Black bear stocking was discussed and Commissioner Owen stated that he, Brock Conrad and Joe Hamilton will discuss the feasibility of bear stocking. Chairman Edens noted that the Board discussed past recommendations on licensing fishing guides but no recommendations were made. As such, Chairman Edens suggested that we contact PRT that we are not taking any action in this area.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Shuler reported that the Board met this month and had the awards program for the conservation officers. The Board discussed DWCO's of which we now have 265 commissioned, which is more than the number of conservation officers. Commissioner Shuler stated that he personally felt we may need to reduce the number of DWCO's sometime in the future. Commissioner Shuler also reported that the Board discussed the 24-hour manning of radio stations. The Law Enforcement staff has kept records on this and the Board recommends that we discontinue the 24-hour system as it is felt we are not receiving the benefits that warrant the cost and it's taking too much away from law enforcement people. Commissioner Shuler noted that the District Captains have the discretion of manning the radios at night when needed. Commissioner Shuler moved that the 24-hour manning of radio stations be discontinued immediately. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that Channel #3 has interference from foreigners and we need to look at some way to correct this problem.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton reported that the Board will meet in Charleston on November 7th. Commissioner Compton noted that the Commission should try to meet at the Marine Center in the spring. Chairman Edens stated that the shrimpers had been promised that the Commission would meet at the Marine Center in the spring prior to the opening of the shrimp season.



4. Heritage Trust: There was nothing further to report.

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

F. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and reappointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission minutes). On the DWCO reappointments, Dr. Timmerman noted that it was recommended that Mr. William W. Matthews' reappointment be restricted to 600 acres in Florence County. Dr. Timmerman also recommended that two new appointments be approved which are not on the list. These include J. Brittain Glenn of Spartanburg and James William Blake of Georgetown (copy of letters attached to original Commission minutes). The Commission adopted motions to approve all appointments and reappointments as recommended by Dr. Timmerman.

G. Other Remarks: Commissioner Stubbs commended Dr. Timmerman for a recent speech before the Greenville Chapter of the Wildlife Federation. Chairman Edens noted that the Commission had been sent a resolution on funds received for the Mountain Bridge Project and a report on recovered boats.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Edens reported that the next meeting will be held in Columbia at 10:00 a.m. on November 21, 1980.

#### ITEM VI. ADJOURN

Chairman Edens announced that the regular meeting is tentatively adjourned for an executive session for the purpose of legal advice.

#### RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and allowed participants in the meeting. Chairman Edens announced that in the Executive Session, the Commission adopted a motion approving the use of the butterfly net under the same terms and regulations for channel nets or set nets for the remainder of this shrimp season. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt and ratify this action. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. There being no further business, the Commission adopted a motion to adjourn the regular meeting.

