

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

3742 Dock Side Road
Edisto Beach, S. C.
October 18, 1985
9:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 3742 Dock Side Road, Edisto Beach, S. C. at 9:00 A.M., October 18, 1985, 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, Compton, Thomason, Bennett, Owen, Stokes, Harrelson, and Quackenbush. Directors and staff present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Buford Mabry, Benny Reeves, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain, Sonny Baines, Paul Sandifer and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.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 5, 1985 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had personnel matters, an administrative briefing, and a contract to discuss with the Commission. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters, have an administrative briefing, and a contract. Commissioner Compton 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, a contract and to have an administrative briefing.

Chairman Webster and Dr. Timmerman presented the Certificate of Meritorious Service Award to John Evans noting his dedication and innumerable contributions to the Department. Mr. Evans expressed thanks to the Commission for this award.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we have received preliminary federal fund allocations for the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Funds. The Pittman-Robertson funds are about the amount we had estimated and the Dingell-Johnson funds are somewhat lower than anticipated.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the notes from the recent Directors' Staff Meeting and went over these with the Commission. Dr. Timmerman recognized the service and dedication of the late Oscar Sullivan and noted that he will be missed. The Commission unanimously adopted a motion for the Executive Director to develop the appropriate resolution to send to the family on behalf of the Commission to recognize the service and dedication of Oscar Sullivan. In the

Staff Meeting notes, Dr. Timmerman noted that we are conducting an in-depth study of our personnel function and a copy of the study format was distributed to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we have been informed that we may have a 1-2% budget reduction this year. In the Department, we have set aside 2% internally in anticipation of this reduction. Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of the license collections through the end of September noting that collections are down about \$150,000. This matter will be closely reviewed next month to determine if we need to hold back on our revenue.

Dr. Timmerman noted that several Commissioners have asked to be properly informed on proposed actions by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman distributed a procedure to address this matter and went over it with the Commission. Dr. Timmerman asked for assistance from the Advisory Board Chairmen in scheduling meetings so that their actions can be properly communicated to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he recently attended the GMA Cooperators Meeting at Webb Center and discussed areas of mutual concern. He informed the Commission that he met with the Regional Director of the U. S. Forest Service to discuss our appeal on the Sumter National Forest Plan.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we have developed a special two-week training program for all non-law enforcement personnel in order to give them proper training in law enforcement. These employees will hold a law enforcement commission rather than a Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he will attend the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board meeting and the press outing at Bonneau Ferry. He noted that he will leave on October 26th to attend the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Lexington, Kentucky.

Dr. Timmerman presented a proposed resolution to commend Hank Stallworth for his outstanding service with the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and it was unanimously adopted by the Commission.

Dan Dobbins presented a draft 1986 Legislative Proposal to the Commission noting that this will be presented to the Commission in final form at the November meeting.

ITEM III. PRESENTATION - CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

This award was presented by Chairman Webster earlier in the meeting.

ITEM IV. APPEARANCE - ROBERT KNOTH (Re: Santee Reserve Boat Ramp)

Mr. Robert Knoth, Mr. Jimmy Bailey and Mr. Willy Iselin appeared before the Commission to request the continued use of the Santee Reserve Boat Ramp during duck season for hunting purposes by the Moreland Hunt Club. This matter was discussed

extensively with the Commission to seek their approval for continued use of the Santee Reserve Boat Ramp. Following this discussion, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to reserve this matter for a legal briefing in Executive Session. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that the Commission will reserve this matter for a legal briefing in Executive Session.

ITEM V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Final Report and Recommendations of the Land Procurement and Utilization Committee: This item was held over for an administrative briefing in Executive Session.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Land Exchange Between the U. S. Forest Service and Santee Cooper at Dennis Wildlife Center: This item was held over as a contractual matter and an administrative briefing in Executive Session.

B. Recommended Action on Thicketty Creek Fish Kill: Buford Mabry noted that this was a small fish kill and the party responsible has agreed to pay all damages associated with this fish kill. Joe Logan distributed a copy of the report on this fish kill to the Commission for information.

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: There was nothing further to report.
5. Marine Resources: Dr. Sandifer noted that they have been investigating PCB levels in Campbell Creek in blue crabs. This has been reported to the Department of Health and Environmental Control and both agencies are further investigating this matter. Dr. Sandifer noted there was another fish kill in Jasper County which was significant, but the Department was not notified until eight days after the kill. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has a meeting scheduled with the Department of Health and Environmental Control to discuss fish kills and better coordination with them. Dr. Timmerman noted that information we have assembled on PCB's in Campbell Creek is preliminary information and we are working with DHEC on this matter.

D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush noted that the Board met recently and discussed the allocation of Conservation Officers and training for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers. Commissioner Stokes asked about the training of DWCOs with firearms and potential liability problem. Bill Chastain noted that the staff is working on this matter and a revised DWCO package should be completed by the end of the year.

2. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the September 6, 1985 meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board.

3. Magazine Advisory Council: Sonny Baines noted the Council met recently and he went over the items discussed by the Council. Mr. Baines noted that the Council voted to change its name to the Conservation, Education and Communications Advisory Council. The Commission approved a motion to adopt this name change.

There being no further discussion, the Commission recessed the regular meeting to hold an Executive Session as previously approved.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting. Chairman Webster asked Commissioner Compton to report on the actions taken in Executive Session. Commissioner Compton reported that the Commission took the following actions in Executive Session:

- (a) A motion was adopted for the Department to commit to purchase 42.3 acres of land at the Dennis Wildlife Center from the Santee Cooper Authority in the amount of \$33,800 within two years from the date of the Authority's acquisition of the property from the U. S. Forest Service; and, the Department agrees that the Authority will assess simple interest on the aforesaid amount at a variable rate commencing at 5%, but not exceeding 6% within the two-year period.
- (b) A motion was adopted whereby the Commission could not reconsider their previous vote in which the Moreland Hunt Club will not be allowed to use the Santee Reserve Boat Ramp.
- (c) A motion was adopted in which the Commission has directed the Department to continue negotiations with the Greenwood Metropolitan Authority pending the further determination from the Department of Health and Environmental Control on the other parties involved in the Saluda River fish kill.
- (d) A motion was adopted for the Department to give the U. S. Forest Service a two-week extension in responding to the Department's appeal on the Sumter National Forest Plan provided that the U. S. Forest Service does not exceed the harvest levels established in the 1979 EIS during the negotiations which are to occur between the Department and the U. S. Forest Service.

- (e) A motion was adopted to approve all appointments, re-appointments, and promotions of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers as submitted (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to adopt and ratify these actions. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

E. Appointments: These were previously acted upon by the Commission.

F. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commission.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster announced that the next Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M., November 15, 1985, in Columbia.

ITEM VII. ADJOURN

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

