

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION James W. Webb Center

October 24, 1975

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at the James W. Webb Center in Garnett, South Carolina at 10:00 am October 24, 1975 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Buchanan, Rhame, Harris, Dennis, Glenn, Boykin and Lumpkin. Others present were Advisors Webb, Williams, Crouch, Hayes, Bryan; Dr. Timmerman, Belangia, Culler, Ryan, Laurent, Joseph, Chastain, Stansell, Campbell, Pendarvis, Conrad, and various other staff members. Also present was Clark Surratt of the State Newspaper.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF THE LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as they were mailed out with no corrections or additions.

COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman reported that Ray Moore, Supervisor in District One, died of a heart attack yesterday afternoon.

A copy of the introduction that was made to the Budget and Control Board was presented to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman went over this with the Commission. Our budget was reduced from a \$3.2 million to \$2 million increase by the staff. Timmerman stated that he felt that our Department was very well received by the Budget and Control Board and others present. Commissioner Boykin apologized to those Commissioners that were not polled on the decision to further cut the budget, but stated that the Finance Committee members were consulted on this last minute decision. Commissioner Dennis stated that he thought the presentation was well handled and impressive and that the Board greatly appreciated the action of the Finance Committee in reducing the original budget increase. All things considered, he feels that a good case has been made for the Budget and Control Board and the General Assembly to give the Department what they have asked for.

Regarding the Goals and Objectives of the Department, Dr. Timmerman reported that a list of these items will be given to the Commission at the next meeting for consideration.

Staff is in the process of putting together an Employee Handbook for a procedure guideline for personnel. This should be completed by the end of the year.

Staff will present to the Commission at the next meeting a policy to follow regarding the problems involved in Corp Permits and various other projects with staff making individual comments regarding these projects.

On the study that was made on the department owned cabins, Dr. Timmerman reported the recommended increase in the fee schedule for use of these facilities. The present fee schedule does not cover maintenance, inflation, etc. First priority on the cabins is for official use by the Department, and then by personnel for personal use. Some of the houses were paid for by Federal and County funds and others are leased for \$1.00 a year on long term leases. Total operation cost on all houses run about \$4-5,000 a year and this includes utilities, maintenance, insurance, etc. Present rental rates run from \$5-7.50 per day. The increases recommended by the study are to raise the \$5.00 a day to \$7.50 a day and the \$7.50 a day to \$12.50. The analyst on this project feels that at the present rental rate, we should recoup all of the expenses. Dr. Timmerman recommended the increases to the Commission. Commissioner

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Dennis made a motion to accept this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed. Mac Flood is in charge of all state facilities and he assigns someone to look after all of these facilities. It was suggested that there be closer supervision on the maintenance of these facilities.

Dr. Timmerman reported that a group of department personnel took a bus trip to St. Louis for the Southeastern Association of Game & Fish Commissioners meeting. He apologized to anyone that was not informed of this meeting.

ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Hudson reported that he has consulted with the Chairmen of the various Advisory Boards and those who are up for re-appointment by the Commission are Dan Marett on Game & Freshwater Fisheries; Lawson Hayes on Law Enforcement; and Dr. George Fulton on Marine Resources. The Chairmen of the Boards have recommended that these people be re-appointed for a three year term. Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion to accept this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed. The Governor has not yet made a decision on his appointments and as soon as he does so, Chairman Hudson will inform the Commission.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS

A. RECOMMENDATIONS OF GAME AND FISH TASK FORCE: HUNTING AND FISHING BY DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL: Dr. Timmerman reported that staff has met and made some recommendations on this matter. A copy of these recommendations was passed out to the Commission. Basically, no employee shall transport any type of hunting and/or fishing equipment or accessories in or on a State-owned vehicle within visible sighting of the general public; no hunting or fishing while in Department uniform will be allowed; employees wishing to hunt or fish should schedule such activities while off duty and at times when there is least demand for their services; employees should not use State owned vehicles and/or equipment for hunting or fishing where such travel is exclusively for those purposes. It was suggested that the word vehicle be changed to read any motor equipment and Dr. Timmerman stated that he would make this change. Commissioner Buchanan asked about the policy on families using state vehicles. Dr. Timmerman stated that the reason he did not go into this is that it is presently under study by the Budget & Control Board and we will have to abide by those policies and it would not be practical to set regulations when this is forthcoming. Commissioner Dennis stated that a firm policy on this should be set within a month or two. A motion was made by Commissioner Dennis to approve these recommendations with the modification as mentioned. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rhame and passed.

B. UPDATE ON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDING FREEZE: Commissioner Dennis reported that a definition of "under contract" will be forthcoming in the near future. We will not know anything about our specific projects until we get this decision.

C. BUDGET REPORT: A report has already been made on this item.

D. INDEXING OF COMMISSION MINUTES: Wash Belangia reported that the Commission has already decided to put this on the computer. Commissioner Glenn had asked at the last Commission meeting where we stood on this project. The Base Data Book,

which is being used to put this information into the computer. This book consists of a cross reference by topic. This copy was given to Commissioner Glenn for his personal use. This book will cross reference back to the actual minutes. Belangia explained the use of the Base Data Book. The complete conversion to the computer should be accomplished by the beginning of the fiscal year.

E. SANTEE MANAGEMENT PLAN: Dr. Laurent reported that this plan has been finalized and will be typed next week. Conrad reported on the hunts that have been held on that area so far this year.

ACTION TAKEN AT THE LAST COMMISSION MEETING ON THE CBS PROGRAM "THE GUNS OF AUTUMN"

Chairman Hudson reported that he was advised by the FCC Attorneys in Washington that the best method to approach this problem was to send wires to the FCC, CBS, and to anyone else that we felt had influence in this situation. Wires were sent to the FCC, CBS, Congressmen, Senators, and to every Chairman of every Commission in the other states and asked them to follow up on this. A number of them did so. This was discussed in St. Louis at the Southeastern Game & Fish Commissioner Conference. The general feeling of the group was that the states are going to have to get together and get someone or some group in Washington to keep us informed of these things before they happen. An organization of State Commissioners was set up and Hudson was elected Chairman of that group. A meeting will be held in January or February in Atlanta. He will personally write each Commissioner and ask him to attend this meeting. At that time, we hope to go forward with the idea of a Commissioners organization. A decision has not been made as yet, but we think that the Executive Directors of each state will be asked to attend as observers so that they can carry back to their department what is coming out of this. Chairman Hudson will keep the Commission informed on this matter. Chairman Hudson asked that anyone having suggestions as to how to go about this please contact him.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS

A. HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPEARANCE: JOHN SWAILS: Dr. Timmerman reported that he feels that this problem is being resolved. This concerns the Affirmative Action Plan. This will be delayed until another meeting. Chairman Hudson has asked these people to outline to us in written form what they propose to present at this meeting prior to that meeting. Dr. Timmerman has communicated with them on this.

B. PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR LEGAL TAKING OF BEAVER: Ken Stansell presented proposals for a Cooperative Beaver Management plan, along with proposed regulations for the legal taking of beavers in South Carolina by trapping to become effective beginning with the 75-76 trapping season, if approved. We must allow 60 days for public comment on this. Asked the Commission to consider these proposed regulations and he will come back at the November Commission meeting to answer any questions on this. After that a formal regulation will be proposed including any public comment at the December meeting. Commissioner Dennis commented that there is a legislative movement by a Senator to eliminate trapping altogether. He asked for advice and argument on maintaining trapping from the staff as it serves a useful purpose.

The alligator still remains on the Federal Endangered Species list and is provided complete protection. We are continuing to work on this.

We are the only state in the Southeast presently eligible for a cooperative agreement for Federal Funding through endangered species and if we can get this agreement through this will give us a great deal of flexibility in the management of these species whether they are Federally listed or not. This involves 66 2/3 matching funds also for the endangered species program. Chairman Hudson asked the staff to begin putting together some arguments on trapping so that when it does come before the legislature we will have an opportunity to express our position at that time. Commissioner Dennis stated that he would ask Stansell to appear before the Committee on this matter.

C. DIVISION REPORTS: Belangia reported that the Administrative Services Division has been working on the Budget this month. Brock Conrad reported that in the Game & Freshwater Fisheries Division we should have an excellent deer harvest this season. Dr. Timmerman asked Pat Ryan to give an in depth report on Law Enforcement and particularly inform the Commission of the same type activities we did to the Advisory Board. Commission Harris asked Ryan to review his time schedule in requiring reports. This may also be applicable to some of the other Division. He has heard considerable comment about the short time that they have to get in their reports vs. division heads taking two or three weeks just to consolidate what comes in from the field. Ryan will give a report on his findings at the next meeting. Chairman Hudson noted that at the Southeastern Conference, Flowe Trexler, one of our pilots, was given Conservation Officer of the Year Award. Dr. Joseph reported that an open house will be held this Sunday at the Marine Center from 12:00 noon until 5:00 pm, and invited anyone who would like to come to do so. During the month of September the value of the catch of shrimp exceeded the value of any previous month in the history of the fishery. The volume of the catch just about matched any previous month and with the high price the value of the catch for the month alone was approximately 2½ million dollars. Dr. Timmerman also announced that Dr. Joseph was voted in as Chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission. Commissioner Glenn asked about the status of the artificial reef program. Joseph reported that this is very active now. All of these have now been licensed under the department. We are trying to get some additional reefs in the southern part of the state. Dr. Laurent reported that the House of Representatives held a hearing on the Congaree Swamp and due to our role in that we appeared and made a statement. We gave them information on the study we are doing and stated that we felt that this was part of S. C. Heritage and should be a state project.

D. SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Timmerman reported that this report is in line and passed it on to the Chairman. Chairman Hudson stated that he, Senator Dennis and Dr. Timmerman met with the Personnel Division regarding the Conservation Officer Salaries and will meet again on the 29th.

E. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS: Commissioner Harris reported that his group met here yesterday. They talked about hunter safety education, boating safety, and various other things. Chairman Hudson suggested that the staff begin getting together information from other states as to their requirements on hunting courses before purchasing a hunting license. Commissioner Lumpkin stated that the Marine Resources Advisory Board will meet at the Marine Center in Charleston next Thursday and invited anyone desiring to attend. Commissioner Boykin requested that the

staff have information on the requirements of various states on hunting safety courses on the action report for the next two months. Commissioner Rhame reported that his group did not meet this month. Chairman Hudson reported that on the Natural Area Acquisition and Resource Planning, the group has been at a standstill due to the fact that we have some legislation that was carried over into the next session.

F. APPOINTMENTS: Dr. Timmerman went over the recommended appointments which were mailed out prior to this meeting. There was a motion made by Commissioner Dennis to approve these appointments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rhame and passed. A list of these appointments is attached to the original of these minutes.

Commissioner Dennis made a motion that we adjourn in respect to our late Supervisor, Ray Moore. Chairman Hudson seconded the motion. It was the feeling of the Commission that a wire or letter be sent to the family expressing sympathy. Chairman Hudson stated that he would do so.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dennis to hold Executive Session for personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed.

There being no further business in the general session, the meeting was adjourned, and the Commission went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

(Miss) Christine Stapleton,
Secretary to the Commission

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