

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Kingstree Inn, Kingstree, S. C.
October 21, 1988
2:30 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 2:30 P.M., on Friday, October 21, 1988, at the Kingstree Inn, Kingstree, S. C., 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, Compton, Owen, Miller, Pendarvis, Thomason, Stokes and Bennett. Directors and Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M. and asked everyone in attendance to pause for a moment of silence in memory of former Commission Chairman and member, Harold Trask.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to ratify and adopt the Memorandum of Understanding with the National Wild Turkey Federation that was presented at the September Commission Meeting. The Commission approved a motion to ratify this Memorandum of Understanding. Following this action, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 1988 Commission Meeting as submitted and amended by the previous motion.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commissioners that the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will be held at Hilton Head Island on November 6-9, 1988. He asked the Commissioners to advise either himself or Larry Cartee if they plan to attend and need accommodations for this meeting.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we are currently leasing space for the Boating Registration and Hunter Safety Office at the Sumerall Building in Charleston at a cost of \$20,000 per year and the lease cost on this is increasing. He noted that we plan to develop space at the Marine Center for these offices and move these operations to this location unless there were objections from the Commission.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Moreland Hunt Club Request to Use Santee Coastal Reserve Boat Ramp: Dr. Timmerman noted that this matter was discussed at the last Commission Meeting and the legal staff had presented some concerns that relate to the public access at this boat ramp. Chairman Burnside introduced Mr. Sam Applegate, representing the Moreland Hunt Club, at this time. Mr. Applegate presented a proposal to the Commission concerning the proposed use of the Santee Coastal Reserve Boat Ramp by the Moreland Hunt Club and went over this proposal with the Commission. Following discussion, Chairman Burnside noted that this matter will be reviewed with the staff and an answer will be provided regarding such in the near future.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Draft 1989 Legislative Proposal: Dan Dobbins distributed to the Commission, the Draft 1989 Legislative Proposal (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Dobbins discussed this proposal with the Commission and some of the Commissioners asked about various aspects of our legislative packet. Dr. Timmerman noted that we are trying to keep our legislative package to a reasonable number of requests for 1989.

B. Proposed Change in Point Values for Illegal Turkey Harvest: Commissioner Owen noted that the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board had endorsed a change in the Point Values for killing or possessing wild turkey hens during the Spring Gobbler Season (bearded hens exempt) to 14 points from 18 points (copy of proposal attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Owen discussed this proposal with the Commission and following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the proposal as submitted.

C. Proposed Size Limit for Trout in Lake Jocassee: Commissioner Owen noted that the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board had endorsed a proposed change in the size limit and bag limit for trout in Lake Jocassee and a copy of this proposal was sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion concerning this matter, the Commission adopted a motion to approve these recommendations to increase the size limit for trout in Jocassee from 12 inches to 15 inches and to reduce the number of fish that can be taken from 7 to 5.

D. Recommendations on Department's Pond Stocking Program: Chairman Burnside noted that this matter will be passed over and recommendations will be presented to the Commission at a later date.

E. Discussion - Rabbit Hunting Statute - Game Zone 2:

Chairman Burnside noted that this matter had already been handled in the Department and such would not be discussed at the Commission Meeting.

F. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves informed the Commission that the City of Charleston has sent a proposal concerning the annexation of Fort Johnson which is being reviewed by the staff and will be brought back to the Commission for their action.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that Commissioner Pendarvis had asked the staff to discuss with the Commission, the current procedure for handling field trial permits. Buddy Baker went over these procedures and discussed these with the Commission, noting that we plan to bring proposed regulations for field trials to the Commission at a later date. Following discussion, Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to endorse the manner in which the staff is currently handling the issuance of permits for field trials by only nationally recognized organizations. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

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

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines distributed to the Commissioners, videos on the Department's Fishing Rodeos held this past summer, noting that a copy of these is also being sent to each District Captain. Mr. Baines distributed to the Commission, for their information, a copy of the programs given by Department personnel and he also discussed the recent awards won by the magazine and the CEC Division.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer informed the Commission that the Endangered Species Act was recently signed by the President which delayed implementation of TED regulations until May, 1989 in offshore waters and 1990 in inshore waters.

Dr. Sandifer informed the Commission that the spanish mackerel fishing had been closed on October 6th and the king mackerel fishing had been closed on October 17th. Dr. Sandifer noted that in the future, we will receive a 5-day notice on the closure of these fisheries.

Dr. Sandifer informed the Commission that billfish regulations will go into effect October 28th and we are currently drafting state regulations to go with the federal regulations and such will be presented to the Commission for their approval.

Dr. Sandifer noted that over 14,000 pounds of shrimp were recently harvested at the Waddell Mariculture Center on a .6-acre pond.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Blue Ribbon Committee on the Marine Recreational Fisheries license will be meeting this week and will have a presentation and recommendations to the Commission at their November Meeting.

Commissioner Stokes noted that he has received a number of calls regarding the change in the shooting hours for ducks and he asked the staff to contact the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Washington to see if this can be changed for next year. Following discussion, Commissioner Stokes moved for the staff to take this action and send out the appropriate news release regarding such. Commissioner Pendarvis seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

G. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted there was nothing further to report.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Stokes noted that the Board met on October 13, 1988. Commissioner Stokes noted that the Board voted to endorse the recommendations from the Marine Resources Advisory Board as it relates to crab traps.

Commissioner Stokes noted that the Board recommended legislative action to eliminate hunting in the right-of-ways of a public road or highway and requested that such be included in the Department's legislative package. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to endorse this in concept with the staff developing a bill and presenting back to the Commission as soon as possible.

Commissioner Stokes noted that the Board recommended a Point System for saltwater fishing violations and he moved that the staff develop recommendations for presentation to the Commission. Commissioner Pendarvis seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board met on October 6, 1988 and he went over the items discussed at this meeting.

Commissioner Pendarvis noted that a 3-state meeting has been requested to discuss problems with trawler licenses.

Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board recommended an amendment to the shrimp baiting legislation to allow an individual to bait and shrimp with a license from a private or public dock. Following discussion, Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to endorse this in concept and such was approved by the Commission with Commissioner Bennett abstaining from voting on the motion.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Pendarvis noted the Board would meet next Friday.

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

H. Other Remarks: Commissioner Bennett introduced Mr. Sammie Durant of Alcolu who is a guest at the meeting.

At this time, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss contractual, legal and personnel matters. Commissioner Thomason 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 contractual, legal and personnel matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve all appointments, re-appointments and the hiring of a new Hunter Safety Officer as presented to the Commission and also included the approval for the permission to use the new radio system with the exception of radios issued in the District of Commissioner Pendarvis, pending his approval next week (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to approve the use of the Santee Coastal Reserve Boat Ramp by the Moreland Hunt Club under the restrictions previously discussed with the Commission. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion was not adopted by the Commission.

I. Appointments: This matter was previously acted on by the Commission.

J. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Burnside announced that the next meeting will be held on November 18, 1988 in the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 A.M.

Minutes - SCWMRC Meeting
October 21, 1988
Page Six

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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