

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza
Columbia, South Carolina
September 15, 1978

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in the Conference Room of the Dutch Plaza Office, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a. m., September 15, 1978 with Chairman Trask presiding. Notice of the date, time, and place for the meeting was mailed to the state's newspapers, radio and television stations by a news release dated September 11, 1978. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Trask, Stubbs, Dawson, Buchanan, Boykin, Edens, Shuler, Bennett, and Dennis. Directors and staff members present included Dr. James A. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Ned Pendarvis, John Culler, Bob Campbell, Johnny Evans, Brock Conrad, Pat Ryan, Jim Mills, Charles Moore, Jane Turner, Dr. Edwin Joseph, Charlie Bearden, DeWitt Myatt, Gene Smoak, David Cupka, Dr. Vic Burrell, T. C. Welch, and Tom Kohlsaas. Guests present included Dr. Jackie Jacobs of the S. C. Wildlife Federation, Frank Caggiano of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Pat Robertson of the "Columbia Record", John D. Ohlandt of the Department of Health and Environmental Control (Charleston), and Bill Koopman of Charleston County.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Trask called the meeting to order at 10:00 a. m.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Edens noted the following changes in the Minutes of the August 18, 1978 meeting: 1) page 2, paragraph 3, line 2, position should read "portion"; 2) page 4, paragraph 2, line 4, sunset should read "sunrise", 3) page 4, item C(1), the last sentence of this section is amended to read as follows: "There are no items for Commission action, but Commissioner Edens noted that the staff is working on commercial fishing regulations which is being coordinated with the district fisheries biologists and law enforcement officers. The final report from Joe Logan will be reported to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board in October and to the Commission in November." Commissioner Dennis noted that the wording of the next to the last sentence in paragraph 1, page 2, should be amended to read as follows: "Commissioner Dennis stated that State

agencies have extensively increased personnel each year, thus leaving less funds for use with existing personnel. Our agency has probably been the least offender in this regard and the institutions of higher learning have been the worst." Subject to these changes in the Minutes, they were adopted by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Legislature had adopted a bill creating the S. C. Sea Grant Consortium by which the Commission Chairman is to appoint a member of the Advisory Committee to be confirmed by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman stated that he had asked the staff to recommend individuals to the Commission Chairman for discussion and action at the next Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we are having problems regarding residency requirements for Conservation Officer vacancies and some policy regarding a residency requirement is needed. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Law Enforcement staff has recommended that a residency requirement in a county be set at six (6) months before being eligible for consideration for a Conservation Officer position. Commissioner Shuler recommended that the Commission adopt this recommendation as it has become a real problem. Commissioner Boykin moved that a six-month residency requirement be established for consideration for a Conservation Officer position in a county. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buchanan and adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Edens noted that if there are no qualified applicants in a county, we would look elsewhere for qualified applicants.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies had awarded the first place Hunter Safety Award (sponsored by the National Rifle Association) to the Hunter Safety and Education Program of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. Dr. Timmerman recognized Mr. Jim Mills and his staff for their efforts in this program and commended them for receiving this award which represents the best hunter safety program in the United States and Canada. Chairman Trask stated that he would send an appropriate letter to the Hunter Safety staff regarding this award.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Frank Caggiano of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee is vacating his position to become Assistant Clerk of the Senate. Dr. Timmerman stated that Mr. Caggiano has been of great assistance to the Department in his position in the House and recommended that the Commission adopt an appropriate resolution, or plaque, to commend his efforts. Commissioner Boykin moved that an appropriate plaque commending Mr. Caggiano be developed and presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edens and adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman stated that the staff had developed a set of draft by-laws for the By-Laws Committee of the Commission. Commissioner Boykin noted that the members of the Committee have a copy of this draft which they will discuss this month and present a recommendation to the Commission at the next meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Division of Administrative Services has been involved in many areas and made great strides in accomplishing numerous objectives over the past year. Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of the Division's objectives (copy attached to original Minutes), noting those items which have been accomplished and the progress on various others. In addition, the primary recommendations from the Audit Report of the Department were identified and most of these recommendations have been implemented.

Dr. Timmerman stated that the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' fall meeting will be held November 5 - 8, 1978, and that he will get with the Commissioners who will attend to make reservations.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the next Commission meeting had been tentatively set for October 20th at the Webb Center. The Department's budget hearing before the Budget and Control Board will be on October 4, 1978, at 11:00 a.m. At last year's hearing, the attendance of the Commission made a big impression and Dr. Timmerman urged them to attend this year. Commissioner Dennis stated that it was helpful for the Commission to attend the hearing and he urged them to attend this year's hearing. Chairman Trask recommended that the next Commission meeting be held at the Bankers Trust Office on October 4, 1978, at 1:00 p.m., in order that the Commission could attend the budget hearing at 11:00 a.m. This recommendation met with the consensus of opinion of the Commission. Commissioner Dennis moved to commend the Division of Administrative Services for the impressive accomplishment of their objectives. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that action has been taken on the property in Kershaw County annexed into Lancaster County with a solution for one year.

Dr. Timmerman stated that the staff had recently held a meeting to discuss the stray dog problem. Bill Chastain reported that interested parties from the S. C. Wildlife Federation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Audubon Society, DHEC, Jim Kinard of the House of Representatives, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had recently met. An ad hoc committee was formed to develop recommendations and report back to the full committee.

Relative to the use of inmates to clean up litter at boat ramps, Dr. Timmerman reported that Pat Ryan and T. C. Welch will meet with the Department of Corrections on September 20th to discuss the problem and see what assistance they may be able to provide.

In developing funds for public oyster grounds, Dr. Timmerman noted that federal funds are being sought for use on public oyster grounds in two coastal counties and in our budget, we have an add-on item to establish funds for public oyster grounds. The Department is also working with Senator Waddell on legislation and funding concerning public oyster grounds.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the staff does have some recommendations for streamlining the DWCO procedure and he asked Chairman Trask if he wanted the staff to work with the Chairman of the Advisory Boards or if he wanted to appoint a committee to work on this matter. Chairman Trask appointed Commissioners Edens and Shuler to work with the staff regarding this matter.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the IPA Division would like to take pictures of the full Commission when the regular meeting adjourns. This is for the Department's files.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Briefing on Proposed Tire Disposal Project: Dr. Joseph briefed the Commission on the problem of solid waste disposal of automobile tires noting that such could be used to enhance the development of artificial reefs along the coast. Due to the magnitude of this matter, Dr. Joseph noted that he felt that such should be discussed before the Commission in order that some direction could be provided. Dr. Joseph asked Mr. DeWitt Myatt to provide the Commission an update on the artificial reef program noting the nature, utilization and scope of the Department's artificial reef program. Mr. Myatt presented a slide presentation regarding the artificial reef program and developed a detailed review of such. Methods of reef construction were explained as well as their development, types of fish attracted and use by recreational sport fishermen from Little River to Hilton Head.

Following Mr. Myatt's presentation, Dr. Joseph introduced Mr. John Ohlandt of the Department of Health and Environmental Control in Charleston to discuss the problem of used automobile tire disposal. Mr. Ohlandt noted that the disposal of automobile tires is a statewide problem consisting of approximately four (4) million tires per year which must be disposed. Some of the problems of land disposal of tires is due to the fact that they are non-biodegradable, they will not compact in the ground, and they will work to the surface over a period of time.

In addition, mosquitoes will reproduce in the tires if they are not buried; thus a health problem is created. The only way to effectively dispose of tires is through grinding and shredding, however, this is a very slow and expensive process. Mr. Ohlandt noted that the tires could be compressed, baled and barged for use on artificial reefs in which the problem of DHEC could become an asset to the Department through the artificial reef program.

Dr. Joseph also introduced Mr. Bill Koopman, Assistant to the Charleston County Manager, who stated that Charleston County had looked at this problem, primarily, as a health problem. Mr. Koopman noted that the County Association has endorsed the concept of analyzing the disposal of artificial tires at sea. This alternative would benefit the counties in terms of the solid waste disposal problem.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department should not get into the solid waste business, but look at the potential use of tires relative to biological effects. Dr. Joseph stated that the Division of Marine Resources is interested in enlarging the reefs to meet fishing pressures, but the basic problem is the logistics and costs involved in handling the tires. Dr. Timmerman noted that the General Assembly had given \$30,000 for artificial reefs three or four years ago and federal funds for such have now expired. Thus, Dr. Timmerman encouraged the Commission to endorse the concept for more detailed analysis. Commissioner Dennis stated that the disposal of tires seems to be a significant problem and he moved that the Commission endorse seeking a suitable plan for disposing of tires at artificial reefs and that such a plan be presented by Dr. Joseph and DHEC personnel before the Budget and Control Board at a special meeting during the course of the budget hearings and that the Marine Resources staff continue working and monitoring this proposal for the Commission. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and such was adopted by the Commission.

B. Proposed FY 79-80 Budget: Commissioner Buchanan informed the Commission that the Finance Committee had met and reviewed the FY 79-80 budget. The Committee has it resolved in its mind that such is a good budget and the Committee recommends that it be approved by the Commission. Benny Reeves distributed a copy of the budget to the Commission and discussed some of the primary points in it. Mr. Reeves noted that the budget reflects a decrease in state funds in the amount of \$657,598 due to one-shot supplemental funds that the Department received last year. There are no new programs in the budget and the FY 79-80 budget reflects the watercraft gasoline tax rebate that will be coming to the Department. One priority for FY 79-80 is to seek funds to pay fringe benefits for personnel paid from revenue funds in the Department, or else we will be needing a license fee increase in the future to cover these costs. Dr. Timmerman noted that the program breakout in the budget will be further broken down internally into sub-programs for analysis. Chairman Trask asked if the

magazine will operate without a deficit this year. Dr. Timmerman stated that if we do not lose too many subscribers with the price increase, we should be alright. Commissioner Buchanan noted that he does not have any reservations on asking the legislature for an increase in license fees. Commissioner Dawson stated his support for this concept. Following other discussion, Commissioner Buchanan moved for the approval of the budget as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Jackie Jacobs stated that the S. C. Wildlife Federation wants to help in the development of a fund source from the non-consumptive use of the resource. All people using the resource should be paying their fair share and a recommendation is needed to develop a fund source from the non-consumptive users. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department will work with the S. C. Wildlife Federation regarding this matter and also look at the possible use of a recreational permit through the Heritage Trust Program. Commissioner Boykin stated that the Commission would like to hear the Wildlife Federation's ideas in this area.

Benny Reeves distributed information to the Commission regarding renewal and how to obtain their specialized automobile license plates. Following some discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Buchanan moved that effective next year, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would have their tag denoting such and each of the other Commission members would have the license plate number the same as their Congressional District. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

C. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing to add to the written report.
2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing to add to the written report.
3. Law Enforcement and Boating: There was nothing to add to the written report.
4. Information and Public Affairs: John Culler reported that the "Game on Your Land" series has been completed and published. Mr. Culler also stated that a number of copies of the duck identification film have been sold and they will recover the costs of making the film.
5. Marine Resources: There was nothing to add to the written report.

D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Edens reported that the Board would meet in October.
2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Shuler stated that the Board had not met this month.
3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Dawson reported that the Board did not meet this month.
4. Heritage Trust: Tom Kohlsaas reported that the Board had met, but referred several items to the staff for further study.

E. Salary Review Committee:

Dr. Timmerman reported that the Salary Review Committee had met and there were two outstanding reviews. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has been selected to a group to review State Personnel policies and develop recommendations for the Budget and Control Board.

F. Appointments:

Dr. Timmerman distributed the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and the appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and other Department personnel (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission approved all appointments and re-appointments as recommended.

G. Other Remarks:

Commissioner Edens noted that various personnel in state government have been going to Daufauskie Island which has caused problems for some of the Conservation Officers in providing transportation on the island. Commissioner Edens suggested that an older vehicle of the Department be placed on Daufauskie Island for use by the Conservation Officers. Pat Ryan stated that a vehicle has been obtained that will be sent over there next week.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Commission Meeting will be held October 4, 1978, at 1:00 p. m., at the Bankers Trust Office.

ITEM IV. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made, seconded and adopted to adjourn. Following adjournment, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the S. C. Wildlife Education and Training Fund was held.

