

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION Bonneau Ferry, South Carolina

September 20, 1974

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Bonneau Ferry, near Moncks Corner, South Carolina on September 20, 1974 at 10:00 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Glenn presiding in Chairman Hudson's absence. Other Commissioners present were Dennis, Boykin, Buchanan, Rhame, Harris and Lumpkin. Others in attendance were Advisors Godwin, Ford, and Johnson; Mr. Webb, Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Pat Ryan, John Culler, Jeff Fuller, Dr. Laurent, Chief Chastain, Dr. Burrell, Tommy Welch, Pat Robertson, Ed Latimer, Brock Conrad, Joe Logan, Ned Pendarvis, and various other members of the staff.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as mailed out without corrections or additions. It was suggested by the Commission that we have an Index to the minutes of the Commission Meetings in order to look up action taken by the Commission. The staff will look into this.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Budget (FY 75-76): Dr. Timmerman stated that as per Commissioner Glenn's request, an organizational chart of the department with names in the key positions has been drawn up and is on its way to the printers and should be available by the end of next week. With the assistance of Ned Pendarvis, Dr. Timmerman gave a chart presentation of the 75-76 Budget to the Commission as will be done before the Budget & Control Board on October 3, 1974 at 10:45 am. The total budget is \$12,196,764. 50.1% of this will be state funds. There was some discussion expressing concern with the projected budget expenditures for FY 75-76 and inflation. It was felt that we should consider cutting back on expenses. Commissioner Dennis stated that as Chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the Budget & Control Board, he feels that our department is run as efficiently and economically as any agency in the State and we will be generating a dollar for every dollar we are asking for, although he shares this concern and is aware that Government is getting bigger and all agencies should seek to curtail expenses. A motion was made by Commissioner Boykin to approve this budget, seconded by Commissioner Buchanan and approved by the Commission.

There was a suggestion that the public should be assured that the money that they are spending on licenses, etc. is going back into our general revenue and that news releases be sent out to inform the people of the state. This will be looked into by the staff.

B. Inventory of Department Properties: Dr. Timmerman reported that the list is not quite completed, but are in the final stages of putting it together and it should be ready before the next Commission Meeting. After the list is completed, all properties will be inspected as to their use, condition, etc.

C. RE: Shrimp Trawling vs. Channel Nets: Dr. Joseph reported that Charlie Bearden has been working on this and that the way the Regulations read this year, the channel nets could not be fished at the prescribed sites until the adjacent bays and sounds were opened. This was opened on September 9th and we have issued approximately forty-four (44) permits for this season and only about nine (9) have been fished. Of the catches our



people have examined, they have been good size shrimp. We do not see any reason to change our policy on this at this time. Mr. Bearden will get a more detailed report to the Commission now that the season is opened.

Commissioner Glenn stated that the Commission used to get an action report on what had been done on different projects that were held in abeyance from one meeting until the next and would like to continue to receive these reports. The staff will look into this.

Commissioner Rhame introduced his guests, Mr. Frank Ford and Mr. Carroll Godwin, members of the Game & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board and Mr. Coy Johnson, our host, also an Advisory Board Member. Mr. Al Cannon from the Wildlife Federation was also visiting.

D. Bi-Centennial Projects: Mr. Webb told the Commission that we have been requested to make a selection for our project to celebrate the Bi-Centennial. Have recommended the Dennis Wildlife Center, but it was felt that our Heritage Trust Program would be more appropriate. Dr. Timmerman stated that he has contacted Rep. Sam Manning in Spartanburg who is very active in the Bi-Centennial program and he said that he would make it a point to bring this before the Bi-Centennial Committee and getting the S. C. Heritage Trust Program major emphasis. There was some discussion on how much money would be spent, who is going to do the work. Dr. Timmerman stated that basically, money to be spent would be very minimal, mostly public relations, news releases, and things of this nature. Would like to have Commission approval and then the staff would handle it from there. It was decided that we would have the Dennis Wildlife Center and the Heritage Trust Program and our projects, and neither one would have particular priority. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve this.

E. Suggested Legislation from Law Enforcement: Commissioner Harris stated that he is not ready to report on this and will not be until after the next Advisory Board meeting, but asked Pat Ryan to get together with Bill Cotty, Gaines Smith and others and give a recommendation as to suggested legislation. This will be carried over to the next meeting.

F. Cooperative Research Center Bids: Dr. Timmerman reported to the Commission that we went out for bids on this facility, which is a facility working with the colleges and universities as well as ourselves and the project was bid on. The low bid was \$2,300,000 and high bid was about \$3,000,000. We do not have the money available for either one of those. The low bidder was Threatt-Maxwell Construction Company. He sent a telegram the next day stating that he had made a mathematical error and requested his bid to be withdrawn. We acknowledged the telegram stating that we would have to have sufficient backup information on this and it was received and turned over to our Architect and Engineer firm to be studied. Had a meeting with the Attorney General, Lockwood Greene and all parties concerned and since we didn't have the money, we allowed them to withdraw their bid and this has been done in the form of a letter. Lockwood Greene will resubmit bids on this, but we are going out for separate bids and doing some cutting back on the activities which would not change the overall design of the building, but might conserve money. Authorization of bonded money is about \$2,050,000 which has to go for the architects fees and equipment. Roughly, we will have approximately \$1,800,000. Bids will be submitted with alternates.

Also, the expansion of the Dennis Wildlife Center was approved by the legislature last year for a little under \$1,000,000. Dr. Timmerman, Jeff Fuller and Dr. Joseph



and the staff with outside assistance have been doing some preliminary planning for this and are at the stage now where they need the service of an architect and engineering firm. The Budget & Control Board have published a revised procedure to follow dated July 10, 1973 on exactly how you are to handle this, how to announce this, how to perform conferences with at least three architect firms, how these three are to be selected, how negotiations are to take place, and how you are to present it to the Budget & Control Board for final decision and approval. Would like to have authority from the Commission to go ahead and proceed with this as set forth by the Budget & Control Board. Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion, Commissioner Rhame seconded it and it was approved by the Commission.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Boating Regulations Cantey Bay-Lake Marion: Tommy Welch reported that presently we have a boating regulation concerning Cantey Bay which was approved in 1969 that prohibits operation of boats in certain waters of that area from November 1 to March 15 each year. This was requested by the Fish & Wildlife people because the ducks and geese rest there and people coming through flush them out. A question has come up concerning some leaseholders and property owners in the area that do not have ingress and egress by boat. A meeting of the Fish & Wildlife people, some of the property owners and Sen. Morris was held and it was generally conceded that if we could give these people ingress and egress to their property it would take care of the situation. The proposed regulation that has been drawn would give the Fish & Wildlife people authority to allow these property owners and leaseholders in ingress and egress at a slow, no wake speed. This would be the only change in the present regulation: 'Upon request to the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Services, Summerton, S. C., property owners and leaseholders adjacent to Cantey Bay will be issued a special use permit to provide the ingress and egress through Cantey Bay at a slow, no wake speed in a designated area from November 1 to November 28 each year'. Commissioner Dennis made a motion to approve this ammendment to the present regulation, seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed.

Rule & Regulation Concerning Boat Manufacturers & Certificate of Origin: Tommy Welch stated that at the June Commission meeting the Commission approve a proposed regulation which allowed boat dealers sixty (60) days from July 1 to September 1, 1974 to get in compliance with the Titling Act. Some dealers are still not in compliance, therefore, we request additional time and also to be allowed to accept Certificates of Origin on any type of form, provided the information obtained on that form is identical to what would be required on the state form. There was some dicussion on this and it was the general feeling that the Legislature needs to make a change as to the forms that are required for the Certificates of Origin. Commissioner Dennis suggested extending the deadline until March 3, 1975, in order to have the Legislature look into it. Commissioner Rhame made motion to adopt this regulation, seconded by Commissioner Lumpkin and passed.

B. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Game & Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller had nothing to add to his written report.

2. Boating and Law Enforcement: Pat Ryan stated that on October 4, 1974 at 7:00 pm, we will recognize the Outstanding Conservation Officer of the Year at Pine Island, S. C. Electric and Gas facility, and extended an invitation to the Commission to attend. This will be a Bar-b-que and the speaker will be Mr. Ken Black, Regional



Director of the Fish & Wildlife Services in Atlanta, Georgia. Information and maps will be mailed out. This year the men elected in the Districts the outstanding officer within the District and in turn the nine (9) outstanding officers elected the Outstanding Office of the Year. This officer will be honored at the S. E. Association meeting. Wendy Pulaski was elected this year.

Dr. Timmerman strongly recommends that the Commission look into the possibility of getting a scrambler for the airplane so we cannot be monitored. We have LEAA Funds available. The cost of getting them for the radios would run \$300-\$400 per radio.

Dr. Timmerman gave a report on the undercover agents and the work they have done. Thinks the Commission, through Commissioner Harris's Advisory Board should look into this and see if they are getting adequate pay. Pat Ryan stated that he would like to discuss this with Dr. Timmerman & Commissioner Harris before anything is done on it.

3. Information & Public Affairs: John Culler has nothing to add to his written report.

4. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph reported that there are some problems with the hydraulic clam fishery in the Santee area and that the future of this could be hampered by too many boats operating on a limited source. Suggests limiting the number of permits to be issued. He will meet with the dealers in McClellanville this afternoon to discuss this problem. Commissioner Dennis stated that the shrimpers and crabbers are complaining about the damage that is being done by the trawlers and asked Dr. Joseph to look very carefully at this and determine whether or not it should be allowed at all, and if it is doing any real damage, he would like to see it stopped. Serious charges have been made against the Commission that are unfounded and he requests that someone reply to the writer of the letter. Dr. Timmerman has previous correspondence and will send the Commission this information.

5. Natural Area Acquisition and Resource Planning: Dr. Laurent has nothing to add to his written report.

Mr. Webb reported that the Department is to receive approximately 180 acres of land to be actively used for the Boy & Girl Scouts and maintained by the Wildlife Department. Mr. Andrew Betha of the city of Dillon died and left this to us. There was some discussion on whether or not we are the right group for this. Commissioner Dennis suggested that this be referred to Ed Latimer to get his recommendations on whether or not it should be referred to another agency, the legal details, and what stand we should take on this. The Commission approved this suggestion.

6. Administrative Services: Ned Pendarvis reported in Wash Belangia's absence that this Division is working with the Budget & Control Board to set up a bidding procedure and will keep the Commission informed. Commissioner Rhame asked about the county funds being listed in the financial report and it was reported that these will be presented on a month to month basis beginning next month.

C. APPOINTMENTS: Non-pay; There were recommendations mailed out for re-appointment of the following: Johnnie McAllister, Jr. ; Winton V. Roberts; Robert B. Russell; Warren O. Watts; William O. Lehmann; Ralph H. Bruce; Oscar L. Leppert, Jr.; W. Frank Mishoe; New appointments. Robert L. Gaskin & John Robert Clements, Sr. Approved by the Commission subject to the approval of the Resident Commissioner in those areas.

Not mailed out was recommendation for reappointment of R. V. Larimore, Marion County as a non-pay. There being no objection, this was approved.

Not mailed out was recommendation for appointment of John K. Coker, Darlington



County as a non-pay. There being no objection, this was approved.

SALARIED: Not mailed out was recommendation for new appointment to fill a vacancy and one new position on Lockland Maxwell, Hampton-Allendale Counties and Lee Mills, Jr., Varnville, Hampton County. There being no objection, these were approved.

Not mailed out was recommendation for Bruce Yates Jackson, Kershaw-Fairfield Counties, new position. There being no objection, this was approved.

Mr. Webb recommended approval of a new position in Williamsburg County. Have two applications, which have not been investigated at this time. Commissioner Dennis made a motion to approve this new position, subject to clearance of Law Enforcement and Mr. Webb and the resident Commissioner. The motion was seconded and carried.

It was noted that the policy of this Commission is that there is absolutely no discrimination because of race, creed or color.

The Commission requested an up-to-date list of all non-pay Conservation Officers by county or district. This will be looked into by the staff.

D. COMMENTS: Commissioner Harris read a letter from Eddie Finlay to Chairman Hudson suggesting setting up an Edward B. Cantey Award, in memory of Major Cantey to go to the most Outstanding Conservation Office of the Year in addition to the regular award. The donation system will have to be worked out. John Culler stated that he has received a donation of \$25 to the magazine in Major Cantey's name and he has advised Mrs. Cantey of this. Commissioner Glenn appointed Commissioner Harris as a committee of one to work on this and answer Mr. Finlay's letter. Commissioner Dennis made a motion to have a committee appointed to draw up a resolution in memory of Major Cantey and Gene Howell for the service they gave to the Department and Commission. After this is adopted by the Commission a copy will be sent to the families. The motion was seconded and passed. Commissioner Glenn appointed Commissioner Dennis and Commissioner Rhame to this committee and requested Mr. Webb to work with them.

Commissioner Lumpkin brought to the attention of the Commission a problem with the College of Charleston in that they want to obtain a small amount of land at the Marine Center for recreational purposes. He suggests that we appoint a committee to talk with them to see if we could work this out. Commissioner Rhame suggested that Commissioner Lumpkin's Advisory Board study this, also. Commissioners Lumpkin, Glenn and Hudson will make up this committee with Lumpkin as Chairman. It was noted that this does not mean that we endorse this concept, but it will be studied. Dr. Timmerman will make copies of the agreement for this Committee.

Commissioner Rhame and the Commission and Department extended sympathy to Mr. Frank Ford and his family for the loss of his son.

Commissioner Dennis expressed deep appreciation to Coy Johnson and his colleagues for their hospitable arrangements for our meeting today.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Stapleton

(Miss) Chris Stapleton,
Secretary to the Commission

