

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, South Carolina
September 21, 1990
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 a.m. on September 21, 1990, in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, South Carolina, with Chairman Burnside presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Chairman Burnside, Commissioners Drummond, Compton, Pendarvis, Owen, Miller, Graham, Snow and Poston. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Dan Dobbins, Prescott Baines, Paul Sandifer, Brock Conrad, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain and various other staff members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 August 17, 1990, Commission meeting and approved them as submitted.

At this time, Chairman Burnside informed the Commission that Dr. Timmerman had been given an award and asked John Frampton to discuss it further. John Frampton informed the Commission that at the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual meeting, Dr. Timmerman had recently been given the Seth Gordon Award, the highest award that organization can bestow upon one of its members. He then read the citation to the Commission and the Commission offered Dr. Timmerman their congratulations.

ITEM II - Comments

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Department's budget hearing was held before the Budget and Control Board on September 4, 1990. He stated that the next budget year would be the most austere year that the agency's has every had to face. He pointed out that the federal budget may be cut if the budget compromise is not successful and that this would be an additional burden.

Dr. Timmerman reported that he is a member of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and that the Council has been meeting in Washington to review projects from across North America for funding. He said that out of thirty projects across the North American continent, the ACE Basin came out as the number two priority.



ITEM III - AREAS OF CONCERN

Dr. Timmerman reported that ago he had asked a staff committee to look at several of the areas of activities within the Department to insure that they were being handled in a professional and business like way. He stated that they had reviewed several administrative situations to be sure that no abuse or potential for abuse exists. He distributed a list of the areas which were considered by the committee and reviewed them briefly. He stated that there was only one area of remaining concern, shrimp that were produced through the experiment work at the Waddell Mariculture Center. He stated that these shrimp could now be used for department functions as well as for seafood marketing promotion. He said that the Department was following the procedure very closely, but that it might be better to restrict such utilization to seafood marketing promotions only, and not to allow their use for meetings and other functions. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Compton made a motion that such shrimp products only be used for marketing, and the remainder would be sold and the money returned to the Department's General Operating Fund. Senator Drummond seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Dr. Timmerman stated that at the last Commission meeting there was some discussion about past Commissioners who held DWCO Commissions but had not completed the mandatory firearms training and possible liability. Commissioner Compton made a motion that all the qualifications that the Commission has specified for DWCO commissions be applicable to everyone and if they are not met, the commission would be revoked. He further moved that staff be directed to develop an honorary commission of some description for past commissioners who either could not or choose not to complete necessary qualifications for DWCO commissions. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion and it passed.

Dr. Timmerman stated that the Southeastern Association meeting on October 21 - 24 in Richmond, Virginia, and asked any Commissioner interested in going to let the staff know so that reservations could be made.

Dr. Timmerman then stated that there would be a meeting on November 15, with all the sportsmen's clubs across the state at the Holiday Inn on Assembly Street, and asked the Commission to attend.

ITEM IV - APPEARANCE

Chairman Burnside then introduced Ms. Carol H. Cassetti for a presentation. Ms. Cassetti said she was one of the founding members of an organization called Carolina Wildlife Care, an organization of individuals which helped care for injured wildlife. She said they were concerned about the number of animals that were turned into them that had been injured by



domestic pets. She said that her organization would like to request help from the Department to establish a statewide network of such animal assistance groups and to educate public on wildlife habits and the problems caused by domestic pets.

Chairman Burnside stated that they would receive this request as information and asked the staff to get back in touch with her to determine how the Department could be of assistance.

ITEM V - OLD BUSINESS

This was covered previously in the meeting.

ITEM VI - NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Permit Procedure for Exotic or Imported Aquaculture Species: Commission Pendarvis stated that the Marine Advisory Board had been dealing with this issue in great detail and presented a document containing research and information on the issue. He said that it would be discussed at the next Advisory Board meeting and that they would bring recommendations to the Commission once they deliberated the issue further. The meeting would be on October 5 at 10:00 a.m. in Murrells Inlet and he invited the Commission to attend if they could.

B. Proposed Fall Turkey Season for 1990: Mr. Conrad stated that the proposed Fall Turkey Season was sent in the Commission package and that he had one addition; in the Central Piedmont, east of Highway 221 and south of Highway I-85 in Spartanburg County would be opened, making it consistent with Laurens and Cherokee counties. Commissioner Compton made a motion that the Fall Turkey Season be adopted as presented with the one addition, Mr. Pendarvis seconded and the motion passed.

C. Proposed Land Acquisition To Management Plan for Woods Bay: Chairman Burnside then called on Stuart Greeter who explained the proposed management plan being developed with PRT, stating that the proposed acquisition would be discussed in executive session. After the discussion of the management plan Commissioner Compton made a motion that the plan be approved, Commissioner Poston seconded and the motion passed.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Bill Chastain introduced Mike Naylor, the Department's new communications technician.

He then discussed briefly the types of measures his Division is taking to meet the budget reductions in equipment and supplies, with Dr. Timmerman stating that this was demonstrative of the type of extreme measures that the Department is being forced to take because of the funding reductions.

He also stated that he was looking into the expense of operating and maintaining special units, stating that these units make up a large portion of the Division's travel budget. Senator



Drummond commented that \$400,000 of the Division's budget went to support the RAID Team, and urged the Department to seek assistance from the RAID Team fund if possible; and if not possible, to seek funding from the General Assembly to fund the RAID Team so that it would not come out of the Division's budget. Commissioner Pendarvis suggested that the Division look closely at its vehicle use to determine if alternative vehicles might be more economical. Dr. Timmerman stated that he and Benny would forward to the Commission a copy of the Department's budget request so they could assist in any way possible.

4. Conservation, Education & Communication: Sonny Baines then asked Mike Creel to distribute the Fall Edition of the Department's *Resource Magazine*, stating that it would be sent to 65,000 people in South Carolina.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Sandifer reported that John Miglarese and Joe Carson had been activated because of the middle east crisis, and would be on active duty service for sometime.

He stated to date 7,400 shrimp baiting permits have been sold and expects that this would increase.

He stated that the shrimp season appears to be good, and that the baiting success to date appears to indicate that the protective measures that the Department had recommended in the Spring to protect those remaining overwintering white shrimp appears to have been successful.

Dr. Sandifer reported that they had discovered a leak from the Department's diesel fuel tank which was buried beside the boat slips. He stated that it was going to be an expensive proposition to remove that tank and then remove the contaminated soil and have it disposed of. He stated that there was no environmental damage and indicated the total cost may exceed \$80,000. Dr. Timmerman reported that the Department is now evaluating all of its underground fuel tanks to be sure they are safe and to develop a monitoring program. Senator Drummond commented that the Super Fund Program would cover underground tanks, but cautioned that any problems with above ground tanks was not covered under the Super Fund Program.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commission Miller stated that the Advisory Board met at Windsor Plantation on September 19 and discussed several items of interest and concern, but none requiring Commission action at this time.

There was a discussion concerning the request made at the last Commission meeting for the Commission to take a position on night shining legislation. Following this discussion, the Commission decided not to take a position on this matter.

2. Marine Resources Advisory Board: Commissioner Pendarvis stated that he had already covered the items to be discussed at their meeting.

3. Heritage Trust Advisory Board: Tom Kohlsaas reported that the Board met on August 23-24 to dedicate the Glassy Mountain acquisition.



F. Further Remarks: Commissioner Owens stated that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board has two members whose terms are expiring, one being Ed Muckenfuss who has made a significant contribution to the Board. He stated that this is a Commission appointment and moved that the Commission reappoint him. Senator Drummond seconded and the motion was passed.

He also stated that Allen Cauthen was a gubernatorial appointee and he had been appointed to head up a committee to develop a statewide freshwater fishing coalition. He stated that this effort is about half way through and it would be detrimental if Mr. Cauthen were not reappointed by the Governor, and he moved that the Commission recommend to the Governor that he be reappointed. Commissioner Compton seconded, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Compton then made the motion for the Commission hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate matters. Commissioner Miller seconded, and the motion passed.

Chairman Burnside announced that at this time the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss matters.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting. Commissioner Compton moved that the Commission accept the recommendation of staff concerning inclusion of the various properties in the Heritage Trust. Senator Drummond seconded, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Compton stated that, having voted on the prevailing side, he moved the Commission reconsider the vote whereby the Commission established a Senior Advisory Committee composed of former commissioners. Senator Drummond seconded the motion, and motion passed.

Commissioner Compton moved that the Commission rescind the establishment of a Senior Advisory Board to the Commission, composed of past commissioners, and that Commission Miller's committee reconsider this matter for further study, with action to be recommended at a later meeting. Commissioner Owen seconded, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the adoption of the recommendations on newly hired conservation officers, promotions for conservation officers, DWCO re-appointments recommended, and new appointments not recommended as presented by staff. Senator Drummond seconded the motion and the motion passed.



Commissioner Compton made the motion that amendments to policies C-036 and C-015 be approved as presented. Senator Drummond seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Graham made the motion that Dr. James Todd, a Commission appointee to the CEC Advisory Board be reappointed by the Commission. Commissioner Poston seconded, and the motion passed.

Dr. Timmerman pointed out that, since the last meeting, Dr. Graham had been appointed as Chairman of the CEC Advisory Board, and asked that the Commission minutes so reflect.

ITEM VII Recognition of Ed Muckenfuss:

Mr. Muckenfuss gave a report on the Hunters Organization Roundtable which had been organized under the auspices of the S.C. Wildlife Federation. He stated that the objective of the Roundtable was to bring all the hunter organizations together to present a unified image to the public as well as to promote the sport of hunting and combat any efforts to restrict hunting and reported on recent action taken. He stated that he and John Frampton had been considering the possibility of an advisory board that would evolve from the November 15 meeting that could advise the Commission on various matters dealing with the area of discussion during that meeting.

Dan Dobbins reported that he had passed out copies of correspondence from the Department to our Congressional Delegation expressing opposition to Section 308 of the 1990 Water Resources Development Act, an amendment would cause some serious problems on some of the older-authorized Corps of Engineers lakes such as Lakes Hartwell and Thurmond. He stated that he understood that Congressman Derrick had come out in opposition to this provision and that he felt that it could be beaten in Congress.

Dan stated that he wanted to commend Commissioner Miller for bringing this matter to his attention and to also commend Commissioner Owen who began to work on this matter very quickly in his area of the State.

ITEM VIII. - TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Chairman Burnside announced that the next meeting would be held on October 19, 1990 in Columbia.

ITEM IX. - ADJOURN

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

