

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S.C.
April 15, 1994
10:00 a.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, April 15, 1994, in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, S.C. Notice of the date, time and location of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Burnside, Miller, Haynsworth, Pendarvis, Poston, Graham, Rasor, and Leary. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Paul Sandifer, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines and various other staff 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 March 25, 1994, Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman discussed the Department's budget noting that funds were being requested for vacancies and equipment in the Department. He went over the funds approved in the House version of the budget and noted that we are working with the Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee at this time. Dr. Timmerman asked the Commissioners to contact members of the Senate Finance Committee to seek their support for the Subcommittee's recommendations.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the FY 91-92 audit was recently completed and they could find no problems in the Department for this fiscal year. Dr. Timmerman commended Benny Reeves for an outstanding job regarding this matter and this audit.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the dedication of the Palachucola Wildlife Management Area would be held at 3:00 p.m. on April 23, 1994.



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Dr. Timmerman distributed the Quarterly Vehicle Accident Report and the new State telephone directory to the Commissioners for their information.

Dr. Timmerman went over restructuring noting that we are working on the development of a total natural resources department. He went over the staff changes in the administrative area, legal area, and the personnel office. Dr. Timmerman discussed the various changes in office spaces, and Larry Cartee updated the Commission on the progress made in the DNR Strategic Planning Process. Dr. Timmerman discussed the various committees formed to review functional matters in the DNR and noted that he will appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to review Water Resources in the future and make recommendations.

Commissioner Pendarvis asked about the new radio system discussed in the Director's staff meeting and wanted to know if we were outdated with our current system. Dr. Timmerman discussed the new system briefly and stated that this would be put on the Commission agenda for discussion at the next meeting. Commissioner Pendarvis discussed the legal requirements on commuting charges, and Dr. Timmerman noted that he feels comfortable that we are complying with the law on this matter.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Bob Brantly who recently retired from the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission will visit our agency on May 10-12, 1994, to review the non-game and game programs.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Responsive Management Survey has recently been completed that and Larry Cartee will provide a briefing to the Commission on this survey at the May meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we will be getting involved in Total Quality Management, and Caroline Agardy will be addressing this matter at the May Commission meeting. He stated that this will be a total commitment to TQM at all levels in the Department.

Dr. Timmerman went over the hearing process for regulation changes and noted that it will probably take until July to complete the hearings on the proposed changes in the Wildlife Management Area Regulations. Buford Mabry discussed this process in detail and went over the time frame for the public hearings and the proposed regulation changes.



ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dan Dobbins distributed the twelfth legislative report to the Commission and went over the status of various Bills and actions that had been taken on various Bills. Mr. Dobbins noted that the Legislative Planning Committee will meet today at 2:00 p.m. to develop plans for upcoming Committee hearings on various Bills.

ITEM IV - NEW BUSINESS

A. Land Transfer by Farmers Home Administration - Breck Carmichael introduced Mr. Steve Slice of the Farmers Home Administration who presented a deed for transferring 686 acres in Chesterfield County to the Department. Mr. Carmichael noted that another 101 acres has been approved for transfer and will be done at a later date. Brock Conrad commended Breck Carmichael for his hard work on this land transfer by the Farmers Home Administration. Chairman Burnside expressed thanks to the Farmers Home Administration for the transfer of this property to the Department.

B. Division Reports:

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

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

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

4. Conservation Education & Communications: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer invited the Commission to attend the Marine Fishing Fair on May 14-15, 1994. He also noted that a NOAA plan to develop a Coastal Ecosystem Center at the Naval Base is being proposed and the Commission will be briefed on this matter at a later date.

C. OTHER REMARKS: Commissioner Pendarvis expressed thanks to the Department and the staff for the overwhelming success of the 1994 Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic held March 25-27, 1994 at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia, SC.

At this time, Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Poston 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 personnel 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.

The Commission adopted a motion to accept staff recommendations presented on Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer appointments to include revocations, cancellations, and change of authority.

D. Appointments: This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

E. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia, on May 20, 1994 at 10:00 a.m. in the Columbia office.

ITEM V - ADJOURN

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

