

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION Bankers Trust Tower Columbia, South Carolina

April 18, 1975

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at Bankers Trust Tower in Columbia, South Carolina at 10:00 am, April 18th, 1975 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Boykin, Harris, Rhame, and Glenn. Others present were Dr. Timmerman, Mr. Webb, Dr. Joseph, Dr. Laurent, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Chastain, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Culler, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Latimer, Mr. Cartee, Mr. Belangia, Mr. Pendarvis and various other staff members. Guests present were Mr. Frank Caggiano, Mr. Clark Surratt, and Dr. Willard Davis, Vice-President of USC, who in the past, provided guidance toward developing the research program at Charleston, along with involvement with the S. C. Sea Grant Program.

Chairman Hudson stated that if any Commissioner desires an Executive Session, it must be voted upon at the beginning of each meeting. Commissioner Glenn made a motion that an Executive Session be held immediately after this regular meeting, it was seconded and passed.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as they were mailed out.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS

A. INDEXING OF MINUTES: Wash Belangia reported that this system has been developed for the calendar year 1974. Each month's agenda and minutes were bound and an alphabetized topic listing was developed showing the month and page where each topic is discussed. He noted the possibility of computerizing this operation through General Services at an initial cost and one year's run for about \$1,200 with an operational cost thereafter of \$300-\$500/year. This could be started after July 1, 1975. The Commission recommended this be developed starting with 1970 to the present time. The cost for this is being developed for presentation at the next meeting along with the computerized automobile expense system.

B. RAISING QUAIL AT WEBB CENTER: Jeff Fuller stated that at the last meeting, the Commission instructed the staff to make recommendations concerning this matter. Have looked into this and studied it again and reviewed the information that they have. Mr. Fuller asked Brock Conrad to report on the background of this. Conrad reported that several years ago a hatchery was developed there for a program of experimental release of exotic birds throughout the State. This was discontinued but quail were raised at the hatchery for release. Due to the high cost of operation and poor quality birds, the Commission ordered its discontinuance and the purchase of commercially raised quail for release. This proved unsuccessful after one season and the Commission requested its discontinuance. The staff was instructed to develop a long-range plan for development of quail habitat at the Webb Center. This was developed and about 75% implemented. The quail hunting has and is gradually improving. Several timber cutting contracts have been initiated to further develop opening to create suitable habitat but this has not been accomplished and is holding up further implementation of the management plan. Chairman Hudson noted that these people would probably have to be pushed into harvesting the timber. Thus, any



requests for extensions of the contract should be denied. Conrad noted that most hunters have expressed general satisfaction at quail hunting in the Center and there is dove hunting there also. They recommend a continuance of the same policy of implementing the long-range management plan. Commissioner Harris noted that the staff is over-emphasizing hunting in regard to research and public uses of the Center. Conrad noted that game quail research is ongoing at the Center. Chairman Hudson questioned whether or not we are doing the necessary research at the Center and whether or not providing hunting for a few hundred people each year is the best method to attain the most benefits from the property. Commissioner Harris noted that many different ideas were being discussed by the Advisory Committees and staff without regard to its importance relative to previous recommendations by Mr. Smith and the development of a comprehensive plan. Thus, he recommended that the previous recommendations by Mr. Smith be continued and used as a base for the development of a comprehensive plan for the entire Center. This plan should be designed to gain the most public acceptance. Thus, the Advisory Committees and staff are to further pursue the development of a comprehensive plan.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION - MAJOR CANTEY: The family was not present, therefore, this item was omitted.

B. BOATING SAFETY PROGRAM REPORT: Pat Ryan reported on the development of the boating safety program for the next five years. The functional areas which are developed include: 1) Boater Safety Education Program which is presently being implemented in the State's school system; 2) Boat Ramp Launching Program; 3) Marking of Hazardous Water Areas which has been partially implemented in Lake Wylie; 4) Clearance of Smagging and Obstructions Program; and 5) Scuba Diving Teams for use in recovering drowning victims. Dr. Timmerman reported that the boat registration and titling operation had been taken out of the Boating Section and placed in the Division of Administrative Services to free boating personnel to develop a functional program. Commissioner Rhame noted that he had received numerous complaints about time delays in receiving registrations from the Columbia Office. Wash Belangia noted that the new titling law had caused administrative problems and public confusion which, computerized this should help solve many problems.

C. IN-DEPTH REPORT - GAME & FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION: Jeff Fuller gave an in-depth progress report on this Division for the past six months. Topics he discussed included: 1) Herring counter at the Pinopolis Dam, 2) Hiring of an Administrative Assistant, 3) Development of the non-game and endangered species program, 4) Deer restoration in Greenville County, 5) Deer and small game harvest data, and 6) Turkey restoration.

D. DIVISION REPORTS: Dr. Laurent reported that the draft Heritage Trust Legislation has been finalized and should be introduced next week. With clarification to existing legal doctrines he reported that with regard to departmental responses to dredge and fill permits, the department must respond only to environmental effects on State property only for State permits through the Budget and Control Board. In responding to Corps permits, the department can respond to environmental effects by a project on both private and state owned property. Thus, this could mean that the Department could approve a project at the State level but oppose it at the Federal level. He also reported that the economic review of the Trotters Shoals project would be updated by Dr. Stepp at Clemson for a cost of \$2500 to be completed by



July 5, 1975. The commission concurred with Dr. Timmerman in approaching the Governor to obtain funds and encourage their use of the results. However, if the Governor is unwilling to fund the project, the Department is to seek means to defray the cost. Chairman Hudson reported that Mr. Dorn was willing to testify at the proposed special meeting to be held. Once all the information is obtained, this special meeting will be held. Dr. Laurent also reported that the steering committee to study the Congaree Swamp had met to develop information and offer alternatives. A member of the Biedler family from Charleston has been asked to join but no acceptance has been received as yet.

Dr. Timmerman reported that he attended the unveiling of a portrait of Senator Dennis at which Senator Stevens, D-Horry County, gave special praise to the Department and the S. C. Wildlife magazine. Senator Moore desires to introduce legislation designating the wild turkey as the State Game Bird and sought the concurrence of the Commission concerning this matter. A motion was made by Commissioner Rhame and seconded by Commissioner Boykin to approve this. Dr. Timmerman is to prepare a Resolution to that effect.

E. APPOINTMENTS: A motion was made to approve all appointment recommendations that were mailed out prior to this meeting. (Salaried) Recommendation was made for a non-pay renewal position at Longlands Plantation in Williamsburg County. A motion was made and seconded to approve. (name not available to me at the writing of these minutes). Non-Pay Game Warden Application for Dan T. Suddeth for limited authority in Oconee County was left pending further investigation and Chairman Hudson reserved the right to checking into this before making a decision. Also, Sanders from Barnwell, reappointment for the two counties. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Dr. Timmerman reported that he had met with Bob Derrick of the State Personnel Division concerning the failure of the Brown Study to upgrade the salaries of Law Enforcement and Biologist Aide personnel. An official request for re-review has been submitted but no response has been received, as yet.

Commissioner Glenn reported that the Department has received some unfavorable publicity in Hampton County over the lack of access to the picnic area at the newly developed Lake Warren. The Commission recommended that steps be taken to utilize county funds to pave the road to the picnic area. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve this recommendation.

Dr. Timmerman gave a brief status report on the Department's budget request for fiscal year 1975-76, indicating that an additional \$190,000 is needed in the budget so as to maintain a status quo with all operations. However, he noted that the staff of the Senate Finance Committee is discussing further cutbacks due to lower estimated State revenues.

Commissioner Glenn asked how the Department plans to subsidize the expected \$50,000 deficiency in the I & PA Division this fiscal year and Dr. Timmerman indicated that he would present some recommendations concerning this matter at the May Commission meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Boykin to adjourn into Executive Session. The motion was seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Stapleton
(Miss) Chris Stapleton, Commission Secretary

