

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Conference Room, Second Floor
First National Bank
Edgefield, S. C.

April 20, 1984
11:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in the Second Floor Conference Room, First National Bank, Edgefield, South Carolina at 11:00 A.M., April 20, 1984, with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Webster, Compton, Stubbs, Dawson, Harrelson and Bennett. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Dan Dobbins, Jeff Fuller, Dr. Sandifer, Sonny Baines and Bill Chastain, and various other staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 11:00 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 16, 1984 Commission meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that over recent years, we have experienced the loss of Game Management lands -- some of which are prime hunting lands. This matter needs review along with the potential acquisition of wetlands. Dr. Timmerman suggested that a Blue Ribbon Committee composed of sportsmen, landowners, timber managers, etc., be appointed to discuss problems with GMA lands and develop recommendations on how to handle such. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt this recommendation with a package being presented to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman introduced Mr. Kenneth Morgan of the First National Bank and thanked him for use of their Conference Room.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he was recently in Boston at the North American Wildlife Conference. Secretary of Interior, William Clark, was at this Conference and they are taking a close look at the lead/steel shot issue. This is currently under study and a policy recommendation may be developed. Dr. Timmerman noted the Atlantic Flyway Council's Technical Committee has recommended a return to steel shot in 1987 and the Council has adopted a resolution requesting the federal budget proviso on steel shot be removed and allow the federal government to enforce steel shot regulations. Dr. Timmerman stated that we have asked for a ten-day extension on the waterfowl season and this matter is being pursued through the Council.



Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we have been invited on a tour of the Union Camp facilities at Eastover and he asked the Commissioners to let him know if they would like to attend.

Dr. Timmerman noted the Dingell-Johnson Expansion Bill passed the Senate this week and it will now go to a Conference Committee. This would provide additional funds for marine and freshwater fisheries. A staff recommendation on this allocation will be developed and presented to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman passed out a report on personnel totals by program since 1976 and went over this briefly with the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Marine Resources Division has felt the greatest impact on loss of employees over the past few years and we are seeking some budget assistance in this area this year.

Dr. Timmerman noted the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund and S. C. Ducks Unlimited have been working on the Boykin Spaniel Art Print to raise funds. Dr. Timmerman stated the Boykin Spaniel is the only dog which has been bred in South Carolina and the Hampton Board and various citizens have requested the Commission's endorsement of the Boykin Spaniel as the State Dog. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to endorse the Boykin Spaniel as the State Dog. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. The Commission requested that the staff pursue this action in the legislature next year.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a copy of the most recent Legislative Report and went over the status of various bills. He noted that the marine bills, as a result of the public hearings along the coast, have passed the Senate and sent to the House.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Dr. Timmerman gave the Commission an update of the budget bill noting that we will appear before the Senate Finance Committee shortly. Dr. Timmerman requested the Commission's endorsement for a new request to seek \$50,000 for Project WILD from the Senate Finance Committee. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve this request. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that bond funds have been released for the Georgetown Law Enforcement Office and he asked Commissioner Dawson to be in attendance at the groundbreaking for this office. Dr. Timmerman noted that we had requested the Bond Committee to accelerate funding for repairs to the Lake Wallace dam in Bennetteville and this request was approved by the Committee.

Dr. Timmerman noted the Mariculture Center dedication will be held on July 20, 1984 and he recommended that the Commission meet in Beaufort following this dedication. The Commission adopted a motion to meet in Beaufort on July 20th.



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

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

4. Information & Public Affairs: Sonny Baines briefed the Commission on a new procedure being developed on publication of rules and regulation.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Sandifer noted that the final inspection on the Mariculture Center has been completed and only some road work is left to complete this project. Commissioner Harrelson asked about the status of shrimp along the coast. Dr. Sandifer stated that sampling in the southern district will begin on Monday, but it does not look very encouraging at this point in time.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller reported in Commissioner Owen's absence and briefly went over the items discussed by the Board. Mr. Fuller noted the Board discussed fees for turkey tags and this will be presented to the Commission at a later date.

Dr. Timmerman noted that with the discussion on turkey tags and other items, it would be good for the Staff and the Advisory Board to have a joint symposium on turkeys to include hunters and property owners. The results of such a symposium could be brought back to the Advisory Board and the Commission for any appropriate action prior to the next legislative year. The National Wild Turkey Federation stated they would be glad to cooperate with such an effort.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain gave a brief summary of the Board's meeting in Commissioner Quackenbush's absence. Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that the Sumter Game and Fish Association made a donation to the Operation Game Thief Program. Chairman Webster asked about the funding level of the program. Bill Chastain reported that about \$6,000 - \$7,000 has been received since the program began.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted the Board met on April 13th in Georgetown and he went over the items discussed by the Board. Commissioner Compton noted the Board discussed a Report of the Shellfish/Marina Task Force and a Resolution adopting the Task Force Report and recommend these to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion of this matter by Ed Duncan, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt the Task Force Report and Resolution pertaining to such. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

C. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers. The Commission approved all Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer appointments and re-appointments with the change of appointing DWCO Guerry L. Hill, Jr. to include Countywide Authority in Colleton County.



The Commission also approved the change of authority of Kenneth M. Smith as recommended. The Commission adopted a motion to approve Conservation Officer re-appointments and the new appointments of James Allison Jordan in Florence County and Royser Thomas Butler in Jasper County. Dr. Timmerman noted that another appointment for a Conservation Officer is being considered. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that the regular meeting will recess for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to the regular meeting and participants were invited into the meeting. Chairman Webster announced that in the Executive Session, the Commission adopted a motion to postpone final action on the pending Conservation Officer's vacancy in Greenville County pending the acquisition of further information. The Commission adopted a motion to ratify this action taken in Executive Session.

D. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commission.

E. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting at Direlton Plantation at 10:00 A.M., May 11, 1984.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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

