

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

WITH THE LAURENS COUNTY DELEGATION

April 6, 1977

The Market Restaurant
Columbia, South Carolina

A meeting was held on Wednesday, April 6, 1977, at 1:00 pm at The Market Restaurant in Columbia, South Carolina between the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission and members of the Laurens County Delegation. Those in attendance were: Chairman J. W. Hudson, presiding; Commissioners Bennett, Edens, Buchanan, Boykin, Shuler, Lumpkin; Delegation Members Senator J. Verne Smith; Senator Carroll A. Campbell; Senator David S. Taylor; Senator Charles G. Garrett; Representative Marion P. Carnell; Representative Joe S. Holland and Representative Eugene C. Stoddard. Others in attendance at the meeting were Dr. James A. Timmerman; Bill Chastain; and Rembert Dennis, Jr., and Mr. Hubert Graydon, Chairman of Laurens County Democratic Party.

Dr. Timmerman stated that this meeting had been called to discuss a request from the Laurens County Delegation to transfer Laurens County from Law Enforcement District One into Law Enforcement District Two. A petition stating this request has been submitted to the Department with the signatures of the Laurens County Delegation. Chairman Hudson asked Senator Taylor to comment on the matter.

Senator Taylor thanked the Commission for the opportunity to meet with the them and he also thanked Dr. Timmerman and Department Staff for their cooperation in this matter. Senator Taylor stated that he feels that the Conservation Officers in the Laurens County area have been overlooked in the past as far as promotions are concerned. Also, Senator Taylor stated that he felt that with Lake Greenwood joining the Counties of Greenwood and Laurens and with other geographical considerations they would be in a more congenial situation and a better geographic location with the move of Laurens County from District One into District Two. Other points mentioned by Senator Taylor were problems concerning the use of a cabin on Lake Greenwood by Laurens County Conservation Officers and a request for radios for Laurens County.

Chairman Hudson stated that he was unaware of requests made by Laurens County to the Wildlife Department since these type of requests do not normally come before the Commission. As far as promotions are concerned, the Commission has not been involved, unless there is a problem that needs Commission action. Chairman Hudson stated that the Commission and Department wants to work with the Delegation and to have a good enforcement team in that area.

Representative Stoddard stated that he has had several sportsmen contact him recommending this move, and geographically he can not see any objection to the move.

Dr. Timmerman passed around a color coded chart of the Districts showing the counties in each District.



Representative Holland stated that he had contacted three Conservation Officers and they all stated that they would be happy to work wherever they were assigned. He also stated that he has contacted several hunters and they felt that the move would create a more compatible situation in that area. He also expressed some concern over lack of promotions in the Laurens County area in the past years.

Representative Carnell stated that he felt that the move would be very beneficial and pointed out that since Lake Greenwood is patrolled by Officers from both District One and District Two, it would make for a better enforcement situation if Laurens County were moved into District Two.

Dr. Timmerman stated that as far as the radio request is concerned, the purchase order has been processed and the radios should be received shortly. After checking the records, no record could be found regarding the request and this was obviously a misunderstanding.

Senator Smith commented that a large majority of Laurens County citizens are sportsmen and this matter has been of great concern to them and he feels that this move would be in the public interest.

Senator Garrett stated that he feels that the move would solve a number of problems.

At the request of Chairman Hudson, Bill Chastain commented on the boating situation on the lakes. Chastain stated that beginning last year, Conservation Officers from other counties were sent to work on the lakes. These "saturation teams" will probably be moving into the Lake Greenwood area from different parts of the state and Chastain stated that there will probably be criticism from the public on that because these teams will be a little tougher than the local man. These teams work under the supervision of the local Captains when they come in.

Other items discussed at the meeting included issuance of boat and motor titles and registrations, concerns of the small game hunters on hunting on Game Management Areas, trapping, and various other matters. Another matter discussed was the cabin on Lake Greenwood that was built with Laurens County Funds and assigned to the Wildlife Department and the use of that cabin. Dr. Timmerman will check into this matter and get a report back to the Delegation on this matter. Also, Senator Taylor commented that on two occasions, a film from the Wildlife Department was requested and reserved for game clubs in the Laurens County area, however, was never delivered for the meetings. Commissioner Edens suggested that in the future, letters of complaint be sent directly to Chairman Hudson or Dr. Timmerman so that these matters can be looked into and action taken.



Representative Stoddard expressed the Delegations appreciation to the Wildlife Commission for their time and for holding this meeting.

The Commission met briefly following their meeting with the Laurens County Delegation and determined that such a move would cause no law enforcement problems. Therefore, Commissioner Buchanan made a motion to approve the Laurens County Delegation's request and move Laurens County from Law Enforcement District One into Law Enforcement District Two. Commissioner Edens seconded the motion and the request was approved unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris S. Murray

(Mrs.) Chris S. Murray,
Commission Secretary

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4/8/77

