

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, South Carolina
August 17, 1984
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Room 335, Dennis Building, Columbia, South Carolina, at 10:00 a.m., August 17, 1984, with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the State's media. Commissioners present included Commissioners Webster, Compton, Harrelson, Owen, Stokes and Thomason. Directors and Staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Dr. Sandifer, Sonny Baines, Bobby Gifford, Brock Conrad and various other staff. There were also several guests at the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster 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 July 20, 1984 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of a personnel head count for each program area to the Commission for their information. Dr. Timmerman stated that our budget request was mailed to the Commission and we had requested less than a 7% increase in our budget. Dr. Timmerman noted that we would ask for salary increments for any grade reallocations. Dr. Timmerman stated that our budget hearing will be in September and the Commission usually meets on that date. Chairman Webster stated the Commission will go to the budget hearing and meet on that date whenever the specific date is available.

Larry Cartee advised the Commission that the Department had closed on a 4.5 acre tract of land for a boat ramp project at Murrells Inlet. Mr. Cartee also informed the Commission that the Water Resources Commission has acted on the Carolina Oil Refinery Permit Application by asking the State Budget and Control Board to withhold any action on the permit until the Water Resources Commission can review the final EIS to determine if reconsideration is in order.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the staff is working on a plan for a mandatory hunter safety program. This matter will be brought to the Commission and, if approved, legislation will be sought in 1985.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission had asked the staff to develop a Land Procurement Committee. Dan Dobbins went over the proposed list of names to serve on this committee. The Commissioners offered several suggestions for membership on this committee. Chairman Webster asked the Commissioners to provide any further suggestions for consideration to serve on this committee.

Dr. Timmerman noted the Commission may like to make recommendations for the Advisory Boards at the September Commission meeting.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Registration Agreements: Stu Greeter noted that proposed registration agreements with South Carolina Electric and Gas Company were sent to the Commission in their packet (copy attached to original Commission minutes). These proposed agreements include the Mayo Creek Columbo Site in Fairfield County and the Congaree Bottomlands Site in Lexington County. Both sites are recommended for approval by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. The Commission adopted a motion to approve both registration agreements as submitted.

B. Proposed 1984-85 Waterfowl Regulations: Brock Conrad noted that the proposed 1984-85 regulations were sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission minutes). These regulations were discussed extensively by Mr. Conrad and the Commission. Ray Smith asked the Commission consider a 1:00 p.m. closing on the coast. Following other discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the 1984-85 Waterfowl Regulations as submitted.

C. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.
2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.
3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Bobby Gifford presented the new Law Enforcement uniform to the Commission for their comments. Following review, the Commission approved the new uniform by consensus of opinion.
4. Information and Public Affairs: Dennis Gunter gave the Commission an updated report on Project Wild, noting there has been a tremendous response to this program from teachers and school districts.
5. Marine Resources: There was nothing further to report.

D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen went over the items discussed by the Board noting the Board suggests using County Game and Fish Funds for further development of public dove fields.
2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Harrelson noted the Board met on August 16th and discussed shrimping in the sounds and bays. Commissioner Harrelson noted the Board recommended that the Marine Resources Division be permitted to open the sounds and bays to shrimping as near to September 1st as appropriate pursuant to the August 20th sampling of shrimp and upon polling the Commission to approve the opening date. The Commission adopted a motion to approve the Board's recommendation as submitted. Commissioner Harrelson stated the Board discussed a proposed study of the sounds and bays. Commissioner Harrelson noted the Board recommended to the Commission and legislature that a special study group be created to study this question of opening and closing of sounds and bays. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation. Dr. Timmerman stated that he will meet with Senator Waddell and Representative Snow to recommend that such a study be conducted.
3. Heritage Trust: Stu Greeter noted the Board met on August 2nd and he discussed the various items considered by the Board.

E. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and reappointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve the recommendations as submitted.

F. Other Remarks: The Commission was shown two training films used for law enforcement which dealt with equipment use and maintenance and preparing for court cases. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has asked the staff to look at doing a training film on the proper procedure for approaching sportsmen and making an arrest.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster stated the next Commission Meeting will be held on a date to be determined in conjunction with the Department's budget hearing in September.

ITEM IV. ADJOURN

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

