

## MINUTES

### SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza, Columbia, S. C.  
August 24, 1979

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at the Dutch Plaza Office, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a. m., August 24, 1979, with Chairman Edens presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media in a news release dated August 20, 1979. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Edens, Stubbs, Dawson, Boykin, Shuler, Bennett, Pendarvis, Harrelson and Dennis. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Tommy Strange, Brock Conrad, Jim Mills, Benny Reeves, Jeff Fuller, Pat Ryan, Bob Campbell, Dennis Gunter, John Evans, Linda Amick, Tommy Edwards, Jim Sorrow, Ed Joseph, Sumter Moore, John Cely, and David Cupka. Guests at the meeting included Clifton Rogers and Jim Watham, commercial fishermen from Georgetown, Ken Kinard of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Jackie Jacobs of the S. C. Wildlife Federation, Fred Zeigler of Columbia, Wayne Beam of the S. C. Coastal Council, and Coy Johnston of Ducks Unlimited and the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edens called the meeting to order at 10:00 a. m.

#### ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Boykin moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the June 22, 1979 meeting and approve them as submitted. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that the Minutes should reflect that the Commission did not hold a regular meeting during July, 1979.

#### ITEM II. COMMENTS

Chairman Edens noted that Governor Riley had appointed him as Chairman of the Commission. Chairman Edens stated that he did not seek the position, but was asked by the Governor if he would serve as Chairman. Chairman Edens noted that he accepted the appointment with appreciation and pledged to do the best job possible. Chairman Edens stated that he still has one vote and that the Commission is a group responsibility equally shared by all those on the Commission. The Commission is responsible to the resource and the public and will continue to operate as a nine-man group. Chairman Edens noted that he looks forward to his continued work with the Commission as a group and the Department



and staff. Chairman Edens informed the Commission that Commissioner Boykin had called him and as a courtesy, submitted his resignation as Vice-Chairman. Chairman Edens noted that since he is the senior member on the Commission and has been re-elected twice as Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Boykin's resignation was not accepted and he will continue serving as Vice-Chairman. Chairman Edens stated that he had talked with Commissioner Pendarvis who had agreed to serve as Chairman of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board. Thus, Chairman Edens appointed Commissioner Pendarvis as Chairman of this Board. In regard to old business relating to the appointment of a study committee to develop guidelines on the use of aircraft, Chairman Edens appointed Commissioners Boykin, Shuler and Pendarvis to go over the draft guidelines and bring this matter back to the Commission for action. Chairman Edens noted that John Culler had left the Department and the staff had presented him with a plaque. Chairman Edens suggested that Dr. Timmerman draw up an appropriate resolution and have it framed to forward to John Culler with a letter of appreciation from the Commission. Commissioner Boykin moved that the Commission adopt the Chairman's suggestion. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the late Mr. Edwin Johnson, a former Commissioner, had several African game heads he had collected. His family has agreed to donate these mounts to the Department for their display and credit given to Mr. Johnson. Dr. Timmerman distributed pictures of the mounts to the Commissioners and noted that they are in excellent shape and could be displayed in our new office building. The Commission agreed to accept these mounts and Chairman Edens instructed Dr. Timmerman to write a letter to the family expressing the Commission's appreciation for their donation.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had asked Pat Ryan and Bill Chastain to look into Commissioner Pendarvis' inquiry about use of confiscated vehicles for undercover work. Pat Ryan stated that Bill Chastain had talked with SLED personnel who had indicated that their use of confiscated vehicles had fit well into their undercover program. Mr. Ryan noted that the law enables the Department to use confiscated vehicles, but they must be disposed of in the county where they were confiscated by the County Sheriff. Mr. Ryan stated that we can use the vehicles if they are in good shape and such use will be looked into. Commissioner Pendarvis noted that other agencies are doing this and he proposed that it be done on an individual basis when a confiscated vehicle is suitable for use. Commissioner Pendarvis moved that law enforcement (at their discretion) be empowered, subject to the approval of the Division of Motor Vehicle Management, to use confiscated vehicles on an individual basis for their work and then dispose of the vehicles in



accordance with state law. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that Commissioner Pendarvis has agreed to serve as the Department's advisor on motor vehicle specifications and purchases and, as such, he will be working in that capacity.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we have an area in the upper part of the state at Berry's Mill Fish Hatchery that has not been utilized for some time. We had a request for an area adjacent to the hatchery that has filled in with debris and is of no use to the Department. Joe Logan has recommended that this two and one-half (2-1/2) acre tract be declared excess. Dr. Timmerman suggested that we have the area surveyed, turned over to General Services to appraise and bring back to the September meeting for action. Chairman Edens stated that this matter would be placed on the September agenda.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the Advisory Board members noting that the terms of several members will expire in October. Chairman Edens stated that he had requested that this information be distributed in order that the Commission appointments to the Advisory Boards could be acted upon at the September meeting. Chairman Edens noted that the past practice has been for the Chairman of each Advisory Board to recommend these appointments to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the past practice has been for the Chairman of the Commission to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Wildlife Education and Training Fund. This position is now vacant. The Commission agreed that the past practice should continue and Chairman Edens will serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors. Dr. Timmerman noted that two plaques had been made for presentation and he recommended that the Commission, as Board of Directors, approve up to \$150 from the Cantey Memorial Fund for these plaques. Commissioner Boykin moved that such be approved. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that agencies have been allocated 3.5% of their payroll for merit raises. In 1978, 0.4% of the Department's employees were rated as "marginal", 37.3% were "satisfactory", 58.7% were "superior", and 3.6% were "outstanding". If we give 3% merit increases for "satisfactory", 4% for "superior" and 5% for "outstanding", the agency will not have enough funds to finish out the fiscal year. The State Personnel Division will not allow a 3%, 3.5%, and 4% allocation and the only alternative that State Personnel will approve is a 3% merit raise for "satisfactory", 3% for "superior", and 4% for "outstanding". This is the staff recommendation as we want to make sure we live within the funds allocated. Dr. Timmerman noted that he was seeking the Commission's guidance



regarding this matter. Commissioner Dennis stated that it was the legislative desire to give 5% merit raises, but in making calculations, only 3.5% was available for such raises. Chairman Edens asked if the money would stretch with a 3%, 3.5%, and 4% allocation and Dr. Timmerman stated that it would. Chairman Edens asked why this allocation would be objectionable. Dr. Timmerman noted that State Personnel would like to see us give 3%, 4%, and 5% with approximately 60% in the "satisfactory" category. Commissioner Dennis noted that if we can average 3.5% with the 3%, 3.5%, and 4% allocation, this should be alright. Dr. Timmerman stated that he had a letter prepared to send to State Personnel recommending a 3%, 3.5%, and 4% allocation and asked for the Commission's endorsement of such. Commissioner Dennis moved that the Commission endorse the 3%, 3.5%, and 4% allocation for merit raises as recommended by Dr. Timmerman. Commissioner Pendarvis seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Dennis noted that he has a meeting at State Personnel this afternoon and will take this letter with him. Chairman Edens expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Dennis regarding this matter.

Dr. Timmerman distributed information to the Commissioners regarding the upcoming meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to be held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on October 21 - 24. The Commissioners were invited to attend this meeting if they desire.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the budget presentation to the Budget and Control Board will either be on September 18th or October 16, 17, or 18th. We will know the date for sure next week and the Commission will be informed of the exact date. If possible, we could have the Commission Meeting on the same date so the Commissioners could attend the budget presentation. Chairman Edens stated that he has been pleased with the Commissioners attending the budget presentation and he authorized Dr. Timmerman to schedule the Commission meeting on the same date as the budget presentation. Commissioner Dennis noted that he cannot attend on October 18th. Dr. Timmerman stated that he would try to have it scheduled on October 16th or 17th.

Dr. Timmerman introduced all guests at the meeting including two gentlemen representing set netters that will speak later in the meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Chairman had asked him to draft a resolution for the service of former Commissioner Trask and to have an appropriate plaque made for him. Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of a resolution to the Commission for their consideration (copy attached to original Commission Minutes), and read over this resolution. Commissioner Dennis moved for the adoption of



this resolution. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Commission. Chairman Edens asked Dr. Timmerman to have the resolution framed and present this and the plaque to Mr. Trask.

Chairman Edens extended a welcome to Commissioner J. P. Harrelson for his recent appointment to the Commission by Governor Riley. Chairman Edens noted that Commissioner Harrelson has had extensive background in public service and should make a valuable contribution to the Commission. Commissioner Dennis noted that he has been in the legislature with Commissioner Harrelson and stated that the Governor has made an excellent choice in his appointment to the Commission. Chairman Edens appointed Commissioner Harrelson to the Commission Finance Committee.

APPEARANCE BY SET NETTERS FROM GEORGETOWN COUNTY

Chairman Edens noted that two set netters from the Georgetown area had asked for time to appear before the Commission concerning set net legislation. Mr. Clifton H. Rogers stated that he was representing the set netters in Georgetown. Mr. Rogers noted that the coastal area is divided into Zones 1, 2, and 3. In Zone 1, the laws are the same as they have always been. Zone 2 stops at the South Santee River and Zone 3 is in the Beaufort area which composes about one-half the fishing. A new law has passed which requires the set netters to fish the same areas and hours as the trawlers. Mr. Rogers noted that fishing the same areas as trawlers will not work as the trawlers will tear up the nets and there will be problems. Fishing the same hours with set nets as for trawlers will not work either as the morning tide will be missed and could cause a week's loss in fishing. Mr. Rogers noted that set nets are more economical than trawling as less gasoline is utilized. Mr. Rogers stated that they want to fish the same areas they have always fished and not get into the trawling areas. Mr. Rogers informed the Commission that he has contacted legislators and sent a petition to the Governor regarding this matter. Mr. Rogers stated that they want to be able to fish the same areas and hours as always, but with the new law they cannot do it. Mr. Rogers said it was his opinion that someone will be killed unless the law is changed back to allow them to fish as they have in the past. Commissioner Bennett asked Mr. Rogers if he thought they should be able to use set nets in the sanctuary areas. Mr. Rogers stated that they should as they have a two-mile area to set where the trawlers are not dragging. Mr. Rogers noted that the law restricts channel netters to 100 permits, but anyone can get a permit. The ones that fish with nets on a regular basis should be the ones that are issued the permits. Mr. Rogers noted that they need help and he feels there will be trouble if the season is opened. Commissioner Boykins asked if the problem is



a result of legislation. Chairman Edens noted that it is a legislative matter that passed this year. Mr. Rogers stated that they are seeking advice on what to do in order to keep from having a war. Commissioner Dennis stated that the rationale of this legislation should be explained by the staff. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission will get a legal briefing on this matter in an Executive Session. Chairman Edens noted that the Commission has been sent a briefing on this matter to be discussed to see if the problem can be alleviated. Commissioner Dennis asked Mr. Rogers if he had discussed this matter with Senator Doar. Mr. Rogers stated that they have and he had to compromise on the Georgetown area and let the new law apply to the Charleston and Beaufort areas. Mr. Rogers asked the Commission to get the law changed or to close the season this year if the law cannot be changed. Chairman Edens thanked Mr. Rogers for his comments and noted that the Commission would give this matter further consideration.

#### ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins presented the Commission with a recap of bills considered by the General Assembly this year pertaining to our programs and operations. Mr. Dobbins noted that the success of passage of numerous bills requested by the Department was due to the efforts of Senators Dennis and Waddell and Representative Bennett. In addition, Mike Copeland and Ken Kinard were of valuable assistance this legislative year. Dr. Timmerman stated that he felt this was the most successful year in terms of legislation and the budget. Next year, we will be more conservative on our legislative requests and emphasize key issues. Commissioner Dennis complimented Mr. Dobbins on a job well done this year noting that he was on his toes at all times. Mr. Dobbins stated that he will begin shortly compiling legislative proposals for next year. Mr. Dobbins also went over amendments to the Administrative Procedures Act that were adopted by the General Assembly this year. Mr. Dobbins noted that he is working with the Division of Law Enforcement on providing them information on bills that have been passed and are effective but have not been codified and published. Commissioner Shuler asked about a proposed bill that prohibited shining with artificial lights after midnight. Mr. Dobbins noted that there were objections to this bill and it did not pass.

#### ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Alligator Project: Chairman Edens noted that this project was adopted by the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board and mailed to the Commission for their consideration. Dr. Timmerman stated that this is a good project, but we cannot recommend any new positions unless they are contingent upon federal funds. Jeff Fuller noted that it appeared that federal funds would be available when this proposal was mailed out, but we are not sure



about federal funds for such at this time. (Copy of proposed alligator project attached to the original Commission Minutes). Mr. Fuller informed the Commission that this project would serve to centralize the handling of the nuisance alligator problems in the state and would enable the development of a management plan for alligators in South Carolina. Mr. Fuller urged the Commission to approve the project at such time that funds are available or contingent upon available federal funds. Commissioner Shuler stated that he disagreed with directing nuisance alligator complaints to the Columbia Office when the staff will be located at the Marine Center. Mr. Fuller stated that this could be handled so that complaints go directly to the Marine Center. Commissioner Dennis moved that the Commission approve the project as presented. Commissioner Dennis pointed out that the nuisance alligator problem is getting worse every day and funds for such need to be found as soon as possible. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. 1979-80 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons: Brock Conrad noted that the proposed waterfowl seasons and regulations had been mailed to the Commission pursuant to the framework proposed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad stated that confirmed framework will be available next week and no changes are anticipated. Mr. Conrad noted that a three-way split in the duck season had been offered, but was not recommended to the Commission this year. A questionnaire has been sent to duck hunters in the state to see how they feel about this matter. Mr. Conrad noted that the proposed regulations include a closed season on Canada goose hunting in Beaufort, Colleton, McCormick, Newberry, Fairfield, Anderson and Oconee Counties due to efforts to establish resident populations. Mr. Conrad stated that the non-toxic shot zones are the same this year for 12-gauge only. Dr. Timmerman noted that a proviso in the federal budget gives each state the option of recommending enforcement of the steel shot and he recommended that we do the same as last year on enforcement of steel shot. Dr. Jackie Jacobs stated that the Board of Directors of the S. C. Wildlife Federation have recommended that the steel shot regulations be enforced in South Carolina as they were last year. Commissioner Dawson moved that the Commission support the enforcement of steel shot regulations in South Carolina this year. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Following other discussion, Commissioner Dennis moved for the Commission to approve the 1979-80 waterfowl hunting seasons and regulations as recommended by Mr. Conrad. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that the Commission had received a memorandum from Mr. Conrad on the dove season which explained the standard season established by the Commission for dove hunting. Chairman Edens



recommended that Mr. Ryan and the federal agents get together and put out a news release on baiting. Commissioner Pendarvis suggested information be sent out regarding the points system. Dr. Timmerman noted that information on the points system has been sent out and will be in the Resource which will be sent out shortly.

C. 1980-81 Budget Proposal: Benny Reeves noted that he would go over the basics for the budget and have a full document for the Commission at the September meeting. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission Finance Committee had met on Thursday and discussed the budget proposal. Mr. Reeves distributed information on the FY 79-80 budget and the FY 80-81 allocation from the Budget and Control Board. Mr. Reeves noted that equipment for FY 79-80 was put in Part IV of the budget bill and was called non-recurring equipment. The Department's FY 80-81 budget is deficient by \$673,000 due mainly to this action and since our equipment needs are recurring, we will try to get these funds back. This item is on the Department's list of additional needs. Mr. Reeves also noted that a proviso in the budget requires that marine resources revenue in FY 80-81 revert to the general fund and this money will be appropriated back to us. The Department has been instructed to put this on our list of additional needs. Dr. Timmerman noted that this makes it look like we are asking for an additional \$300,000 in funds, but this is not the case. Commissioner Dennis stated that this action is a legislative directive and all agencies will have to follow this directive. The funds will go into the general fund and these funds will be reimbursed to the agencies. Dr. Timmerman noted that this can create cash-flow problems when a federal grant is received and funds are needed to be expended for reimbursement. With revenue in the general fund, flexibility is lost and this will have to be worked out. Commissioner Dennis noted that this agency does not need tying down, but many agencies need such controls placed on them and it is in order. Mr. Reeves went over the additional needs list which includes funds for equipment, marine resources revenue, move to the Dennis Building, increased rent costs, and personnel and operating costs for the Mariculture Center. Dr. Timmerman noted that it was made clear that if bonding funds were approved for the Mariculture Center, we would need additional funds for operating and staffing this facility. Mr. Reeves noted that this includes six (6) new positions. Following other discussion, Commissioner Dennis moved that the Commission approve the budget as presented and that the additional needs be footnoted that all items are on equal footing and a matter of priority needs. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Dennis noted that there is a probability that the equipment funds will be in the supplemental bill rather than in the appropriations bill. Dr. Timmerman noted that we tried to be conservative last year and he hoped the Budget and Control



Board would remember this.

D. YCC Slide Program: Dr. Timmerman noted that due to the lack of time, this could be shown at a later time. Chairman Edens stated that this should be put on next month's agenda in order that the entire Commission can see the program.

E. Proposed Radio System Study: Chairman Edens noted that Commissioner Pendarvis has been working on this matter with the law enforcement staff. Dr. Timmerman passed out a copy of the proposed study noting that certain parts of the state where we cannot communicate. Dr. Timmerman stated that the study proposal for \$8,300 by Buford Goff will determine needs and recommend various options for meeting these needs. Commissioner Pendarvis noted that there is a lot of concern about deficiencies in communications and we need the study to determine needs and develop funding. Commissioner Dennis moved that the Commission endorse this radio system study. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will seek Budget and Control Board approval for this study. Chairman Edens asked Commissioner Pendarvis to continue working with the staff on this matter. Commissioner Pendarvis noted that there are various types of radio systems and the study will come up with more than one proposal. Commissioner Pendarvis requested that Pat Ryan have the Conservation Officers let them know where there are communication problems. Dr. Timmerman stated that a problem list will be documented by the law enforcement staff.

F. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that we cannot get "Chairman" or "Vice-Chairman" on the license tags. Following other discussion, Commissioner Stubbs moved that each Commissioner have the number on their license tag and radio number the same as the Congressional District they represent with the At-Large member being #7 and the ex-officio members being #8 and #9. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Mr. Reeves stated that all lakes in the state have a limit on the number of baskets that can be fished, but there is no control on the number issued to each individual with the exception of the 50 basket limit which is controlled in the Columbia Office. This can be controlled centrally by computer in the Columbia Office and Mr. Reeves proposed that such be implemented. Mr. Fuller noted that this may be an inconvenience, but Mr. Reeves stated that it could be handled by mail or sales could be made by the staff at key locations at certain times of the year. Chairman Edens asked Mr. Reeves to put this matter in writing with pros and cons and mail to the Commission for their consideration. This will be on the agenda for the September meeting.



2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller noted that the Department of Energy has been in contact with the Department requesting us to consider taking over handling the deer hunts at the Savannah River Plant. Costs for this will be reimbursed if we agree to such. This is being evaluated and will be further reported on at the September Meeting. Dr. Timmerman stated that the benefits and costs of this will be analyzed before the next meeting. Chairman Edens asked that this be put in writing and mailed to the Commission before the next meeting. Mr. Fuller informed the Commission that the staff is working with the Alumunax Company on a project to collect bone specimens from deer for analysis at the University of Wisconsin. The samples will be cross-checked by the Department of Health and Environmental Control. The Alumunax Company is supporting and funding this project.

Dr. Timmerman noted that a request had been made to allow dog hunting in the Hellhole Hunt Unit this year. Commissioner Dennis stated that dog hunting has traditionally been a way of life in that area and he felt it was unfair to the people not to have dog hunting in the Hellhole Unit. Commissioner Dennis recommended reconsideration of this regulation and that an addendum in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act be developed to allow dog hunting in the Hellhole Hunt Unit. Commissioner Dennis also noted that Representative Mangum has requested that we allow an area annexed into Lancaster County to follow the same regulations for Kershaw County this hunting season as was done last year. Commissioner Dennis recommended that this be done if it can legally be done. Dr. Timmerman noted that we are working with the Attorney General's Office to see if this can legally be done. Dr. Timmerman stated that we have received a petition with 240 signatures objecting to this matter. Dr. Timmerman recommended that we do the same as last year if there is any legal way to do it. Commissioner Dennis moved that such be done this year if it can legally be done. Commissioner Dennis noted that the legislative delegation should have a permanent solution to this matter next year and they are only asking for relief this year. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens stated that the petition with 240 names should be turned over to Representative Mangum and an effort should be made to get these people together. In regard to dog hunting in the Hellhole Hunt Unit, Commissioner Dennis stated that he realizes that extensive dog hunting can have an adverse impact on turkey range, but the people in the area feel strongly about dog hunting. As such, Commissioner Dennis urged the Commission to go along with the request from these hunters. Dr. Timmerman noted that he endorses Commissioner Dennis' recommendation and it can be handled next year with no problem, but we are not certain if there is a legal way to amend



the regulations this year. Commissioner Dennis suggested that Mr. Zeigler see if there is some way to handle this matter. Commissioner Dennis moved that the Commission allow limited controlled dog hunting in the Hellhole Hunt Unit this year the same as such dog hunts are handled in other hunt units. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Pendarvis made a plea to allow dog hunting in the Key Fork area this year to control some of the deer that have been damaging crops. He suggested that maybe a few days of dog hunting may help solve some of this problem. Brock Conrad noted that this is a real problem in the piedmont area of the state where there are lot of small tracts of land and a lot of conflict is created between the still and dog hunters. Chairman Edens suggested that Commissioner Pendarvis place this matter on the agenda for discussion by the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: There was nothing to add to the written report.
4. Information and Public Affairs: Dr. Timmerman noted that this Division would be discussed in Executive Session.
5. Marine Resources: There was nothing to add to the written report.

G. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: No meeting of the Board was held this month.
2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Shuler noted that the Board had met and discussed authority for appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers. Commissioner Shuler stated that there was a strong concensus for a hunting license fee increase and it was suggested that this matter be discussed with Dr. Timmerman and Commissioner Dennis. Chairman Edens noted that this matter has been discussed and we have a great deal of information on this subject. Dr. Timmerman stated that we need to let our constituents push this matter after the election year in 1980. Commissioner Pendarvis noted that Ducks Unlimited will poll their members to see if they favor a state duck stamp and will carry this to the legislature if it is favored. Commissioner Shuler asked Fred Zeigler to discuss the DWCO matter that the Board took up. Mr. Zeigler noted that a statute needs to be developed regarding: 1) authority to appoint DWCOs; 2) territorial authority; 3) procedures for bonding; and 4) limiting their authority to fish and game laws or all laws. Dr. Timmerman recommended that the DWCO authority be limited to game and fish laws, including trespassing. Commissioner Shuler noted this was the concensus of the Board. Chairman Edens suggested they also have authority on littering laws. Chairman Edens asked Mr. Zeigler and Tommy Edwards to draft a proposal and mail out to the Commission. Commissioner Dennis stated



that once a draft is approved by the Commission, he and Commissioner Bennett will prefile this in the General Assembly. Chairman Edens noted that the Board minutes reflected on the number of cases made by DWCOs and this should not be encouraged. Commissioner Shuler stated that this referred to the number of times a DWCO assists an Officer in an area in making a case which is used in evaluating the effectiveness of DWCO appointments.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Dawson noted that this Board will meet in September.

4. Heritage Trust: Dr. Timmerman noted that this Board will meet later.

H. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman stated that this will be mailed to the Chairman upon confirmation of merit increases from State Personnel.

I. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Chairman Edens noted that a letter in the application of Dan Suddeth requested authority on the lakes adjacent to the land the Commission is granted. Chairman Edens asked if we could grant this authority. Pat Ryan stated that this was not recommended by the Law Enforcement Division. Mr. Ryan noted that this is somewhat of a vague area for DWCO appointments. Commissioner Boykin asked why W. H. Cleveland is being recommended for "statewide" authority. Commissioner Stubbs stated that he knows this individual and he has always had "statewide" authority, but he only asked for authority in Greenville, Oconee and Pickens Counties. Dr. Timmerman stated that re-appointments are usually granted the same authority as they have had in the past. Relative to the new DWCO appointments, Dr. Timmerman noted that Mr. Jack Roberts had a violation in 1976 and could not be appointed for three (3) years. This time has now passed and Mr. Roberts is now in good standing and recommended for appointment. Commissioner Dennis moved that an Executive Session be held to discuss a personnel matter pertaining to the new Conservation Officer appointments. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission. Following other discussion, Commissioner Boykin moved that all appointments and re-appointments, with the exception of new Conservation Officer appointments, be approved by the Commission. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

J. Other Remarks: There were no additional remarks from the Commission.

K. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Edens stated that the next meeting will be held on September 21, 1979 in Columbia, unless altered by the budget hearing.



L. Call for Executive Session: Chairman Edens noted that a motion had been adopted for an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The Commission also voted to receive a legal briefing on: 1) the channel net matter; 2) recent correspondence concerning Mr. Roy Eppes; and 3) recent contact with Colonial Pipeline Company. As such, the legal staff was asked to remain for the Executive Session.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN

The Commission approved a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and go into Executive Session.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and Chairman Edens announced the following actions:

1. The Commission voted to use its existing rule and regulation authority to enforce the legislative intent of the new channel legislation for a period of six (6) months to allow the legislature time to meet and act on this matter.
2. The Commission appointed George Don Peeler and Harold David Rhoden as new Conservation Officers.
3. The Commission appointed the number one applicant in Richland County as a Conservation Officer if he passes as "number one" in the interview and the background investigation is satisfactory.
4. The Commission endorsed Dr. Timmerman's recommendation of Sonny Baines as Director of Information and Public Affairs.
5. The Commission voted to request the Attorney General's office to send a negative reply concerning a request to compensate Mr. Roy Eppes for damage sustained by deer depredation on his crops.
6. The Commission accepted, as information from Mr. Tommy Edwards, that our position has been explained to representatives of Colonial Pipeline Company and we are now awaiting their response.

Upon a motion and second, the Commission voted favorably to ratify these actions that were adopted in Executive Session. Following this, the Commission voted to adjourn the August Meeting.

