

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

December 17, 1976

Bankers Trust Tower
Columbia, South Carolina

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at the Bankers Trust Tower office in Columbia, South Carolina at 10:00 am on December 17, 1976, with Chairman Hudson presiding over the meeting. Other Commissioners present were Lumpkin, Shuler, Edens, Bennett, Buchanan, Boykin and Trask. Advisors James Webb and Sam Crouch were in attendance along with the following others: Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr., Benny Reeves, Jeff Fuller, John Culler, Pat Ryan, Dr. Wayne Beam, Dr. Ed Joseph, Brock Conrad, Larry Cartee, Ken Stansell, Bob Campbell, Ed Latimer, John Evans, Bill Cotty, Duncan Newkirk, Fred Ramage, Bill Chastain, Clark Surratt (State Newspaper), Dr. Jay Hair (President, S. C. Wildlife Federation), Stan Hurteau (State Chairman, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.), Frank Caggiano (House of Representatives Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee), and various others.

CALL TO ORDER

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Commissioner Lumpkin to hold Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was passed.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Commissioner Edens made a motion to dispense with the reading of the October 1976 Commission Meeting Minutes and to approve them as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lumpkin and passed.

ITEM II: COMMENTS: Chairman Hudson presented a check from the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department in the amount of \$12,604 to Mr. Stan Hurteau, State Chairman for Ducks Unlimited, Inc., a waterfowl conservation organization. The fund is derived from a portion of non-resident hunting license sales. Mr. Hurteau thanked the Department on behalf of Ducks Unlimited for their continued support of the organization and reported that DU expects to exceed their goal of \$150,000 this year.

Dr. Timmerman passed around to the Commission a copy of the first of two articles recently published in the Hampton County Guardian regarding Department activities at the James Webb Research Center, formerly known as Belmont, stating that the report was very favorable for the Department.

Also, Timmerman reported that he received a copy of a letter in the morning mail from the Chairman of the Forestry, Wildlife and Recreation Committee of the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts praising the Department for its role in research and development and propagation of the native wild species in South Carolina and encouraged the Department to continue this work. Also, they commended the Department on work done concerning the water weed problems and continued work with the Corp. In addition, they requested that the Department consider looking into the possibility of closing wood duck at mid-afternoon.

In addition, Dr. Timmerman reported that Mr. Lynn Greenwalt, Director of the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, would be visiting the Department on Monday and Tuesday, December 20th and 21st. Plans are to visit the Marine Center



and the Dennis Wildlife Center on Monday and on Tuesday discussions will be held in Dr. Timmerman's office regarding some activities the Department has with the Service. Dr. Timmerman stated that anyone who would like to drop by would be welcome.

Benny Reeves reported that the contract for the Federal Food Technology Laboratory being built at Fort Johnson at a construction cost of \$3,270,000. The contractor is expected to move in next week and ground should be broken by January 1, 1977.

Timmerman reported that he visited last Tuesday with the members of the Ways and Means Committee of the House which includes Rep. David McGinnis of Sumter, Rep. Wilson Tison of Hampton, and Representative Graves of Hilton Head and went over the budget.

Timmerman stated that in response to phone calls and recent publicity regarding a rumor that employees and Commissioners are hunting deer at South Island, it is absolutely untrue. A certain number of deer are being removed from the area in line with an approved plan. Each deer is being tagged and being given to a charitable organization. None are being kept for staff or personal use in any fashion. Jeff Fuller reported that biologists recommended that approximately 75 deer be harvested this year. This was the request of the Trustees of the Yawkey Foundation.

ITEM III: NEW BUSINESS:

PROPOSED 1977 TURKEY AND DEER HUNTING SEASONS: Commissioner Edens stated that the Advisory Board found no fault with the proposal by the staff, however, the Board felt that staff recommendations should come directly to the Commission for action. Brock Conrad reported that the dates for turkey are the same as in the past and plans are made to standardize these dates to be April 1 through May 1. The recommendation for this year includes a statewide limit of four (4) turkeys, as well as the issuance by the Department of turkey tags and a free turkey permit. This will provide staff with an actual count of turkey hunters in the state. A motion was made by Commissioner Boykin to accept the 1977 turkey seasons and rules and regulations as submitted by staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trask and approved.

Conrad stated that, at the request of the deer hunters, staff recommendations are that the deer season go straight through this year. All deer in the Western and Central Piedmont are required to be checked. Conrad stated that the Department would probably hear from the rabbit hunters again. It was recommended by staff to the Advisory Board that the Department go before the Legislature and ask them to extend rabbit and quail in game zones two and four two weeks until March 1st, which is fairly well what the rest of the state has. Commissioner Buchanan suggested that the deer hunting season open for archery on September 15th through October 1st for either sex. Conrad stated that legislative approval would have to be obtained to open earlier than October 1st. Conrad also pointed out that a bear dog training season has been added, at the request of bear hunters. He stated that this could possibly cause some problems with hunters from other special interest groups asking for training seasons for their sport. It will be controlled and special permits



issued for the activity. After discussion of the matter, the general feeling of the Commission was that it could be tried for a year to see what the outcome would be. In addition, Conrad stated that after considerable problems with the dog hunt in the Hellhole Unit of the Francis Marion Game Management Area, staff recommends that this be changed to a six day still hunt November 21st through November 26th. A motion was made by Commissioner Boykin to approve the deer hunting seasons, rules and regulations as submitted by staff and to seek legislation to extend the rabbit and quail seasons in Game Zones Two and Four until March 1st. The motion was seconded and passed. A motion was made by Commission Boykin to approve the recommendations of staff to have a bear dog training season and to replace the dog hunt in the Hellhole Unit with a six day still hunt from November 21st through November 26th. The motion was seconded and passed.

REPORT ON MEETING WITH TRUSTEES OF YAWKEY FOUNDATION: Bill Cotty reported that he, Dr. Timmerman, Commissioner Lumpkin, Benny Reeves, Mrs. Yawkey, Mr. Lacour and Mr. Sullivan met at South Island Plantation and went over the Management Plan prepared by Department Staff, as well as a number of other matters. Some items discussed were could or could we not allow public hunting for deer on the property; would the vehicles be decaled; gas pumps would have to be strictly controlled; and the present employees there would have to be transferred over to State Employment; etc. There is a slight delay in turning the property over to the department due to delay in going through probate. It is anticipated that the property will be turned over the the Wildlife Department in February or March. It is estimated that the operating cost of the property will be in the neighborhood of \$250,000 per year. This and all other expenses will be financed completely by the Trust Fund and the accounting will be handled through the Department. Chairman Hudson stated that he met with Mr. Lacour and Mr. Sullivan recently and that he feels that they are beginning to understand more the problems that exist down there, although, do not feel that anything can be done about it right now, but that they can be resolved next year. Cotty stated that Mr. Sullivan, attorney for the Foundation, was somewhat concerned over Title 28 laws. Cotty wrote him explaining different ways of handling this matter. The mapping has been completed by the Marine Division and another meeting is planned for January 18th, 1977, at 10:00 am, in the Recreation Room at South Island Plantation.

DISCUSSION OF HIRING AN ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Chairman Hudson stated that since this is a personnel matter, he would prefer to discuss it in Executive Session.

REPORT BY DR. JAY HAIR ON TROTTER SHOALS: Dr. Hair, President of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, commented that the Membership Roll has increased to approximately 5,000 members in South Carolina. This is attributed primarily to the assistance received from John Culler and the Department in using the subscribers to SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE. Dr. Hair also thanked Chairman Hudson and Dr. Timmerman for their help in acquiring office space for the Federation in Dutch Plaza from McTeer Realty donated as a gift to conservation rent free. Dr. Hair reported that the Wildlife Federation, with the cooperation of legal council of National Wildlife Federation, have entered into a law suit against the Army Corp of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a number of points. Primarily, the Federation feels that



they have not addressed themselves to are the aspects and details of water quality, the failure to mitigate for fish and wildlife habitat, and their failure to address the potential seismic activity in the area and the impact that this could have particularly in light of the fact that we have the Savannah River Plant, a nuclear plant, as well as the Barnwell Plant under construction. The Federation is hopeful that their newly elected President and his very major concern about the Army Corp of Engineers will add some additional help in that area. In addition, Dr. Hair mentioned the fact that for the first time, in conjunction with the Federation's Annual Meeting in February (they are trying to initiate some recognition of the sportsman of South Carolina) to hold a Sportsman Festival at the fairgrounds. This will be a family oriented event with sporting goods dealers who are holding a South Carolina Wild Turkey Calling Contest, a Southeastern Open Turkey Calling Contest. The Federation hopes this will become an annual event. Hair reported that Governor Edwards has agreed to meet with the Federation at it's annual banquet on February 12th, 1977 and he will present awards to individuals that the Federation feels have made outstanding contributions to conservation in South Carolina. Dr. Hair reported that the recipients are as follows: Conservationist of the Year is going to be a Posthumous Award to Mr. Thomas Yawkey for his donation of South Island Plantation property; Conservation Communicator of the Year, Carol Speight, Associate Editor of the SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE magazine; Conservation Educator, Dr. Wade Batson; Forest Conservationist of the Year, Mr. Erwin Darwin; Industrial Conservationist of the Year, Union Camp Corporation; Land Conservationist of the Year, Dr. Eugene A. Laurent; Legislative Conservationist of the Year, Bill Cotty; Conservation Organization of the Year, Ducks Unlimited; Water Conservationist of the Year, Dr. James Stepp; Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, Mr. Wade Fletcher.

DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves reported that renovation of Direlton Plantation has begun; the Sewage Treatment Plant in Charleston should be completed around Christmas; reconstruction of the Dennis Wildlife Center is pretty well completed with the exception of a lighting problem and Phase II has already begun.
2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller stated that he had nothing to add to his written report.
3. Information and Public Affairs: John Culler reported that our "Game on Your Land" booklets should be ready by the end of January. He also reported a record week for income on the magazine last week and that the Division is running about \$50,000 ahead on the magazine. In addition, Culler reported that the response to the wildlife newspaper has been excellent, although, there is a slight problem with the Post Office in that they will not give the Department a 2nd Class Permit because the cost of the paper is not a nominal fee. It is possible that the cost of the paper will have to be raised to \$3 per year, which will save a substantial amount in postage. Culler stated that he would make a recommendation to the Commission in January or February as to how to handle the situation, but would like to leave it as it is for the time being.
4. Law Enforcement and Boating: Pat Ryan reported that they had a Regional Audit on the Hunter Education Program recently which included checking



on the program as we have it outlined, the method of handling, etc., and as a result of the audit, Dr. Timmerman received a communication from the Regional Director indicating that if this program continued as it is now operating, that it would probably become the top program in the nation of this type, within the next few years. Dr. Timmerman asked that Pat Ryan get with the Public Affairs Division and devise a program to emphasize Hunter Safety in the coming year.

5. Marine Resources: Ed Joseph reported that the Regional Councils under the Extended Jurisdiction Act and Regional Fisheries Councils are operating now. One of the high priority problems that these Councils are addressing is the conflict on the incidental catches of billfish by the foreign long line tuna fleets. Joseph stated that the three members of this council from South Carolina are Buddy Glenn, ex-Vice Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Ben Hardesty, Vice President of Shakespeare Corporation and Dr. Joseph. The Commission will be kept informed on the billfish problem.

6. Natural Area Acquisition and Resources Planning: Wayne Beam passed out a list of the new appointees to the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, with the exception of the Senate and House appointees. As soon as these names are received, they will be given to the Commission. Beam reported that Governor Edwards accepted for the Heritage Trust Program the deed to the Stevens Creek Property in McCormick County with Dr. Timmerman and Chairman Hudson present. This property was donated by Continental Forest Industries. The Coastal Zone Management Council met Wednesday and Thursday at Fripp Island and they structured the framework for the legislation to be introduced around the middle of January. Senator Waddell, Chairman of the Council did appoint a five (5) member sub-committee to come up with the legislation which will be available for comment around the first of the year.

ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS:

1. Marine Resources: Commissioner Lumpkin reported that the Marine Resources Advisory Board met jointly with the other two Boards. Commissioner Edens will report on that meeting. Commissioner Lumpkin stated that following the joint meeting, the Marine Resources Advisory Board met and elected a Vice-Chairman, Mr. Walt Zackowski. Mr. Zackowski made a suggestion that the Marine Resources Division run an experimental program on escape hatches for small crabs and crab traps. There have been articles written on this and Dr. Vic Burrell will look into the matter.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Boykin stated that the policy approved at the October 1976 Commission Meeting regarding non-pay conservation officers has been refined somewhat. A copy of the new policy was handed out to the Commission. The changes are listed under Item III of the policy. Bill Cotty went over these items. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to approve the policy as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed. After approval, the policy of the Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers was signed by each Commissioner present and will be put into effect immediately. Commissioner Edens commended the Law Enforcement staff and the Law Enforcement Advisory Board on the fine job they did on this matter.

3. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Edens stated that he is deeply appreciative of the increased interest by the Advisory Boards. On October 14th



the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board met and had five out of seven members present, and yesterday, had seven out of seven members present. Commissioner Edens stated that the Advisory Board recommends that South Carolina be made a falconry state, following up a presentation by Ken Stansell and Kent Nickerson at the Board meeting. Falconry is taking game with birds of prey and it would allow the capture of birds of prey for training under certain regulations. Ken Stansell gave a brief report on falconry stating that a number of states have adopted this form of hunting in their states, however, North Carolina has not, to date. Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion to accept the recommendation that South Carolina be made a falconry state and that staff will develop the program with regulations and come back to the Commission for final approval.

Commissioner Edens reported that a request was received from the South Carolina Archery Association to get legislation to institute a special archery license and take the money from the sale of these license and set aside special areas for exclusive use of that group. The Board respectfully suggested that the group take their own money and form a club and lease lands on their own for that use. It was the general feeling of the Commission that this was the correct thing to do.

In addition, Commissioner Edens stated that the Advisory Board voted not to zone the state for dove shooting, however, they did try to compensate in the regulations. The Board is in favor of an early fixed season starting the first Saturday in September for thirty-six (36) days; open Saturday before Thanksgiving and through Saturday after Thanksgiving; and open December 21st through January 15th. Commissioner Edens made a motion that these dates be approved, barring any change in the Federal Guidelines, and this be the policy of the Department in the future until the Commission sees a need to change it. The motion was seconded and passed. Also, Commissioner Edens reported that it is the request of the Advisory Board that Dr. Timmerman and staff look into the possibility of bringing back the 18 dove per day bag limit. Several Commissioners stated that they felt that it should be left at the current 12 dove per day bag limit, however, Dr. Timmerman will check into the matter with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Advisory Board for information.

It was reported that the Advisory Board was asked by Commissioner Trask to look into the new waterfowl management plan at Bear Island. Commissioner Edens reported that this was considered at yesterday's meeting and was acted on. As soon as the complete report is available, it will be forwarded to Commissioner Trask. Commissioner Trask stated that he would like to get together with Commissioner Edens on the report.

Another item discussed at the Advisory Board Meeting was wildlife patches under power lines. Brock Conrad, Jeff Fuller and staff in that Division met with representatives of S. C. Electric and Gas yesterday and discussed this possibility. The utility company would substitute their own already incurred maintenance expense to supplement a farmer, landowner, club, etc. in return for an agreement that they maintain that power line, according to the utility company's specification. All power companies serving South Carolina are going to be contacted regarding this possibility.

In addition, Commissioner Edens commented that the Advisory Board was concerned that we are not doing the duck surveys that they were told at the Waterfowl Symposium that we would do by aircraft for four or five months. They felt that this was due to the inter-agency charge now in effect for use of the aircraft. They respectfully requested that staff go ahead and do these surveys. Chairman Hudson, Brock Conrad and others stated that they did not recall any promise of four surveys being made. In the past staff has conducted one survey. Prior to implementing the split season,



surveys were conducted in November. This was done for several years. The survey prior to the opening of the season accomplished what staff wanted to do, therefore, they felt that there was no reason to do additional surveys. Chairman Hudson suggested that Commissioner Edens go back to his next Advisory Board Meeting and let Brock Conrad go over these details with them and inform them that the Service is not going to let us go any later than January 20th on the season. Commissioner Edens stated that he brings this as information at the request of the Board and will look forward to having Conrad back in February for further discussion.

SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

Dr. Timmerman reported that last month, there was one employee who received an unsatisfactory rating and one marginal rating at the Marine Center. There was one outstanding rating and one marginal rating in Law Enforcement. This month there were no outstanding and no marginals. The committee has met on both months and all others are in line. The reports were turned over to the Commission Chairman.

APPOINTMENTS:

Dr. Timmerman reported that Conservation Officer Lee Wilson resigned to run for political office in Georgetown. He was not elected and recently has submitted application to be considered for employment for that position. Commissioner Lumpkin had called Timmerman regarding an individual who wanted to employ Wilson as a non-pay Officer during duck season. Timmerman asked if Commission would approve if, as soon as the application, etc. is completed, staff could poll the Commission on this individual. The Commission was in agreement with this.

A motion was made to approve all recommendations for salaried re-appointments for Conservation Officers that were mailed out. The motion was seconded and passed.

On Robert W. Holloway, McCormick County, a new appointment for a salaried Conservation Officer was previously approved, subject to a physical by a certified cardiologist. The physical was completed and the report of the physician was that Mr. Holloway was capable of performing all the duties of a Conservation Officer. A motion was made to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed.

Timmerman reported that R. V. Larimore, Gresham, a non-pay re-appointment was mailed out before it came to his attention that Laramore had previously had a game violation. At the time, he was given a citation for netting (in early 1970's) and his Commission was revoked for one year. After that time, he has been re-appointed each year thereafter. He is o.k. under the present guidelines. The Commission made a motion to approve this re-appointment. The motion was seconded and passed. All other recommendations for re-appointment of non-pay officers were approved by the Commission. A list of all of the above appointments and re-appointments, non-pay and paid, will be made a part of the original copy of these minutes and placed in the file for future reference.

COMMENTS:

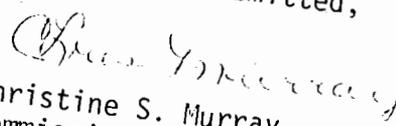


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Ed Latimer stated that he had a request from the Council of Darlington County for permission to assist the Council in building a boat ramp. Latimer suggested that the Commission refer this to Boating Division to be check out. Chairman Hudson asked Pat Ryan to look into this matter.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned and the Commission went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,


Christine S. Murray,
Commission Secretary

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