

## MINUTES

### S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION WAMPEE (Moncks Corner, South Carolina)

December 19, 1975

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at Wampee near Moncks Corner, South Carolina at 10:00 am December 19, 1975 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Buchanan, Boykin, Bennett, Harris, Glenn, Lumpkin and Dennis. Others present were Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Dr. Burrell, Ted Borg, Mike McKinsey, A. S. Lachicotte, Ed Latimer, Ned Pendarvis, Bill Cotty, Pat Robertson, John Evans, Jeff Fuller, Dr. Laurent, Ken Stansell, Bill Chastain, Tommy Welch, Pat Ryan, Coy Johnston, Jack Bayless, Clark Surratt of the State Newspaper and various others.

#### CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF THE LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as they were mailed out with no corrections or additions.

#### COMMENTS

Chairman Hudson asked Dr. Timmerman to go over the Action Report. Dr. Timmerman reported that the Budget & Control Board has approved a set of guidelines for the utilization of State Vehicles. He passed out a draft Management Plan and asked the Commission whether or not they would want to make this effective the first of January or whether or not they wanted to wait until the State implements it in March. Timmerman suggested that the Department go ahead and implement the proposed plan and he briefed the Commission on it.

The plan stated that effective the first week in January all employees, with the exception of Law Enforcement, within the Columbia Dutch Plaza Office, the Bankers Trust Office and the Marine Resources Office operate a vehicle motor pool. Those individuals who drive at least 18,000 miles annually on official Department business and those individuals where a vehicle is critical for their job function will be assigned a vehicle within a motor pool system. For instance, the Division of Administrative Services will retain vehicles assigned to the four license coordinators and all other vehicles currently being used in that Division will be turned in and put into a motor pool existing of approximately six (6) vehicles. The remaining vehicles will be sold, or reissued within the Department if the vehicles can be utilized. All vehicles within the Division of Information & Public Affairs will be placed in a motor pool, however, there will be some cases where a vehicle will be permanently assigned to an individual within the motor pool. A weekly report will be filled out and checked on to see that the individuals are using the vehicles for state functions only. Within the Division of Game & Freshwater Fisheries all biologists and staff members that live in isolated areas will continue to have one vehicle assigned to them. The staff within the Columbia office will develop a motor pool and in cases where necessary, a vehicle will be permanently assigned to an individual within the motor pool. Within the Division of Law Enforcement and Boating, there will not be a motor pool established. This Division is exempt from this requirement due to the nature of their duties. The Division of Marine Resources presently have a motor pool system and will continue this



following these guidelines. The same thing applies for the Bankers Trust Office. Bill Cotty reported that there will be a designated person in each Division to coordinate the motor pool for that particular Division and handle the keys, credit cards, etc. Trip tickets will be issued for the use of vehicles.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the reported approved by the Budget & Control Board also states that all cars, except the Executive Director or the head of an educational institution and the cars used for undercover work, will bear a State seal. If any other seal is going to be used it will have to have the approval of the Budget & Control Board. This is simply a formality and Dr. Timmerman stated that he would write the necessary letter to the Budget & Control Board to get approval of the seals we are presently using. Dr. Timmerman also stated that currently we have approximately 18-20 cars that bear no seal and they will be required to have seals under the new regulations unless we ask for special exemption. It was the general feeling of the Commission that there was no need for this special exemption. The undercover cars are already exempted within these guidelines.

Commissioner Harris stated that he feels this is primarily an ethical problem and recommended that the Commission adopt these guidelines as our initial plan of action retaining flexibility so that if experience shows a need for changes, slight modifications can be made. Commissioner Harris made a motion that the Commission accept this recommendation as an initial line of action and give the Executive Director authority to make minor modifications as necessary. The motion was seconded and passed. This will become effective January 5, 1976.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lumpkin to hold an Executive Session immediately following this meeting to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded and passed.

An in-depth report on our Law Enforcement Division was presented with a film. Pat Ryan thanked the people who helped make this film possible. Ryan stated that due to the absence of Jim Mills, Hunter Safety Coordinator, he would like to carry over until the next meeting the report on Hunter Safety.

Tommy Welch asked Dudley Overton to give a report on the Boating Division. Overton went over some of the latest material available through the Department to assist the public in boating education.

## ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Budget Report: Dr. Timmerman reported that cut backs have been made on the budget across the board. We are in a very tight budget situation and directives have been sent out to the Division Directors to scrutinize very closely expense accounts, etc. and to cut down on all travel as much as possible. Bill Cotty reported to the Commission and brought them up to date on the status of the Budget. There was some discussion on the matter by the Commission. Commissioner Harris suggested that the cost of registering boats include the two new publications.

B. Departmental Policy on State Vehicles: This item on the agenda was covered in the first part of the meeting and you should refer to Page 1 - Comments of these Minutes.



C. Update on Regulations for Legal Taking of Beaver: Ken Stansell brought the Commission up to date on the Beaver Regulations. The draft copy of these regulations was put out to the public for input. The response that was received was very pleasing. Would like to continue to receive this public information this year and postpone any recommendation (formal) and to push forward with regulations for next year. There are two reasons for this: 1) the increased public comment, and 2) there is a bill presently pending concerning the revamping of the fur bearing program in general in South Carolina and we want to see how this comes out and how it relates to the Beaver problem in South Carolina. We will continue the program with public education trying to tell people how they can handle their particular problems. The Beaver right now is more or less unprotected in South Carolina. A report on the present legal status of the Beaver was passed out. A discussion on the trapping and anti-steel trap legislation was held. Commissioner Dennis stated that it would be helpful to him and Commissioner Bennett if the Commission took a position on this matter. Commissioner Dennis made a motion that the Commission take a position that we are opposed to an anti-trapping Bill, but we do favor an updating of the regulatory features of the law. The motion was seconded by Harris and passed. Chairman Hudson asked Bill Cotty to present to the Committees the Commissions feelings on this matter.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON CENTRAL OFFICE FACILITY IN COLUMBIA: Dr. Timmerman reported to the Commission that due to various reasons the staff has not been able to give this project a thorough study. He requested this be put off until January or February to give a report to the Commission.

PERSONNEL HANDBOOK: This project is about 95% put together in draft form and it will take at least another six weeks to have it ready to present to the Commission.

DUCK HUNTERS: Dr. Timmerman suggested a symposium be scheduled in the near future with the interested duck hunters, Ducks Unlimited people and the Wildlife Department to discuss the mutual problems in this area.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT DISTRICTS: Dr. Timmerman reported that he has received a letter from Senator Drummond concerning the re-establishment of Districts within the State Law Enforcement Districts. Timmerman feels that it would be advisable to turn this over to the Law Enforcement Division and have them study and evaluate it and report back at a later date on any recommendations that they have. A motion was made and seconded that this be turned over to Law Enforcement. The motion was passed. Commissioner Dennis asked that Pat Ryan and Bill Chastain give the Commission their recommendations as soon as possible because this is going to be in a legislative stage they we get back.

D. Santee Management Plan: Dr. Laurent reported that the final plan on this has been submitted to The Nature Conservancy and if they agree, we will draft a memo to this effect. A map of the area is available for any one wishing to see it.



ITEM III: NEW BUSINESS

A. Progress Report on Departmental Goals: Larry Cartee was absent and he will report on this item at a later date.

B. Status Report on Administration Building at Dennis Wildlife Center: Dr. Timmerman gave a report on the fire at the Dennis Center. He stated that the federally purchased equipment will be replaced by the Federal people. It was reported that since Lockwood-Greene Engineers are constructing Phase II of the Dennis Center, staff would like to get them to reconstruct the lost building. We would like to use the same plans as before on this with some minor changes. LBC&W have agreed to sell us the original plans with our changes for \$3,000, however Lockwood-Greene would have to purchase them directly from LBC&W. We have appealed the Budget & Control Board for some bonding money for minor Architect and Engineers fees. The insurance money from the loss has been collected. Commissioner Buchanan suggested that we have some group of individuals take a real close look at our insurance and see if we have adequate coverage. The Commission agreed with this. Commissioner Harris suggested that staff check out the investigation of the fire thoroughly to make sure that it was not caused by equipment failure. If it was, the manufacturers of the equipment might possibly be partially responsible. This will be looked into.

C. Future Computer Needs: Bill Cotty reported to the Commission that our present computer system was designed five years ago for our needs at that time. This system is not meeting our present day needs. Staff has been checking into the problem and Cotty will keep the Commission informed on the matter.

D. Plans for Establishing Regional Offices: Pat Ryan and Jeff Fuller reported that they have been working together on this project and have been in touch with some other states. A new design of districts would give us closer contact with the public. Chairman Hudson suggested that the three Advisory Boards get in on this project to get the public feeling on it and to meet with Jeff Fuller and Pat Ryan and see what they can come up with.

E. Hunter Education Data: This item was covered by Pat Ryan on Page 2, paragraph four of these Minutes.

F. In-depth Report - Law Enforcement: This item was covered on Page 2, paragraph four of these Minutes.

G. DIVISION REPORTS: The only additions to the written Division Reports were a report from Dr. Joseph on the shrimp season being extremely high this time; Andy Laurent stated that the Santee Study will be criticized soon and Chairman Hudson and Dr. Timmerman complimented Laurent and his group for the fine work they have done in putting this study together; Jeff Fuller reported the Game & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board meeting was held at Bear Island.

H. Salary Review Committee: Timmerman reported that this report is in line and passed it on to the Chairman. Chairman Hudson stated that staff





should be very careful about ranking people Above Average and Superior unless those individuals are absolutely due that rank.

I. Advisory Board Reports: Jeff Fuller gave the Game & Freshwater Fisheries Report for Mr. Rhame in his absence. Dr. Joseph reported that the error in the Marine Resources Advisory Board Meeting Minutes would be corrected, as per Dr. Lumpkin's request.

J. Appointments: All appointments recommended by Dr. Timmerman were approved by the Commission by a motion by Commissioner Dennis. The motion was seconded and passed. A list of these individuals is available from the Executive Director's office.

S. C. WILDLIFE EDUCATION & TRAINING FUND: A meeting of this group was incorporated in with the Commission Meeting. They approved two requests for funds from the Foundation by employees from the Department for job related courses. The Minutes of that meeting have been mailed out seperately.

There being no further business in the general session, the meeting was adjourned, and the Commission went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

*Christine Stapleton*  
(Miss) Christine Stapleton,  
Secretary to the Commission

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