

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Board Room - The Citadel
Charleston, S. C.
February 14, 1986
10:00 A. M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., in the Board Room of The Citadel, Charleston, S. C., on February 14, 1986, 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, Stokes, Thomason, Quackenbush, Harrelson, and Owen. Directors and staff present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer, Brock Conrad, and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed all guests to the meeting. Major General James A. Grimsley welcomed the Commission to The Citadel and noted that they were glad to host the meeting. Commissioner Quackenbush noted for the record that he would like to move that all senior privates get some sort of amnesty from the Commission's visit to the campus.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the January 17, 1986 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that we are working on the budget process. The Ways and Means Committee has deleted our budget recommendations made by the Budget and Control Board and has deleted 2% from our current base. Dr. Timmerman noted that he recently met with Senator Dennis and he is doing very well. Dr. Timmerman noted that he is working with the IAFWA on the federal budget proposal for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Seventy-four percent of the fisheries reductions in the USFWS budget are in our region in the Southeast, Region 4.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we are now interviewing for 12 Conservation Officer positions. He noted that we need to get these applicants in the new cycle of classes at the Criminal Justice Academy on April 2 and legislators need a ten-day notification as required by law. As a result of these considerations, Dr. Timmerman recommended that the Commission meet on March 14, 1986, to take action on these twelve applicants. The Commission adopted a motion to approve Dr. Timmerman's recommendation.

Dr. Timmerman noted that at the recent Awards Banquet of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, the Governor gave good support for the proposed land procurement program. He noted that several chapters have endorsed the HELP Program. Dr. Timmerman stated that we will need to work out compromises on the HELP Program in the House of Representatives and he recommended that the Commission ask the staff to work with Commissioner Bennett on this matter. Chairman Webster asked the staff to pursue this matter along these lines.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposal for Disciplinary Action for Employees: Dr. Timmerman noted that a proposed policy was presented to the Commission at the last meeting and a re-draft has been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion of the draft policy, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to adopt the policy to include that any disciplinary action of all employees, beyond an oral reprimand, shall be reported to the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting and if the Commission fails to take any action, it will be sustained. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. 1986 Objectives and 1985 Accomplishments: Dr. Timmerman noted that 1985 Accomplishments and 1986 Objectives have been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Larry Cartee went over the 1986 Objectives with the Commission and noted that input on priorities and goals is being requested from the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that he planned to present a State of Wildlife statement in 1987 at the South Carolina Wildlife Federation's Annual Meeting unless there are objections by the Commission. Commissioner Owen noted that we need to work with DHEC on identifying fisheries hot spots across the state and a program needs to be developed on this matter. Commissioner Thomason noted that we need to look at putting more emphasis on quail management. Dr. Timmerman stated that an update on small game management will be included on the Commission agenda in the near future. Commissioner Harrelson noted that he recommended that the saltwater fishing license proposal be added to the list of objectives and for such to be developed by the Division of Marine Resources.

C. Proposed Revised Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer Policy: Bill Chastain went over the proposed revised policy as sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). This proposed policy was discussed with the Commission. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to add the Chairman of the Marine Resources Advisory Board to the Standing Review Committee in the policy and to adopt the policy with this addition. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Legislative Report: Dan Dobbins presented a legislative report to the Commission and discussed several bills. Mr. Dobbins noted that Senator Bryan has introduced S.638 which would involve 3 days of man-drives for deer in his area. Commissioner Owen noted that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board had reviewed this matter in a public hearing and did not recommend

any changes. Following discussion, the Commission decided to stand on its previous position to not recommend any changes. Mr. Dobbins presented an update on the HELP legislation that is proposed and he went over the input that has been provided. Mr. Dobbins noted that Wildlife Action, Inc. is now reviewing the HELP Program and they feel that all users of the natural resource should pay their way. They have requested that a cane pole license be required and asked that such be considered by the Commission. Chairman Webster asked the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board to review this matter and come back to the Commission with a recommendation. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have received some concern from the U. S. Forest Service on the proposed higher fee on a non-resident GMA permit. Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of legislators on committees with which we work and asked the Commission to let he or Dan Dobbins know of legislators that they could contact.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.
3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain noted that the new DWCO Policy would provide two classes per year and such will be implemented unless there are objections from the Commission. Mr. Chastain asked when this policy is effective and the Commission noted that such is effective as of this date. Commissioner Thomason noted that he has been working to get a new radio installed for District #1 and such has not yet been done. Dr. Timmerman stated that he will follow through on this matter.
4. Conservation Education & Communications: John Evans noted that we have received a stack of news clippings endorsing the HELP Program.
5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer informed the Commission that the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fair will be held June 21 - 23, 1986.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush noted that the Board met on February 13, 1986. The Board reviewed the bill introduced by Representative Rawl on trespass whereby a \$2,500 fine would be required on the first offense. The Board endorsed this bill and moved for the Commission to endorse this legislation. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.
2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Harrelson noted the Board met on February 13, 1986, and there was nothing further to report.
3. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted the Board met on February 13, 1986. The Board adopted proposed regulations for state lakes which will be presented at the next Commission Meeting.

C. Other Remarks: Commissioner Thomason noted that a banquet is planned for May 16, 1986 in Spartanburg to raise funds for the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund. A local group of sportsmen are organizing this effort and a children's fishing rodeo is being planned at Lake Johnson. The Commissioners secured their tickets for this event from Commissioner Thomason.

D. Time and Place of Next Meeting: This was acted upon previously in the meeting. The Commission discussed the possibility of holding their May 16, 1986 meeting in Spartanburg in conjunction with the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund Banquet.

E. Appointments: Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session for the purpose of appointments, personnel matters and legal matters. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that the Commission would recess the regular meeting to hold an Executive Session to discuss appointments, personnel and legal matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting. Chairman Webster asked Commissioner Harrelson to report on the action taken in Executive Session. Commissioner Harrelson reported that the Commission took the following action in Executive Session:

1. A motion was adopted to approve all appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers as presented (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

The Commission adopted a motion to ratify and approve this action.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting, a motion was adopted to adjourn.