

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING
Stern Center - College of Charleston
Charleston, S. C.
February 15, 1991
10:00 A. M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., Friday, February 15, 1991, at the Stern Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, with Chairman Burnside presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Burnside, Compton, Miller, Snow, Pendarvis, Poston, Graham and Owen. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Dan Dobbins, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer and various other staff members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside 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 January 18, 1991 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman welcomed the Commissioners to Charleston and advised them of various activities in conjunction with the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition.

Dr. Timmerman went over the federal budget meeting recently in Washington and noted that he had met with the Corps of Engineers to discuss projects of mutual interest. Dr. Timmerman noted that the state budget picture does not look good as the state has a \$132,000,000 projected shortfall. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will have to cut travel, freeze hiring and take other actions regarding this cut. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have set aside 5% for this proposed cut and hopefully it will carry us through this year. Dr. Timmerman noted that he had advised the staff to try to hold meetings in Columbia to hold down on travel costs. Dr. Timmerman noted that he was optimistic on securing bond funds as it appeared that we may receive most of the funds that we had requested.



Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission had discussed a proposed policy on the use of fish kill funds and that he had no problem with a special fund being set up and used for capital improvements; however, he would like to hold off on a stringent policy until we see how the budget situation looks later on.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Commissioner Drummond had brought up at the last meeting, the issuance of disability licenses and that the staff is reviewing this matter and will have further input at the March Commission Meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Paul Wright had been appointed to the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board and David Cline had been appointed to the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board.

ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dan Dobbins distributed a copy of the Third Legislative Report and went over this briefly with the Commission.

Commissioner Pendarvis expressed concern on the Department getting lands in the ACE Basin and not having the funds to adequately manage these lands.

ITEM IV - OLD BUSINESS:

A. Proposed Policy on Fish Kill Funds: Commissioner Owen noted that this matter was discussed at the last meeting and that the staff has gotten together to work out a new proposed policy for the use of fish kill funds. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to approve the policy which reads as follows:

"Through Department policy, all funds collected above the cost of collection as a result of pollution-caused fish kills be put in a special fund to be utilized by the Department for capital improvement projects. Such projects include purchase, construction, renovation of fish hatcheries, and/or lease or construction of public fishing lakes. Funds will not be a part of any division operational budget. Any expenditure would be subject to approval by the Executive Director. In the event of a budget crisis, the Executive Director may utilize fish kill funds for other purposes with proper accounting made to staff."

Commissioner Poston seconded the motion and following discussion, the motion was adopted by the Commission.

B. Terms & Conditions - Non-Native Shrimp Aquaculture Permit: Jim Quinn noted that Mr. Ned Sloan had sent a letter to the Commission to reverse the terms & conditions on the non-native shrimp permits and this legal matter should be further discussed in Executive Session.

C. Legislative Proposals - Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board: Commissioner Miller noted that three (3) proposals had been adopted by the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board and the details of these proposals had been sent to the Commission for their consideration (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The first proposal dealt with the prohibition of possession of alcohol while participating in hunting activities on WMA lands. Following discussion, the Commission approved the proposal as submitted with the addition of six (6) points being included in the penalty section. The second proposal dealt with the prohibition of the consumption of alcohol at public boat launching facilities. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the legal concept of this proposal with the staff working out further details and sending to the Legislature for consideration. The third proposal dealt with the prohibition of the public display of harvested wildlife. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this proposal as presented.

ITEM V - NEW BUSINESS:

A. Proposed Mourning Dove Season - 1991-92: Brock Conrad noted that the proposed mourning dove season for 1991-92 had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the proposed season as presented.

B. 1990 Accomplishments and 1991 Goals & Objectives: Dr. Timmerman noted that Larry Cartee has been working on developing Goals & Objectives and each Director has appointed a staff member to assist in the development of long-range plans. Dr. Timmerman noted that the 1990 Accomplishments had been sent to the Commission, as well as the 1991 Objectives and he went these objectives with the Commissioners. Following this review, Dr. Timmerman asked the Commissioners to review these objectives and pass on any comments or recommendations they may have.

C. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves advised the Commissioners that the State Auditors are still working in the Department.



2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad distributed to the Commission for their information, a Use Plan for the Webb Wildlife Center facilities. Tom Swaynham gave the Commissioners an update on the alligator project. Tim Ivey advised the Commission of plans that have been developed to include the Sandhills and Manchester State Forest into the WMA program which will provide an additional 67,000 acres.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing further to report.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer noted that the shrimp trawling season closed on January 28th and this was the longest season since 1970. He noted that work is beginning on the Administration Building and it is hoped that such will be completed this summer. He further noted that Dr. Ted Smith has been named the Interim Director of the Marine Resources Research Institute. An update was given on the research program with the Office of Naval Research and South Carolina State College and it was noted that they have recently hired a female marine scientist in this program.

D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board met on February 14, 1991 and he went over the items discussed at this meeting. Commissioner Owen noted that the Board adopted a recommendation to the Commission that it be proposed to the General Assembly that the Commission be allowed to set rules and regulations on WMA lands and also that the Commission be empowered to set rules and regulations for waterfowl seasons, bag limits and methods within the federal guidelines. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve this proposal. Commissioner Poston seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Owen noted that the Board discussed the road hunting issue and that Paul Wright and Ed Muckenfuss of the Board had been appointed to work with the staff and appointees of the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board to come up with a proposal on road hunting. Commissioner Owen noted that there is a problem with private ownership of wildlife and this matter is being reviewed by the Board.

2. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Graham noted that the Board met on February 1, 1991 at the Yawkey Wildlife Center. Commissioner Graham noted that the Board discussed budget problems with the magazine and proposals were developed to cut \$65,000 from the budget.



Commissioner Graham discussed the background behind this \$65,000 cut and the savings of each effort. Commissioner Graham noted that the Board is looking at publications in the Department as we may have overlap and duplication. He noted that the goal is to get the information to the public and that Colonel Gene Foxworth and Frank Handal had been appointed to review this matter. Commissioner Graham noted that the Board is looking at the photography policy in the Department and they will review the existing Commission policy on photography and expand upon this policy.

E. Other Remarks: Chairman Burnside noted that there was a Deer Quality Management meeting at Millaree recently and a professor from the University of Georgia came to talk to this group about anti-hunting. Chairman Burnside noted that he presented an outstanding talk to about 150 people who were in attendance at this meeting.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that he would be meeting in the near future with Harry Bell of the S. C. Farm Bureau to discuss problems with crop depredation by deer.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to direct the staff to enforce the covenants of the Colleton River's Association to include any legal action that may be necessary. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to accept the resignation of Durham C. Bozard or in the alternative for the Law Enforcement Division and Executive Director to terminate him as a probationary employee. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.



Minutes - SCWMRC Meeting
February 15, 1991
Page Six

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve all DWCO reappointments as recommended, new appointments, reappointments not recommended and change of authority. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Compton moved for the officers working for the Governor's security detail from the Department be added to the list of the policy for employees with non-SG tags. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to endorse staying with the current policies which exists for the non-native shrimp aquaculture permits and to defend these policies as needed and appropriate. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.

F. Appointments: This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia on March 22, 1991 at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM VI - ADJOURN

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

