

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Direlton Plantation
Georgetown, South Carolina

February 17, 1978

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at Direlton Plantation near Georgetown, South Carolina at 10:00 a.m. on February 17, 1978, with Vice-Chairman Lumpkin presiding. Other Commissioners present were Edens, Boykin, Shuler, Trask, and Bennett. Directors and staff members present were Dr. Timmerman, Benny Reeves, Dr. Joseph, Pat Ryan, Larry Cartee, Ned Pendarvis, Dan Dobbins, Mac Flood, Brock Conrad, Tommy Strange, Pat Morgan, Mark Bara, Tom Kohlsaas, Pete Laurie, Johnny Evans, A. S. Lachicotte, Alvin Poston and various others. Guests present were Claymon Grimes, Attorney, J. C. Boles, President, S. C. Wildlife Federation, and Frank Lesesne, Member, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Lumpkin called the meeting to order.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no call for Executive Session.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Edens noted the following corrections to the January 1978 Commission Meeting Minutes: Page 1, Item II. Comments, paragraph two should read 'Dr. Timmerman recommended that the Commission change the rules on Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers to require only a one day training period annually rather than a two day training period.' Page 2, paragraph three should read 'Dr. Timmerman stated that efforts are being made through the legislature to establish the position of a Farm Small Game Program Leader and a Furbearing Program Leader.' Page 2, paragraph three, line six should read 'A study Committee meeting will be held February 28th through March 2nd, 1978 to hold interviews.' Commissioner Edens made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 1978 Commission Meeting with the above corrections. The motion was seconded and passed.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman expressed thanks to Mac Flood for renovation of Direlton House and funds that he saved the Department. Dr. Timmerman also thanked Richard Morin for constructing and erecting the signs at the Samworth Management Area, as well as Pat Morgan and others involved in the preparation for the Dedication Ceremony being held today. It was also reported that the Thirty-third North American Wildlife Conference will be held in Phoenix, Arizona March 18th through March 27th, 1978. Dr. Timmerman stated that he will be attending the meeting representing the Department and extended an invitation to the Commission to attend the meeting. He will report back to the Commission on the meeting. Dr. Timmerman reported that he has received many favorable comments regarding the Public Hearing that was held recently. Dr. Timmerman stated that he feels that staff had to hurriedly present a report to the Advisory Board regarding the Doe Quota System and he stated



that he would strongly recommend that this matter be thoroughly studied before it is brought before the Commission and that any action will be delayed on the Doe Quota System until the March Meeting. Staff is following through with replies to those who have requested them and copies of the summary of the Public Hearing are being sent out. Dr. Timmerman reported that he met recently with members of the Delegation in Clarendon County to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Dr. Timmerman reported that he received a letter from the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service stating that on all federal funds, such as the Pittman-Roberson and Dingell Johnson funds, we must issue an Environmental Impact Statement to assure that whatever we do does not have an adverse effect on the non-game activities. He expressed concern over the fact that the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division went into this budget year with approximately \$200,000 less than they had last year. Expenses have been cut considerably in this Division. Also, Dr. Timmerman stated that he received notice from the Governor that the Pittman-Roberson funds that we get annually, usually with a 10% increase, have been reduced by \$287,000 less than we had estimated, although in talking to the Federal Wildlife Service, the Assistant Secretary of Interior, and others, we were able to get funds restored for this year. The license revenue has leveled off and we are not receiving any more revenue than we had the previous year. It was also reported that there is a Resolution out in the House and the Senate to place the revenues that we receive in General Funds and appropriate them back to us. We are going to work with the General Assembly closely on this to make sure that if this is done, that these funds are earmarked to come back to the Department. Dr. Timmerman stated that he has written the Federal office to find out why the Pittman-Roberson funds were decreased. These monies are based on the amount of revenues collected on the sale of hunting gear and shells. He also reported that approximately 2.2 million dollars of our total budget is paid for salaries out of this revenue. We are trying to work something out with the legislature in that we pay this 2.2 million dollars to them and tell them that this would be a fixed amount and that they could put all of those employees on the State payroll and pick up the fringe benefits amount due thereafter. Another Bill that is in the process of passing is for the type of uniform the conservation officers and biologists would wear. This is in line with what the Commission already approved for our officers. Dr. Timmerman reported that he plans to do an in-depth study of the Information & Public Affairs Division to see if a management system can be developed to put their program on a sound financial basis. Dr. Timmerman reported that there are currently twenty-two vacancies in the Law Enforcement Division for Conservation Officers. These are in the process of being filled. No new employees are being hired for the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division with the exception of the two positions for the Small Game and Furbearing Program leaders. Dr. Timmerman passed out a copy of the new Employee Handbook for the Commission's information. He asked that Dan Dobbins, in the Legislative Affairs Section, make comments concerning this matter and also that this be placed on the Agenda for future Commission Meetings. Dan Dobbins reported that the Commission will be receiving Legislative Reports approximately every two weeks recapping legislation that affects the Department summarizing the legislation and the status of it. Also, he passed out a copy of a list of priority legislation by Division that we would like to see enacted as soon as possible. Also justifications have been attached. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Point Bill



has passed and has been ratified and requested that all bills, as they are ratified, are mailed out to the Commission for their information. Commissioner Bennett requested that in the future the Commission go over this information and make comments at the meetings. There was some discussion over the Bill concerning the residency requirements on gratis license and it was the general feeling of the Commission that it should be thirty days and sixty-five years old.

Vice-Chairman Lumpkin recognized guests present, Mr. Frank Lesesne, Advisory Board Member and Mr. Claymon Grimes, Coastal Council Member.

ITEM III. COMMENTS - WACCAMAW CHAPTER OF THE S. C. WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Mr. Mitch Godwin of the Waccamaw Chapter of the S. C. Wildlife Federation addressed the Commission on the problems of public rights on navigable waters. He read a Resolution by the Federation (copy attached to original Minutes) and the Commission accepted this as information. Claymon Grimes asked the Commission to take further action to upgrade trespassing laws.

ITEM IV.A. 1978-79 GAME MANAGEMENT AREA SEASONS AND REGULATIONS

Brock Conrad discussed the proposed 1978-79 Game Management Area Regulations and Seasons which were mailed out to the Commission prior to this meeting. (Copy attached to original Minutes) Commissioner Shuler made a motion to raise the GMA permit for residents to \$5.25 effective July 1, 1978. The motion was seconded and passed. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to approve the recommendations by staff for the regulations and seasons for 1978-79 with the exception of that pertaining to doe deer harvest. The motion was seconded and passed. Dr. Timmerman noted that the doe harvest matter needed an in-depth investigation before a decision is reached by the Commission. Commissioner Edens made a motion to carry the doe harvest matter over to the March meeting and to have a special meeting of the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board in March to further discuss the matter. The motion was seconded and passed.

B. DISTRIBUTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTS: Dr. Timmerman stated that the Law Enforcement staff had recommended that case sheets be distributed to the Conservation Officers as information. Several years ago, the Commission had taken a position to not distribute this information. Dr. Timmerman noted that he felt it could be beneficial but that he did not have any strong feelings one way or another as to whether they should be distributed. The Commission approved a motion to refer the matter to the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board for consideration.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS - STEVENS CREEK: Tom Kohlsaatt discussed proposed regulations for Stevens Creek (copy attached to original Minutes) which were mailed to the Commission. A new set of regulations was distributed to the Commission which included provisions to allow public hunting. The Commission approved these regulations subject to allowing hunting on the property under GMA regulations.



B. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Administrative Services: Reeves had nothing to add to the written report.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing to add to the written report.
3. Information & Public Affairs: There was nothing to add to the written report.
4. Law Enforcement & Boating: Ryan had nothing to add to the written report.
5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph stated that recent sampling indicated that the white shrimp crop may be a repeat of last year whereby the cold weather had virtually wiped out the crop.
6. Natural Area Acquisition & Resource Planning: There was nothing to add to the written report.

C. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Edens reported that the Standing Review Committee recommended that Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer John E. Gamble be allowed to keep his commission and be placed on a one year probation. The Commission approved this action. The Committee also recommended that the revocation of Mr. Eldred Williams commission be sustained. The Commission approved this action. As a matter of information concerning Mr. Williams case, Dr. Timmerman reported that Senator Waller asked that the Commission Minutes reveal that he was on record as supporting the retention of the Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer commission by Mr. Williams. The motion was amended to the effect that if such a letter is received from Senator Waller, it will be entered in the records.

Commissioner Edens reported that the Advisory Board recommends to the Commission that (1) for the 1978-79 season, we would charge \$15 per thousand for bicolor plants; (2) that a bicolor seed patch would be started; and that (3) we would re-evaluate the possibility of establishing a nursery for the production of bicolor plants and other plants useful in wildlife management. Mr. Frank Lesesne, Advisory Board Member, made recommendations to the Commission stating that he feels that one central nursery for the production of bicolor plants and others would be more beneficial than several nurseries scattered throughout the state. Also, Mr. Lesesne stated that he feels that we need reliable seed patches which we harvest ourselves in connection with the nursery. Commissioner Edens made a motion that the Commission approve the three recommendations from the Advisory Board concerning the nursery. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Boykin stated that the Advisory Board met on last Friday at Dutch Plaza and the Minutes of that meeting have been mailed to the Commission. The Advisory Board recommended that the Commission take steps to bring salary classifications of Law Enforcement Officers in line with that of the Highway Patrol. Commissioner Boykin made the motion that the Commission approve this recommendation. The motion was seconded and



passed. Dr. Timmerman stated that this would probably cost approximately \$100,000 to put this into effect.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Lumpkin passed out a copy of the Minutes of the Advisory Board meeting to the Commission. He reported that legislative proposals have been established. Dr. Timmerman reported that the crab pots have been discussed in committee and will be in a very strong position as far as the Senate is concerned. Plans are made to meet with the sub-committee next week. Dr. Timmerman stated that the staff will inform the Commission by letter on this matter. Commissioner Lumpkin stated that the eel fisheries was discussed and Dr. Joseph reported that Charles Bearden of the Marine staff has been working with Jack Bayless and the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries staff to attempt to come up with some regulations or legislation to deal with this problem.

4. Heritage Trust: Nothing to report at this time.

D. SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Dr. Timmerman stated that all salaries have been reviewed and everything is in order. A copy of the report will be given to the Chairman for the file.

E. APPOINTMENTS: A motion was made to approve all recommendations on appointments and re-appointments for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers, Conservation Officers and salaried personnel as mailed out to the Commission. The motion was seconded and passed.

F. OTHER REMARKS: Dr. Timmerman recommended to the Commission, as Board of Directors of the S. C. Wildlife Education & Training Fund, Inc., that Mildred Williams be awarded \$750 and William C. Alexander be awarded \$500 from the fund. He also stated that he has recommended to Ducks Unlimited that they offer assistance on funding to William C. Alexander for his studies at Clemson. DU is very interested in this project. Dr. Timmerman also recommended that no other funds be distributed from this fund until guidelines have definitely been established in the future. A motion was made by Commissioner Boykin to approve these recommendations. The motion was seconded and passed. Dr. Timmerman passed out to the Directors of the Board some guidelines that he recommends to be used in the future on the S. C. Wildlife Education & Training Fund, Inc. The Cantey Fund guidelines are specific. Any comments or suggestions can be taken up at the March Commission Meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting at this time, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine S. Murray
Christine S. Murray,
Commission Secretary

