

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Galliard Auditorium, Meeting Room F
Charleston, S. C.
February 17, 1984
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Meeting Room 4F, Galliard Auditorium, Charleston, S. C., on February 17, 1984, at 10:00 a.m., with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Webster, Compton, Owen, Dawson, Stubbs, Bennett, Harrelson and Dennis. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Jeff Fuller, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer, Sonny Baines and various other staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster 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 20, 1984 Commission meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Chairman Webster introduced Mr. Fred Kinard, President of the S. C. Wildlife Federation. Mr. Kinard presented a \$200 check from the S. C. Wildlife Federation to the Operation Game Thief Program. Mr. Kinard noted the S. C. Wildlife Federation adopted a resolution supporting the Operation Game Thief Program (copy attached to original Commission minutes).

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had received a letter recommending that the name of the Four County Fish Hatchery be changed to the Glenmore Shirey Fish Hatchery in honor of the 28 years of service of Mr. Shirey at this facility. Jeff Fuller gave some background on Mr. Shirey's career. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted there was a budget proviso to transfer our aircraft to the Aeronautics Commission, but the House has changed this proposal. The Senate is considering a bill to regulate the control of state aircraft. Dr. Timmerman noted that Bill Chastain has advised him that we are carrying out all laws that relate to aircraft. Commissioner Dennis noted that he has not heard any criticism of the Department's aircraft in the deliberation on this matter.

Larry Cartee gave an update on work to be done on the Lake Oak Grove dam noting that \$150,000 has been approved for this project and a joint committee with the Land Resources Conservation Commission has been formed to expedite this project. Resumes from engineers will be accepted over the next few weeks to do the design work on this project.



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Dr. Timmerman gave the Commission a brief update on the Department's budget noting debate on the education package continues.

Following other discussion, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that an Executive Session will be held following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters.

ITEM III. BRIEFING ON SOUTHEASTERN WILDLIFE EXPOSITION

Marvin Davant welcomed the Commission to Charleston and gave them a briefing on the activities associated with the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition. He invited the Commission to attend various events and asked them to contact him if he could be of assistance.

ITEM IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a copy of the legislative report and went over various bills and their status. Mr. Dobbins noted the Joint Committee on Crop Depredation, chaired by Senator John Drummond, will be meeting shortly.

ITEM V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Change in Trout Regulations: Dan Dobbins noted that recent regulations approved by the General Assembly prohibit the use of corn, cheese, fish eggs or imitations of them as bait "to take trout". This has caused some law enforcement problems and it is suggested that the language "to take trout" be changed to "for the taking of fish". This can be done by amending the statute or through the rule and regulation process. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission for this change to be made in the most expeditious manner.

Dan Dobbins also noted that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board has been looking at a proposed ridge line law to protect the mountain area. The Board has adopted the following resolution: "The Heritage Trust Advisory Board endorses the formulation of a law to protect the state's mountain ridges from development which would interfere with their scenic attraction. The concept of such a law is in the keeping with the Heritage Trust legislative mandate." Mr. Dobbins noted that concern has been expressed by various citizens and the Commission's support of this concept is requested. Following discussion, Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to endorse the resolution adopted by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves advised the Commission that a 50-year lease with the Chester County Airport Commission has been renegotiated and it includes provisions for a public dove field.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Gerald Moore distributed a list of trends in deer harvests in the Piedmont Hunt Units (copy attached to original Commission minutes). Mr. Moore noted the biologists in the Western and Central Piedmont Hunt



Units will recommend 10 doe days. This will help the crop depredation problems in this part of the state. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to endorse this concept. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

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

4. Information & Public Affairs: Sonny Baines advised the Commission that the Capitol Chapter of the S. C. Wildlife Federation recently presented an award to the Department for the Operation Respect Program. This plaque was presented to the Commission. Mr. Baines noted that the set of 17 knives were sold by seal bids and the set went for \$5,800. These funds will be used for the magazine. Mr. Baines noted the Department's exhibit is at the State Ports Authority building and he invited the Commission to stop by. Dr. Timmerman noted that Project WILD was discussed at a recent staff meeting and it was so impressive, it may be good to have on the Commission agenda for information. Chairman Webster stated that Project WILD will be on the agenda for the March Commission meeting.

5. Marine Resources: There was nothing further to report.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted the Board met in Columbia on February 9th. The Board considered an anti-harassment bill and recommended to the Commission that an anti-harassment bill similar to HR-3713 be introduced in the S. C. legislature. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to adopt this recommendation. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Mr. Owen noted the Board discussed raccoon hunting in the upstate and efforts are needed to protect the coon population. As such, the Board recommended: 1) that all spring running of raccoons with dogs be eliminated in Game Zones 1, 2, and 4; 2) that all spring running with dogs for raccoons be eliminated in the rest of the state; 3) fall running season to be changed from August 15th - October 15th to September 1st - November 1st; and 4) present kill season to be changed from October 15th - March 1st to November 1st - March 1st. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to approve these recommendations. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Owen stated the Board discussed a bill currently in the House which would change license expiration dates from June 30th to one (1) year after date of purchase. The Board adopted a motion to support the current license system and not support this proposed legislation. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to support this position. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted the Board met yesterday and discussed the recent public hearings held along the coast. Commissioner Compton distributed a copy of the Board's recommendations concerning shrimp seine/cast net and related legislation (copy attached to original Commission minutes). Commissioner Compton noted the Board was presenting these six proposals as a framework for consideration by the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee. These may be adopted in



total or may require further public hearings. Commissioner Compton noted the consensus of the public hearings was that both the commercial and recreational segments asked for help in protecting our resources. As such, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt these six proposals as a framework for consideration by the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

C. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the appointments and reappointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve all appointments and reappointments as recommended.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Boating Investigator and two vacant positions will be transferred to the Division of Law Enforcement and Boating from the Division of Administrative Services. Interviews for these two vacancies have been held and these two appointments are being recommended to the Commission. The Commission agreed to consider all these new appointments while in Executive Session.

D. Other Remarks: Commissioner Stubbs noted that the Conservation Officers in the upstate did an excellent job on a fur case in Greenville on February 5th. This case received a great deal of publicity in the newspapers and local television stations.

E. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster stated that the next Commission meeting will be held in Columbia on March 16, 1984, at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM VII. ADJOURN

The Commission adopted a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and go into Executive Session as previously approved.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and invited participants into the meeting. Chairman Webster announced that the Commission took the following actions while in Executive Session:

1. The Commission adopted a motion to appoint the following new Conservation Officers:
 - John Allen Floyd - Beaufort County (District #9)
 - Carl Edwin Joye - Orangeburg County
2. The Commission adopted a motion to appoint the following Boating Investigators in the Division of Law Enforcement & Boating:
 - Gary Sullivan
 - Larry Ross



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Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve and ratify these two actions. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. There being no further business, the Commission adopted a motion to adjourn.

