

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Marine Resources Center - Ft. Johnson
Charleston, S. C.
February 17, 1989
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 17, 1989, at the Marine Resources Center located in Charleston, S. C., 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, Thomason, Owen, Miller, Stokes, Drummond, Compton, Bennett and Pendarvis. Staff Members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines, and various other staff 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 20, 1989 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Mr. Porter Rose of Greenville has been of tremendous assistance to our Department in preparing a lifetime license proposal. Due to his assistance, Dr. Timmerman recommended that the Commission approve Mr. Porter Rose for the Certificate of Meritorious Service. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation as submitted by Dr. Timmerman.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we are working on the federal budget proposal and it has been proposed to establish a \$100-million cap for PR and DJ funds. Dr. Timmerman noted that this would have a serious impact on the programs in the Department and we would continue to work on taking appropriate action concerning this matter.

Dr. Timmerman noted in the Legislative Package, there is a bill, S-247, which provides for a resolution to study the development of a Natural Resources Agency. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department will take a lead role regarding this matter.

Mr. Connolly noted that he has been impressed with the work done in South Carolina and noted that our Department represents the best Department in the nation in the area of waterfowl management and enhancement. As a token of appreciation and recognition for this work, Mr. Connolly presented to the Department, a wood duck carving and Dr. Timmerman noted that this would be placed in a prominent display place in the Department.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board met on February 16, 1989 and he had several items to present to the Commission for action.

Commissioner Owen noted that the Board had approved proposed legislation concerning hunting from public roads and he read over this proposal as adopted by the Board (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). It was noted that the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board had adopted a similar proposal, but the language may be somewhat different. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the concept of proposed language concerning hunting from public roads with the staff getting together to refine this language to be consistent with both Advisory Boards' actions.

Commissioner Owen noted that the Board had approved a legislative proposal concerning the use of international orange which reads as follows:

"All persons while hunting in South Carolina shall wear a visible hat, coat or vest of solid international orange. However, this provision shall not apply to hunters while engaged in the hunting of migratory birds or turkeys."

Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this proposal and present such to the Legislature. Commissioner Stokes voted in opposition to this motion.

Commissioner Owen noted the Board had approved and recommended a proposal concerning the enforcement of the turkey baiting law and he went over this with the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, the Commission approved the recommendation concerning the enforcement of the turkey baiting law as presented with Commissioner Pendarvis voting against the motion.

Commissioner Owen noted that the proposed changes in the regulations for the Antlerless Doe Quota Program will be prepared and sent to the Commission for consideration at the March meeting.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Stokes noted the Board met on February 3, 1989 in a joint meeting with the Marine Resources Advisory Board and that no items for action need to be reported to the Commission.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the joint meeting with the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board was held on February 3, 1989 and he went over the items discussed at this joint meeting and the separate meeting held by the Marine Resources Advisory Board.

Commissioner Pendarvis noted that Dr. Douglas Rucker was a new member of the Marine Advisory Board and was in attendance at this meeting.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: There was no report from the Board this month.

5. Heritage Trust: Dr. Timmerman noted this Board met recently and a copy of the Minutes of that meeting will be sent to the Commission for their information.

D. Other Remarks: Commissioner Owen asked about a bill, H-3352, which sets a 14-inch limit on largemouth bass. Dan Dobbins noted that our Department has developed a proposal concerning this matter and this bill would be contrary to what we have proposed. Mr. Dobbins noted that he will continue to work on this matter with the General Assembly.

Commissioner Thomason noted that there have been several meetings concerning flooding the Broad River to create an impoundment in his area and this could have some serious impacts upon wildlife and wildlife habitat. Commissioner Thomason asked Brock Conrad to review this matter and take whatever action is appropriate concerning impacts that this proposal may have upon wildlife.

At this time, Commissioner Stokes moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss legal, personnel and contractual matters. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside announced that at this time, the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss legal, personnel and contractual matters.

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 withdraw its previous approval of removing turkeys from South Carolina and transferring turkeys for stocking in Texas and that the staff be instructed to establish guidelines for any future stocking program in other states, and it is understood and further stated by the Commission that the stocking of turkeys in South Carolina has to be 100% completed before we follow the guidelines of staff in providing turkeys outside the State of South Carolina. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Compton moved for the staff to pursue the request of North Carolina or neighboring states to provide turkeys to those states for stocking to follow the guidelines as established by the staff and approved by the Commission with the stipulation that any such transfer shall not exceed 100 turkeys to any state. Commissioner Pendarvis seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission with Commissioner Bennett voting in the negative.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Department to transfer \$400,000 in duck stamp funds to the National Wildlife Foundation providing the Department receives matching funds from the federal government for the purchase of waterfowl habitat in South Carolina. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to instruct the staff to pursue the acquisition of suitable duck habitat in South Carolina. Commissioner Drummond seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to reconsider its prior action at the previous Commission Meeting in not filling a conservation officer's position in Edgefield County and for the Commission to approve filling this position along with filling the other new conservation officer position in Edgefield County as recommended by staff. Commissioner Drummond seconded the motion. Following discussion, the Commission approved the motion with Commissioner Pendarvis voting in the negative.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve all appointments, re-appointments, promotions and new conservation officer appointments as recommended by staff (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) with the following changes:



Minutes - SCWMRC Meeting
February 17, 1989
Page Seven

1. Jimmy Reardon - New DWCO Appointment - Statewide Authority
2. George Hardwick - New DWCO Appointment - Authority in
Williamsburg, Horry, Florence and Marion
Counties
3. Fred Powell & Virgil Dugan - Approval to use the Department's
new radio system, subject to these individ-
uals purchasing the radios themselves.

Commissioner Owen seconded the motion with the changes as pre-
sented by Commissioner Compton and it was approved by the
Commission.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the re-
appointment of Coy Johnston to the Wildlife & Freshwater Fish-
eries Advisory Board. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion
and it was adopted by the Commission.

E. Appointments: This matter was previously acted upon by
the Commission.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed
to hold its next meeting in Columbia on March 17, 1989.

ITEM VII - ADJOURN

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

