

Reeves

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

Dutch Plaza
Columbia, South Carolina

February 18, 1977

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Dutch Plaza in the Commission Conference Room in Columbia, South Carolina at 10:00 am on February 18, 1977, with Chairman Hudson presiding over the meeting. Other Commissioners present were Buchanan, Edens, Trask, Shuler, Lumpkin, and Boykin. Advisor Webb was in attendance along with the following others: Dr. Timmerman, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Reeves, Dr. Joseph, Mr. Culler, Dr. Beam, Mr. Stansell, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Cartee, Mr. Pendarvis, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Chastain, Mr. Lachicotte, Dr. Jay Hair (S. C. Wildlife Federation), Mr. Clark Surratt (State Newspaper) and various others.

CALL 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 Minutes of the January Commission Meeting:

1) Executive Session - January 1977 Commission Meeting: Page 2, last sentence should read: Commissioner Boykin made a motion to table to motion on the floor to give the Chairman a chance to at least read the recommendation made by Dr. Timmerman. Vice Chairman Lumpkin asked for a vote on tabling the motion. There were two (2) votes for and four (4) votes against tabling the motion. Commissioner Trask made a motion that the Commission accept Dr. Timmerman's recommendation not to hire and Assistant Executive Director at this time. The motion was seconded and passed. Commissioner Boykin was opposed to the motion.

2) Regular Session - January 1977 Commission Meeting: Page 2, Item II. Comments, paragraph two, sentence five should read: It was also reported that existing bonding money may be available to construct these facilities. Dr. Timmerman asked for Commission approval to work with the General Assembly to divert the excess bonding money for the construction of those two stations. The estimated cost for the two buildings, including equipment, is approximately \$100,000. (paragraph continues as shown in the original Minutes)

3) Executive Session - January 1977 Commission Meeting: Page 1, last paragraph should read as follows: ...to fill these vacancies who were Mr. Charles Bazemore from Mt. Pleasant....(Mr. Bazemore's name was spelled incorrectly in the original Minutes)

A motion was made to approve the January 1977 Commission Meeting Minutes, Regular Session and Executive Session, with the above corrections. The motion was seconded and passed. Therefore, the January 1977 Commission Meeting Minutes stand approved as amended.

ITEM II. COMMENTS: Dr. Timmerman reported that the Conservation Officer Hiring Procedure should be completed by the first part of March and a presentation will be made on the new procedure at the March Commission Meeting. Dr. Timmerman also suggested that the Commission invite Senator Waddell to that Commission Meeting for information purposes. Chairman Hudson stated that, in the future, if



Commissioner Dennis cannot be present it would a good idea to invite Senator Waddell to the Commission Meetings so that one of them would be present. Chairman Hudson also stated that he would talk to Commissioner Dennis about this. Dr. Timmerman commented that he has been informed by the Georgetown and Horry County Delegation members that there is a great need for a public boat ramp in that area to give individuals desiring to duck hunt a place to put their boats in the water. It has been suggested that Direlton be used for this purpose. After looking into this possibility, staff feels that this would not be suitable. Commissioner Lumpkin stated that he would be happy to meet with the boating staff and the delegation members from those counties. Commissioner Buchanan asked about ratification of the Executive Session Minutes and Dr. Timmerman stated that since Minutes were recorded of all meetings and, therefore, became public record, there would be no need for ratification. This was the general feeling of the Commission, also.

Commissioner Edens mentioned the fact that he received a letter from hunters in York, Chester and Fairfield Counties stating that they would like to see primitive weapon hunts along with archery hunts on the Central Piedmont Hunt Units in the 1977 season. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries staff has looked into this matter and their opinion is that the seasons and regulations have already been set and will remain as they are. Jeff Fuller stated that he has written a letter to the hunters. Dr. Timmerman asked if staff could put together their information and mail it out to the Commission and bring it up at the next Commission Meeting. Chairman Hudson gave his approval for this.

Commissioner Edens asked for some explanation of Dr. Timmerman's letter written to Clair Guess concerning the rediversion canal. Chairman Hudson stated that from a Commission standpoint, the Commission objected to the project unless the Corp of Engineers would guarantee to do three or four things involved which was fish ladders, running the water, etc., but with those things, we said we would not object. This action was probably taken two or three years ago. Dr. Timmerman stated that they did not request anymore comment from our Department, however, he did want to go on record again with our requests. Chairman Hudson stated that the Corp has said that they would do the things requested by our Department, subject to funding. It is now a matter of Congress appropriating the money to do the things that we have asked for. Jeff Fuller stated that we need someone in the attorney field to work with us early in these situations. We can get mitigation under certain circumstances. Certain Commissioners stated that they had not received a copy of the letter to Mr. Guess and Dr. Timmerman asked Dr. Beam to see that everyone was mailed a copy.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommended Price Change on "The Resource": John Culler reported that the Post Office is charging a high fee to mail The Resource, a wildlife newspaper published by our Department and sold for a fee of \$1. In order to get a second class mailing permit, you have to charge more than the nominal fee of \$1 for the publication. A second class mailing permit would reduce the mailing cost by approximately \$400 per issue. Culler proposed publishing a 16 page newspaper which should produce approximately 15,000 subscribers. Currently, approximately 2,000 free newspapers are being issued. The annual cost for



publishing a 16 page paper would be approximately \$36,000. There would be an additional cost required for advertising the paper of approximately \$3,000. Culler recommended that we go to \$3 per copy for 1 year, \$5 for 2 years, and \$7 for 3 years. This would bring in \$45,000 per year. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to adopt the recommendation made by John Culler. Seconded and passed. This would be for a one year period and would become effective immediately. Advertising will be done through the magazine renewals and flyers in the magazine.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services Division: Benny Reeves reported that the Budget has been considered by the Ways and Means and presented to the House. Basically, we still have what we started out with July 1 last year as recommended by the Budget and Control Board. The House feels that they should complete this by the end of March. The biggest change is that the General Assembly is now taking our budget funds (revenue) other than Federal money, and are going to appropriate it back to us based on the estimate that we provided in the budget. This excludes the County Fund balance going into the General Fund. The way it's written now, if you estimate X amount of dollars and do not spend that amount, they will take it back into the general fund. Before, if we did not spend a lot of revenue, it was considered state funds for the Wildlife Department and went back to the operation of the department. Reeves stated that next year, they are talking about putting in Federal Funds the same way. This restricts our ability to move budget funds from one category to another. Dr. Timmerman stated that once the Commission approves a budget, there will be no flexibility in that budget without going before the Budget and Control Board once it is approved. Dr. Timmerman noted the importance for the Commission and staff to look into all the line items within the new budget that will be coming up this year.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division: Jeff Fuller reported that the renovation on the Direlton House is progressing well.

3. Information and Public Affairs Division: John Culler gave a presentation to the Commission on a book called "Carolina Profile" that I & PA is coming out with. He showed a model of the book which will include articles about various places in the state such as Capers Island, Brookgreen Gardens, waterfalls, etc. The book will sell by orders prior to July for \$12.95. The price after that date will go up to \$15.00. The purpose of this project is to supplement the magazine. Culler estimates that approximately 10,000 copies of the book will be sold next year. The wildlife calendar will also be published again this year and orders will also be taken on this at \$5.00 each.

4. Law Enforcement and Boating Division: Pat Ryan had nothing to add to his written report.

5. Marine Resources Division: Dr. Joseph called attention to the first paragraph in the written report which indicates a very bad situation for next spring for shrimp.

6. Natural Area Acquisition and Resource Planning: Dr. Wayne Beam



had nothing to add to his written report. However, he did state that there are about four Coastal Zone bills in legislation now and he commented that one will probably be debated in the Senate in approximately two weeks.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Marine Resources: Commissioner Lumpkin reported that his Advisory Board met in Beaufort with Vice-Chairman Zachowski conducting the meeting. He reported that we should have something on the seafood port in the near future. Commissioner Lumpkin stated that Bill Cotty requests Bill Cotty to look into the matter of changing the court procedure for trying violators of law by increasing the penalties, make them stricter, push them into General Sessions, etc. The Advisory Board recommended that the hours for shrimping be changed. Section 28.861.6 of the Marine Fisheries Law Manual (Page 42) states that it shall be unlawful to trawl for shrimp in the waters of the state between two hours after official sunset and two hours before official sunrise. The Board recommends that the words "two hours" be deleted. Chairman Hudson stated that he feels that the Commission should be allowed to hear the pros and cons on this matter, possibly in a public hearing, before seeking legislation to change these hours. This was the general feeling of the other Commissioners, therefore, Marine Resources and Law Enforcement staff were instructed to get together presentations on the matter and to notify the Commission so that a time, date, and place can be set for a public hearing and so that all interested parties can be invited. A decision will be made after the hearing is held. It was also reported that the Advisory Board went on record saying that they would oppose any additional blanket legislation that would increasingly close areas from production in regard to crab pots. The Marine Advisory Board did not recommend any changes in relations to the sounds.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board: Commissioner Boykin stated that the Advisory Board reviewed the new Conservation Officer Hiring procedure and recommends it to the Commission. Also, Boykin stated that the Advisory Board passed a motion to recommend that the Commission close goose season for the next few years in South Carolina to give geese an opportunity to establish themselves here. Chairman Hudson, after discussion by the Commission, instructed Jeff Fuller to get the information together on what effects this would have and possibly get Tommy Strange to be at the next Commission meeting to make a presentation to the Commission concerning this matter. The subject of an early closing for duck shooting for this coming year was discussed by the Advisory Board and the majority of the Board members felt that the shooting hours should not be changed, however, if the Commission does decide to make a change in the hours, that the public be allowed to make their feelings known by public hearing.

3. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board: Commission Edens reported that the Advisory Board discussed the development of the Small Game Program. One of the critical elements of the small game program in this state is bi-color lespedeza. Production has been low for many years. The Advisory Board requests that the Commission consider for approval setting up a bi-color nursery in the state and to properly staff it to produce the necessary quantity of plants, charging the cost of production for the plants. Commissioner Edens made this request a motion



before the Commission. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion. There was discussion on the matter. Dr. Timmerman asked about the possibility of looking for some other source. Chairman Hudson recommended that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries staff look into the matter and come up with the information on cost, etc. Commissioner Trask suggested that this also might be done commercially by someone. Commissioner Edens withdrew his motion and made a request that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries staff come back with a suggested program for the Commission's consideration at their earliest convenience. Steel shot was also discussed at the Advisory Board meeting and as soon as more information is available, it will be brought back to the Commission. Commissioner Edens also expressed some concern over the fact that we need more cooperation between agencies such as the ASCA, Forestry Service and the Soil Conservation with our agency. Also, Commissioner Edens expressed concern over whether or not we have any type of assurance from a landowner when he comes to us for help and we put staff onto the problem and try to help him, that he will carry out our recommendations. Chairman Hudson stated that he also felt that there should be some assurance from the landowner and asked staff to try to get this assurance and to follow up on these programs to see if they are being carried out by the landowner. Commissioner Trask expressed concern over the decrease in quail in the state in the last year, stating that he feels the rain and insecticides are causing this decrease. Commissioner Shuler suggested publication of a list of chemicals harmful to wildlife. Dr. Jay Hair of Clemson stated that such a list is in the process of being published and should be out within a few days, and he suggested that the Commission follow up with a letter to Clemson requesting this list would be helpful. Jeff Fuller stated that these matters are being studied in the two year program being done by his staff. Commissioner Buchanan expressed concern over the clear cutting of hardwood being done in his area and the effect it will have on the wildlife. Chairman Hudson stated that we have no authority in this matter because it involves private land. He stated that John Culler might possibly run an article in the magazine concerning this matter. Brock Conrad stated that staff has worked with some of the private landowners in the past and have been successful in getting them to leave some areas uncut. It was the general feeling of the Commission and staff that the Department should continue to work with the timber companies and private landowners and encourage them to leave areas that would be helpful to wildlife. Brock Conrad stated that the Catawba Timber Company has given \$30,000 to the Department to be used in a study on a portion of their land partly in the Piedmont and partly in the Sandhill section. This study was implemented last year to help improve the land for small game and could be a good example to other timber companies.

D. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that there were no outstanding or marginal reviews and everything in the report is in order. He turned this report over to the Chairman for the files.

E. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman reported that recommendations for Conservation Officer appointments and/or re-appointments were mailed out prior to this meeting. A motion was made to approve these recommendations as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed. A copy of the recommendations is attached to the original copy of these Minutes for the record. Dr. Timmerman also reported that in the future anyone who will be Commissioned to have the power of arrest will have to go through the Criminal Justice Academy who did not have a Commission before 7/1/72.

Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion to approve the December 1976 Minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed. There being no further business to come before this meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris S. Murray, Commission Secretary

