

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
Dutch Plaza
Columbia, South Carolina

February 21, 1975

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at Dutch Plaza in Columbia, South Carolina on February 21, 1975 at 10:00 am with Vice-Chairman Glenn presiding. Other Commissioners present were Boykin, Harris, Rhame and Buchanan. Others present were Timmerman, Welch, Belangia, Campbell, Fuller, Webb, Chastain, Durrant, Pendarvis, Burrell, Conrad, Culler, Joseph, Evans, Ryan, Cotty and various other staff members. Mr. Frank Caggiano of the House Agricultural Committee was present at the request of Commissioner Bennett.

CALL TO ORDER

Item I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as they were mailed out.

COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman reported that the Department decal has been placed on all vehicles except those exempt by the Commission at their last meeting, which were the Directors, Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Supervisors and undercover vehicles. All vehicles will bear the state license plate except the undercover vehicles.

It was also reported that the staff is reviewing all olde Commission policies to make sure there is no misuse of vehicles, etc. If such is found, a warning notice will be issued to such employee and if necessary, we can relieve that employee of his or her duties for improper use of equipment.

Dr. Timmerman requested that the Directors of each Division give their Division Reports and be able to comment on any particular item that the Commission or the public should be interested in. Starting with the March meeting, he requests that one Director give a Division Progress Report on what has occurred within his Division over the last six months. This report will come up twice a year since we have six Division Directors and will be a Semi-Annual Review.

Commissioner Harris suggested that instead of staff sending out all of the periodic reports to the Commission, they just let the Commission know that these reports are available and if they so desire, Commissioners can request such reports. It will be left to the discretion of the staff as to what to send out. Dr. Timmerman reported that this will be taken up at the next staff meeting and a procedure can be worked out.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS

A. MANAGEMENT PROBLEM - J. W. Webb Wildlife Center: Dr. Timmerman reported that a complete plan on this has been sent out to the Commission. There is one item which the staff would like to have the Commission's feeling on. This is whether or not to continue planting bicolor lespedeza. This has been furnished to the public in the past and is more or less a public relations activity for the Department. Brock Conrad reported that we do not plan to discontinue providing this service to the public, but to offer an alternate source. The Forestry Department can do this for between five and six dollars per thousand under their nursery operation and it is costing us seven to eight dollars per thousand right now. There are several reasons for this suggestion, one being the tremendous amount of deer damage to the crop and it is very difficult to keep the deer out of it. We provide it now for anyone wanting it for \$1 per thousand.



Commercially this would cost \$12 per thousand, and we feel we could do a better job through the Forestry Department. There was some discussion on this matter and it was decided that we would go with the present system again this year and Commissioner Glenn appointed a committee of Commissioners Rhame and Harris to look into this and report back to the Commission with a recommendation for next years crop. The committee will accept the staffs summary as a study piece. Dr. Timmerman stated that work- ing through the Committee, a definite plan will be worked out by the April meeting.

B. INFORMATION "Hot Line": Dr. Timmerman reported that a toll free line has been established with the Department to be used for reporting Law Enforcement matters such as trespassing, hunting illegally, etc. This information will be publicized by the Information & Public Affairs Division in the near future. Also, an information number is being established (not toll free) for the public to call during regular office hours. The "Hot Line" will be open twenty-four hours a day.

C. LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR COMMISSIONERS: Wash Belangia reported that the Commissioners are covered under the Liability Policy for Department Employees and this fee is paid by the Department. The contract reads that all or none employees are covered and as Commission holders, Commissioners are included in that group. This insurance is to cover employees and Commissioners in any action taken by them in behalf of the State. This was approved by the Commission.

D. DRESS CODE: Dr. Joseph and Jeff Fuller have been working on this matter and Jeff Fuller reported that they have a proposal for dress code for the employees and this was passed out for information. Coveralls were suggested for biologists, their aides, area managers, etc. This new dress code will have to be phased into, but should give a better appearance for those persons representing this Department. This information was accepted by the Commission. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Commission endorses this as an Administrative Policy.

E. PROGRESS ON LAKE LONG: Ed Latimer reported that two tracts of land are already acquired and should be able to get the third within the next two weeks. There will be 200 acres of total land. The cost to purchase the land and construct the lake is approximately \$600,000, with the land costing \$200,00.

DEVEAUX BANKS: Ed Latimer reported that the Audubon Society has asked the Department for a change in their lease on Deveaux Banks. The propose to extend the existing lease from one year to ten years, taking away the control by the Department. Latimer's suggestion is that the present lease of January 8, 1974 be changed from a year to year lease into a ten year lease with no other changes. The South Carolina State Budget and Control Board permission would not be required in this instance. If the Department wishes to completely alienate the property by a ten year lease without retaining supervision, then and in that event, the Budget and Control Board would have to consent to the said proposed lease alienation. After much discussion by the Commission, it was decided that they would like to look further into this before making a decision. Dr. Timmerman was asked to work with Ed Latimer in researching this matter and the original lease and come back to the Commission with more information and a recommendation. Bill Chastain reported that this island was thoroughly patrolled by the Law Enforcement Division. This item will be put on the action report for the next Commission meeting.

ITEM III. DIVISION REPORTS



1. GAME & FRESHWATER FISHERIES: Jeff Fuller told the Commission he would like their approval to purchase two (2) acres of land near the city limits of Union to put a maintenance shed, serve as an office, check station and a shed to keep heavy equipment. The cost for the land is \$5,000 and we have the money available in the budget to use. Commissioner Boykin made a motion that this be approved, it was seconded by Commissioner Buchanan and passed. It was also reported that we are getting a house trailer for the cost of going to get it and this will be used as an office.

Commissioner Harris asked if the Department and Commission has ever taken a position on Trotters Shoals. It was reported that about two years ago our biologists made a statement on this. This statement was passed on to the Water Resources Commission and the Water Resources Commission was to prepare a statement to be sent to the Governor and the Governor was to make a State's Statement and forward it on to the Corp of Engineers. It is the staffs feeling that this information was forwarded on by the Governor with no position on this for the state. The Wildlife Department has a position on this, but the state needs to take a position. Dr. Timmerman stated that the staff will get this information together and present it to the Commission and offer recommendation.

2. LAW ENFORCEMENT & BOATING: Pat Ryan reported on the Hunter Safety Program. Charles Snyder, Herbert Keasler & Melvin Cumbee have been selected as the Hunter Safety Training Officers. The National Guard has been contacted to put on a Seminar, along with the Sheriff's Department, and the S. C. Optometric Association will conduct sight tests on all people participating.

Bill Chastain proposed to the Commission to change Fairfield County from District 7B into 7A and let 7B be composed of Kershaw and Lancaster Counties. The reason for this is that Fairfield, Chester, York, and Union are all management areas and by adding Fairfield, that Unit would be more coordinated. The Other reason is that there is an individual in Fairfield County who is outstanding as an officer and he feels that it would be a great benefit to have him in a Supervisory position as a Unit Leader. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve this request.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Dudley Overton, of the Boating Office attended the Command Officer Training School in Washington recently and he has received a letter from the Captain of U. S. Coast Guard commending Mr. Overton on having had the highest overall academic average ever attained in the history of the school. His final average was 98 percent of his class average. It was suggested that Dr. Timmerman and the Chairman of this Commission write a letter to Mr. Overton commending him on his outstanding performance. There will be a report on Boating Safety at the April meeting.

Commissioner Rhame asked about the maintence of the boat ramps and Dr. Timmerman stated that the staff is aware of these problems and that it is being worked on.

3. INFORMATION & PUBLIC AFFAIRS: Billy Durrant showed a film to the Commission on the Heritage Trust Program. This will be shown on ETV at a later date and invitations will be send out for everyone to tune in to it.

4. MARINE RESOURCES: Dr. Joseph told the Commission about a Bill that is being developed by the S. C. Shrimpers Association for legislation regarding a Shrimp Marketing Order. This has been presented to the Marine Advisory Board for their consideration and a lot of interest was expressed in it. Should this legislation be passed, this Commission would be named at some point along the line, as sitting as a Shrimp Board. This is for information only and it is not our legislation.

Also, he reported that over the past few months he has been reporting progress



on the clam fishery we have been operating on an experimental permit system. Senator Dennis told Dr. Joseph that he would be happy to support legislation to put the fishery for the first time on a regular license basis. Joseph has been working with Bill Cotty on drafting this proposed legislation and have gotten comments from the Marine Advisory Board and incorporated them into this version of the Bill. He asked for approval of this as information and allow the staff to proceed with it for legislation. Bill Cotty commented. It was reported that Commissioner Lumpkin and his Board are in favor of this. Commissioner Glenn suggested that everyone that is not here be mailed a copy of this bill and any suggestions or corrections to it will be received within ten days or else it will be introduced.

5. NATURAL AREA ACQUISITION & RESOURCES PLANNING: Dr. Laurent reported that the Department did acquire Capers Island. Jeff Fuller's office has been contacted by Union Camp in reference to 100 acres of salt water march - Turtle Island - 85 acres x 1700 of marsh. Will have to have \$285-300 per acre as a result of the appraisal. This would be their own appraisal at their own expense and they would like for us to have the property with no strings attached. There will be no cost involved to this Department. Commissioner Harris made a motion we accept, if it is offered, it was seconded and passed.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES: Bill Cotty introduced Mr. Frank Caggiano, Head of Research and Head of Staff of Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee at the House of Representatives that Commissioner Bennett chairs and welcomed him.

APPEARANCE - Attorney Tom Greene of Greenville, South Carolina - FOX HUNTERS: Ed Latimer introduced Mr. & Mrs. Tom Greene from Greenville, S. C.. Mr. Greene is an attorney representing a group of fox hunters. He hunts with the Greenville Hounds and the Tryon Hounds. Mr. Greene spoke to the Commission telling them that the questions that have come up concerns whether or not certain or all participants in the hunt are required to possess a hunting license. He explained the details of a fox hunt. This has all come about because there were some cases made against certain persons participating in the hunt. Ed Latimer stated that under the existing law, everyone participating in the hunt would be required to have a current South Carolina Hunting license, with or without firearms. To change this, we would have to have new legislation on this. There was some discussion on whether or not complimentary authority or permits could be given for this type of a hunt where no game is taken. There was several different opinions on this matter, therefore, the Commission decided to take this under advisement until further information from the staff is available. Commissioner Glenn appointed Commissioner Boykin, Chairman of a Committee, with Dr. Timmerman and Ed Latimer to come up with a recommendation. Dr. Timmerman stated that he would like to have the Law Enforcement Division's opinion in this matter.

B. SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Dr. Timmerman reported that this Committee has met and everything seems to be satisfactory at this time.

C. APPOINTMENTS: Dr. Timmerman went over the three new appointments and recommended approval of these by the Commission. These were mailed out prior to the meeting. Sumter Moore, Columbia; Billy Fleming, Abbeville; and William R. Geddings, Clemson; salaried personnel. These were approved by the Commission.

Not mailed out was a recommendation for appointment of John Mac Carmichael, new position for Dillon-Marlboro County. Pat Ryan went over his qualifications with the Commission. This is one of the 20 officers that was appointed in the budget last year. Staff recommends this application. A motion was made to accept this subject to approval of



Commissiner Lumpkin, it was seconded and passed.

On the non-pay wardens, Dr. Timmerman stated that these have all been mailed out. There was discussion on whether or not these non-pay wardens were of any help and how many we now have, etc. After much discussion, a motion was made to approve these. *There was no second to this motion, therefore, it was not carried.

Ed Latimer asked the Commission for some action on the Fox Hunting matter today since the rest of their season is February and March and suggested leaving this up to the Administration to issue field trial permits to recognize fox hunting associations under the existing code section. He stated that if this is the concensus of the Commission, that the Executive Director has it in his power now to classify fox hunts as field trials under the code section and could then authorize a permit for a field trial and under the same code section, the non-residents would not have to have a license. A resident would. These cases are pending in Greenville County and at the request of Mr. Green and Mr. Latimer, the court has continued those cases pending the decision of this Commission.

If the Commission or Department is not going to issue permits for a field trial for fox hunting, in the future, the court would probably, not necessarily, dismiss the pending charges against the non-residents and then put to trial the residents on these pending charges. Whatever action the Department takes now, it would have no effect retro-actively on these existing cases. On the other hand, if the Commission and Department are going to take the position that they are going to need permits for fox hunting field trials, Latimer's opinion is that the court would dismiss the charges against the non-residents and proceed to trail the residents.

Commissioner Glenn asked what the Commission could do under the existing law. Latimer explained this and after discussion, it was decided that Commissioner Boykin and his committee would decide what action would be taken and Boykin asked that an Executive Session be called to discuss this matter further. He stated that he would inform these fox hunters of the Committees decision within the next few days.

A motion was made to adjourn and go into Executive Session. It was seconded, and passed.

Respectfully submitted,



(Miss) Chris Stapleton
Secretary to the Commission

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