

Clare Bruner

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

January 17, 1977

South Island Plantation
Georgetown, South Carolina

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at South Island Plantation near Georgetown, South Carolina at 10:00 am on January 17, 1977, with Vice-Chairman Lumpkin presiding over the meeting. Other Commissioners present were Bennett, Boykin, Buchanan, Shuler, Trask and Edens. Advisors James Webb and Frank Lesesne were also in attendance, along with the following others: Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr., Dr. Wayne Beam, Mr. Jeff Fuller, Mr. Benny Reeves, Mr. Pat Ryan, Dr. Edwin Joseph, Mr. Ken Stansell, Mr. Sumter Moore, Mr. Phil Wilkinson, Mr. John Evans, Mr. Duncan Newkirk, Mr. Larry Cartee, Mr. Ned Pendarvis, Mr. Bill Chastain, Mr. Bob Campbell, Mr. John Culler, Dr. Jay Hair (S. C. Wildlife Federation), Mr. Gardner Miller (News and Courier) and various others.

CALL TO ORDER

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Commissioner Boykin to hold Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matter. Commissioner Trask seconded the motion and it was passed.

Dr. Timmerman recognized guests present who were Mr. Gardner Miller with the News and Courier, Dr. Jay Hair of Clemson, President of the S. C. Wildlife Federation, along with two graduate students from Clemson who are currently doing research on the canvas back, and Mr. Frank Lesesne, a member of our Advisory Board.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Commissioner Boykin made a motion to dispense with the reading of the December 1976 Commission Meeting Minutes and to approve them as submitted. Commissioner Edens noted that in the Executive Session Commission Meeting Minutes of the December 1976 meeting, page one, third paragraph, was, in his opinion, in error. The Minutes read 'After discussion, a motion was made that the position of Assistant Executive Director be approved and that guidelines for the position be submitted to the Commission for approval. The motion was seconded and passed. Commissioner Edens stated that the staff should be given preferential consideration for the position. This information will be brought back to the Commission by the January meeting.' Commissioner Edens stated that, as he recalls, the idea of the position was discussed and that he thought he made a motion or suggestion that we have no job description, guidelines of what we were approving and that he felt that before the Commission could make an intelligent decision, that they should know the job description, the authority, the responsibilities, and thought that the Commission just agreed that Dr. Timmerman would bring that job description in January, at which time we would further consider the position. Edens stated that he did not recall any vote to approve the position of Assistant Executive Director. Vice-Chairman Lumpkin asked the Commission Secretary to re-check the tape of the December 1976 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Edens stated that if upon checking, the motion was made and passed as stated in the December 1976 Commission Meeting Minutes, he wants to be recorded as voting against it. Commissioner Edens asked that the record show that this paragraph has been questioned and that it is being checked and will be reported on at the February 1977 meeting. Commissioner Boykin made a motion that if the tape shows action taken as reported in the December 1976 Minutes, that time be held for discussion



on the matter. The motion was seconded and passed. Therefore, this matter will be held in abeyance until the February meeting.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman passed out a list of accomplishments during 1976 by the Department and went over these accomplishments with the Commission. This list also included a list of Proposed Areas of Concentration for 1977. Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission if they had anything to add to the list and, if so, to please advise him. Commissioner Boykin stated that the Commission owes the staff a vote of confidence in the accomplishments of last year. The Commission was in agreement with Commissioner Boykin and commended the staff for their work. The vote was unanimous.

A color map of the Law Enforcement Districts was shown by Dr. Timmerman to the Commission. He pointed out base station locations on the map noting that we do not have a base station in Law Enforcement District Seven and Eight. Dr. Timmerman suggested that there is a great need for base stations in these areas. Timmerman also stated that eventually, he would like to see a telephone installed in each base station and listed in the telephone directories for those surrounding counties, possibly toll free for information purposes. It was also reported that bonding money was asked for to construct these facilities and the bid came back less than what was requested. Dr. Timmerman asked for Commission approval to work with the General Assembly and get them to give us credit toward that bonding money for the construction of those two stations. The estimated cost for the two buildings, including equipment, is approximately \$100,000. There is approximately \$150,000 - \$180,000 estimated to be left over from the construction of the Federal building. There is a possibility that we may be able to get the use of this money, through the legislative process, to construct these buildings. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to approve Dr. Timmerman's request. The motion was seconded and passed. Commissioner Shuler expressed concern over the fact that the radio stations are not open after 9:00 pm. Dr. Timmerman stated that he would ask Pat Ryan to look into the matter. Commissioner Buchanan requested that Dr. Timmerman also ask the General Assembly about excess money for possible purchase of land for erecting our own building in the future. Dr. Timmerman stated that he would look into this matter, but that he believes we are pretty well locked in on something in that area. Bill Chastain stated that our base stations will be tied in on an active telephone line to the base stations of the Highway Patrol, Sheriff and County Police, but with no contact between mobile units at this time.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Status Report on Red Wolf Program: Ken Stansell reported that the wolves were brought to Bulls Island and released after a period of time. They started exploring and worked back and forth between Capers and Bulls Islands. The female went out into the marsh and at that time, the wolves were recaptured and placed back in the holding pens. They are in good health and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like to continue the project and would like to hold the animals through the winter and spring and try an additional release at that time. The animals are collared and can be tracked with monitors in the event that they do start wandering again.



ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services Division: Benny Reeves reported that staff met with Ways and Means Committee several times recently. The intent of the General Assembly is to take money that would otherwise be carried over into the next year and put it into the General Fund and redistribute it back to agencies to be used in next years budget . This is excluding County Fund money and applies to all agencies. If we do find out in writing that this will affect Federal Funding, steps will have to be taken to get this stopped. Reeves stated that he has had verbal reassurance that this will not affect Federal Funding at this time.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division: Jeff Fuller stated that following this meeting and lunch, a motor tour of the Yawkey Property would be arranged for those interested. Fuller also reported that some time back his Division received suggestions from Commissioner Trask concerning improving waterfowl habitat at Bear Island. These suggestions were looked into and following the last Advisory Board Meeting copies of the minutes of that meeting and the compiled data were mailed to the Commission. A meeting was held at Bear Island recently with Commissioner Trask, Commissioner Edens, Dr. Timmerman and staff members to discuss the proposal. Staff is working on developing methods for improvement for habitat there. The Soil Conservation Service has been contacted for soil type maps and aid in running levels to determine whether or not there is a method whereby we can get salt water moving around on the area at this time. Plans are for corn to be planted and diked around and flooded. Studies are being made to estimate cost and sources of funding are being explored. Commissioner Trask stated that he took a tour of the entire area and feels that with the proper intrusion of salt water that the duck habitat will be greatly improved.

3. Information and Public Affairs Division: John Culler had nothing further to add to his written report.

4. Law Enforcement and Boating Division: Pat Ryan asked John Evans to report on the hunter education program that is being developed. Evans reported that staff has been working closely with Jim Mills, Hunter Safety Coordinator, in releasing a television spot during the Christmas Holidays. News releases were mailed out by Bob Campbell and a slide presentation is being put together to be used before Civic Clubs and other groups. A television show will be shown on Educational Television in February over the State. Evans introduced Mr. Paul Wright of WMUJ in Greenville who is sportsman spokesman in that area. Mr. Wright has been rated an instructor in the Hunter Safety Course.

5. Marine Resources Division: Dr. Ed Joseph reported that staff has been working with the concept of the possible creation of a seafood port in the Beaufort County area. He asked Mike McKenzie to comment on this. McKenzie reported that a Beaufort County Seafood Port Ad Hoc Committee was formed composed primarily of seafood dealers in Beaufort County. The group visited Brownsville, Texas recently where they have a seafood port similiar to what is being considered for Beaufort County. The committee has been asked for recommendations as to the next step to take. Senator Waddell is Chairman of the Commitee and is looking into the acquisition of land in Beaufort. Staff is awaiting input from the seafood industry and should hear something on a recommendation from the Committee in approximately a month. The proposed facility would base 75-100 vessels. Dr. Joseph reported that there have been a number of problems with the seafood industry in South Carolina in that we have a number of very small, independent operators that area scattered around



and in most cases, have very inadequate facilities. This is going to give the industry considerable difficulty over the next few years in attempting to comply with Federal Water Quality and Discharge regulations and health and safety regulations. It also creates a very severe marketing problem in that our production consists of so many small units of production that we just cannot attract any kind of marketing chain. The big institutional buyers are just not interested. This program will pull most of the facilities into a central, modern, well equipped small port in compliance with the Federal, safety and health regulations and will also create better efficiency within the industry. The response thus far has been favorable. There is such a facility going into North Carolina. Also, estimates are that the value of the seafood landed in South Carolina this year will be an all time record. This is mostly because of favorable shrimp prices.

6. Natural Area Acquisition and Resources Planning: Dr. Wayne Beam reported that the Division did accept the Stevens Creek Natural Area in McCormick County and staff is developing a Use Plan for that area and should have this next month. Beam also reported that the Drafting and Sub-committee of the Coastal Zone Management Council has a first rough draft of some Heritage Trust Legislation. The full Council will meet in Charleston this week and consider this piece of Legislation. Something will come out of that meeting that will be introduced to the General Assembly probably within the next week.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Marine Resources Division: Commissioner Lumpkin reported that his Advisory Board did meet and did not cover any subjects that need to be brought before the Commission. Mr. Walt Zachowski was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Board.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Boykin reported that his Advisory Board did not meet and therefore, he has nothing to report.

3. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division: Commissioner Edens reported that his Advisory Board met on December 16, 1976 and that he had reported on it at the December 17, 1976 Commission Meeting. Copies of the Minutes have been mailed out. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 1977.

C. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that the Committee met and everything is in order. There were no outstanding or marginal or unsatisfactory ratings this month. A copy of the report was handed to the Commission Secretary for the records of the Chairman.

D. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman went over the the new appointment and re-appointment recommendations for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers that were mailed out prior to this meeting and reported that they meet all of the requirements as set forth in the policy. A motion was made to approve these recommendations. The motion was seconded and passed.

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E. Other Remarks:

Commissioner Shuler asked for clarification of license fees misunderstanding. Dr. Timmerman stated that it is his understanding that last year during Legislative Session legislation was considered to raise the fee for non-resident hunting license from \$27.00 to \$37.50. However, in error, the amount was recorded as \$52.00 in the printed copy of the Bill that was passed and that was what the Governor signed. The amount should be \$37.50. This is in sub-committee now and is in the process of being corrected. The new amount will be in effect in July. Dr. Timmerman read a piece of legislation that is being introduced which states (Section 28-313 of the 1962 Code) that every non-resident of South Carolina shall pay hunter license fee of \$37.50 for priveledge of hunting in the State during any one season or \$19.00 for a temporary license of which amount \$2.00 will be retained by the issuing agent. Any type of temporary license will be valid for a period of ten (10) days. Commissioner Edens stated that he is in favor or the ten day period and would like to be alerted to any effort to change the ten day back to three day. Commissioner Boykin stated that this item will be coming up through the Law Enforcement and Advisory Board. Commissioner Buchanan suggested that Commissioner Bennett give some consideration to raising the amount that the license agent receives from \$2.00.

There being no further business at this time to come before the regular meeting of the Commission, a motion was made to adjourn into Executive Session. The motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine S. Murray
Christine S. Murray,
Commission Secretary

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