

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza, Columbia, S. C.
January 18, 1980

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Dutch Plaza, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a. m., January 18, 1980, with Chairman Edens 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 Edens, Dawson, Stubbs, Pendarvis, Bennett, Shuler, Boykin and Harrelson (for part of the meeting). Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Tommy Edwards, Tom Kohlsaas, Bob Campbell, Jim Sorrow, Dan Dobbins, John Davis, John Evans, Sonny Baines, Dennis Gunter, Carole Hedrick, Mike Creel, Julie Lumpkin, Billy DuRant, Doug Rayner, Jeff Fuller, Pat Ryan, Bill Chastain, Mac Flood, and Vernon Bevill. Guests at the meeting included Ben Gregg of the Governor's Office, Dr. Jackie Jacobs and E. T. Borders of the S. C. Wildlife Federation, Mike Copeland of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee, and Pat Robertson of "The Columbia Record".

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edens called the meeting to order at 10:00 a. m.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Stubbs moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the December 21, 1979 meeting and approve them as submitted. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion. Chairman Edens noted that on page 3 of the Minutes concerning expanding the size of the Advisory Boards, the Commission had approved that the Governor and the Commission will appoint one additional member to each Advisory Board. This is a clarification of the action taken by the Commission. There being no further discussion, the Commission approved the Minutes.

Chairman Edens expressed his congratulations to Commissioner Bennett upon being chosen as Legislative Conservationist of the Year by the S. C. Wildlife Federation.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman introduced and welcomed all guests at the meeting. Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that in future meetings, he plans to give a run down of the Commission requests and follow-up actions from the previous meeting. In regard to fishing in the sanctuary at the Wilson Dam,



the staff has met with the Santee Cooper Promotion Commission and will report back to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has recommended some language to the Governor's Office on the Executive Order for the Advisory Boards to expand each Board by two members, appoint members to four-year terms and require at least fifty percent (50%) attendance at the meetings. The Governor's staff has this matter under review and our interests have been expressed on the vacancies on the Marine Resources and Heritage Trust Advisory Boards. The Commission had requested that contact be made with the Congressional Delegation concerning use of federal funds to build a bridge at South Island. The staff drafted a letter for Commissioner Dennis to send the Congressional Delegation regarding this matter. Dr. Timmerman stated that he had talked with Senator Hollings who had talked to Commissioner Dennis on this idea and he noted he was willing to help, but wanted to know if public funds are used, will the public be able to go over to the island. An amendment to the Dingell-Johnson Act was discussed at the last meeting which the Department supports and contact has been made with Congressman Holland seeking his support for the legislation. Relative to a proposed certificate of meritorious service, the IPA staff has developed some suggestions and these will be presented at the next Commission meeting. Dr. Timmerman noted that he and Tommy Edwards had sent letters to Mr. Roy Mendelson concerning his recent case on wearing international orange while hunting on private property within a Hunt Unit. Dr. Timmerman stated that he had talked with him and he expressed appreciation for our help, but he does not intend to pursue this matter any further. Chairman Edens stated that the regulation should be put in all of our publications and give wider distribution and more publicity. Dr. Timmerman noted that this would be done and we are looking at possibly combining the two brochures into one. Dr. Timmerman stated that budget projections were discussed at the last meeting and the Commission had suggested that a blue ribbon study committee be set up to look at ways to come up with additional revenue. Dr. Timmerman noted that he would be working with Chairman Edens to set up this committee over the next month. In doing so, contacts will be made with Chairmen of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry and the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees for their recommendations to this committee. Chairman Edens noted that in keeping with the spirit of Commissioner Dennis' recommendation on this matter, we plan to get a good cross section of people for this committee. Chairman Edens stated that he and Dr. Timmerman will be working on this and will be in contact with



Commissioner Bennett and Senator Waddell. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission had requested that the Marine Center put out a news release on year-end commercial fishing data and this is being done. In regard to the notification of dealers concerning newly passed crabbing legislation. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have one isolated case that occurred and a hearing will be held on this case and a report will be made back to the Commission. Capers Island was discussed at the last meeting and Benny Reeves is working on a supplemental appropriations to include funds for Capers Island, equipment, and moving costs to the Dennis Building. This will total about one-million dollars and a copy of this will be sent to each Commissioner when it is completed. Dr. Timmerman stated that Jeff Fuller will report on their recommendations regarding dove baiting regulations which are currently being evaluated.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Lake Wallace and Lake Oak Grove dams have been declared unsafe under the guidelines and laws of the Land Resources Commission and the Corps of Engineers. Last year, \$25,000 was included in the Land Resources Commission's budget to hire a consultant to determine measures that need to be undertaken to make the Lake Wallace Dam safe. At Lake Oak Grove, we do not have the funds to hire a consultant to do the same thing and Dr. Timmerman recommended that funds be included in the Land Resources' budget to do this study at Lake Oak Grove. Dr. Timmerman noted that Lake Oak Grove is an eighteen-acre lake and we are talking about a lot of money to make this dam safe. Dr. Timmerman stated that it is hard to justify this economically from a wildlife resource standpoint. Dr. Timmerman suggested that we go ahead and see if the General Assembly wants to provide the funds for the study. Dr. Timmerman also suggested that Commissioner Stubbs may want to have a hearing on this matter to see if the Delegation wants to support it or whether we should drain the lake. Following other discussion, Chairman Edens asked Commissioner Stubbs to meet with the Legislative Delegation to determine what they want to do and report back at the February meeting in order to seek a solution to this problem. Dr. Timmerman noted that Joe Logan could assist Commissioner Stubbs with this matter.

Dr. Timmerman noted that there had been some recent publicity on state-owned housing and he passed out (to the Commissioners) a listing of personnel we have in state-owned housing. Dr. Timmerman stated that this has been



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reviewed and we are within the law. If there are any changes in the law, we will abide with these changes.

Dr. Timmerman stated that we have been putting up signs at a number of places we own, such as boat landings, and it would be good if these were uniform in nature. Dr. Timmerman distributed some proposed designs to the Commissioners (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Timmerman recommended the use of Design #1 for our major centers such as Dennis Center, Webb Center, etc., and Design #2 for places such as boat landings. Commissioner Pendarvis asked if these would replace existing signs. Dr. Timmerman noted that this would be used for new sites or to replace older signs that need replacing. Commissioner Shuler moved that the Commission approve the use of Designs #1 and #2 wherever appropriate. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Governor Riley had recently mentioned tighter management restrictions on the use of aircraft and that the Commission has adopted an aircraft use policy regarding this matter. With the exception of our contract with the S. C. Coastal Council, we are out of the transportation business. Dr. Timmerman suggested that we put out a news release on the use of our aircraft, maybe develop a brochure on the role of the aircraft for law enforcement purposes, and to meet with the Governor to go over the Commission's use policy. Chairman Edens stated that he had talked with the Governor about this before and it may be good to meet with him to discuss the policy that has been adopted. Chairman Edens asked why we needed a brochure and Dr. Timmerman stated that it could be used to show how the planes are used for law enforcement and biological management. Chairman Edens suggested that we keep copies of the policy on hand to give out when it is needed. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have made some minor changes in our contractual arrangement with the S. C. Coastal Council and all parties are in agreement with these changes.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that a proviso has been included in our budget by the Ways and Means Committee stating that the appointment of Conservation Officers and resident game management personnel shall be made by the Commission with the advice and consent of a majority of the



County Legislative Delegation. Dr. Timmerman noted that we had written some comments on how this would affect the Department and problems that would exist. A copy of these comments was passed out to the Commissioners for their information. Dr. Timmerman stated that he had met with the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and this proviso came up at which time they adopted a committee resolution opposing this proviso. Commissioner Bennett stated that an amendment is up to delete this proviso by the same committee that put it in our budget. Dr. Timmerman stated that everybody is generally happy now that this matter is worked out.

Dr. Timmerman reported that \$63,000 in additional rent money was included in our budget by the Ways and Means Committee, but equipment funds will be in the supplemental appropriations bill. Right now, our budget is about \$700,000 short and we will work on getting this in the supplemental bill.

Chairman Edens stated that it was good for Dr. Timmerman to review the Minutes of the previous meeting and they will look forward to this each meeting.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins stated that he had passed out a copy of the first issue of the Legislative Report and he did not have any further comments.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Savannah River Plant Wildlife Management Program:
Jeff Fuller reported that this proposal has been mailed to the Commission and if they approve it, an agreement will be worked out with the Department of Energy (copy of proposal attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Fuller noted that if there are any major changes, these will be brought back to the Commission. Commissioner Pendarvis stated that he thought the proposal looked real good. Vernon Bevill stated that the proposal was written in the form of the DOE prospectus they developed. Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the staff to negotiate an agreement with DOE based on this proposal. Chairman Edens noted that on page 13, item "C", it states that the issuance of permits for hunting, the Department accepts no responsibility for any acts, actions or accidents which may occur while anyone is participating in SR's deer herd management program. Chairman Edens stated that we cannot get rid of our responsibility by simply saying we do not accept it. As such, Chairman Edens suggested that the paragraph be changed for the Department



of Energy to hold us harmless for any actions, acts, accidents, and any activities of the Department performed under this agreement. Tommy Edwards stated that this is an excellent suggestion. Chairman Edens also stated that we had requested some strict financial reporting procedures so we do not get bogged down too much. Chairman Edens asked Benny Reeves if he was satisfied with this proposal. Mr. Reeves noted that it looked satisfactory to him and provides a good system for accountability. Chairman Edens stated that the motion is before the Commission to authorize the staff to negotiate an agreement and if there are any changes at all, these should be brought back to the Commission. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. IPA Anti-Hunting Program: Sonny Baines reported that the staff has researched this matter and they now have plans for a program in South Carolina. One theme that kept coming up as an identity is RESPECT and this will serve as an identity for our program. Several proposed RESPECT logos were shown, but no firm decision has been made yet. Dr. Timmerman noted that we may want to identify saltwater on the logo. Sonny Baines stated that various communication skills are available and the staff will report on these various tools. Julie Lumpkin reported on the brochures and noted that the publications will incorporate the RESPECT identity. Ms. Lumpkin stated that a brochure liaison will be appointed in each Division and in the field to ensure that adequate supplies of the various brochures are available. Chairman Edens noted that the dark brown sections in the ethical hunter brochure are hard to read. Ms. Lumpkin stated that this was a reprint and can be handled in future printings. John Davis reported on the magazine and its role in the program. A new layout for the magazine was discussed and Mr. Davis stated that these changes will not increase the size or cost of the magazine. Commissioner Shuler asked why the magazine is not sold at news stands. Sonny Baines noted that this was tried twice in the past, but it did not work out to be beneficial. John Evans reported on the public relations program noting that the theme is to motivate through radio and TV and get to a personal level. Spots have recently been used that had S. C. college coaches on them and we are now working on a spot with Cale Yarborough. Mr. Evans noted that they intertwine hunter ethics in the radio and TV programs. A program will be held on ETV on February 21 with various Department personnel and telephone call-in questions will be used. Excerpts from two radio spots were played for the Commission. Billy DuRant reported on spots that are shown on TV noting that RESPECT will be incorporated into



future spots. Mr. DuRant stated that they will be working to get a federal grant to do a film on ethical hunting. A couple of TV spots were shown for the Commission's information. Bob Campbell reported on the news release program noting that they are mailed to 25 daily and 125 weekly newspapers. Mr. Campbell stated that they work closely with the outdoor sports writers and examples of their columns were passed out to the Commissioners. Mr. Campbell noted that they also operate the Speakers Bureau. Chairman Edens stated that the Commissioners could participate in the Speakers Bureau and he asked the staff to contact them to see if they wished to participate. Mike Creel reported on "The Resource" noting that the newspaper reaches the sportsmen directly. The last issue went to about 160,000 hunters and fishermen. The next issue coming out at the end of February will be mailed out to 190,000 people. The total cost is about 15 cents per issue. Dennis Gunter reported on the Education Program and distributed a Wildlife Education Kit to the Commissioners which is provided to teachers. Contact with the school system and the role of this program was discussed by Mr. Gunter. Dr. Timmerman noted that the IPA Program is a service-type program for the entire sportsmen's community and this could be reflected to legislators when budget matters are being discussed. Chairman Edens noted that we are rendering the sporting public a real service with this program and the Commissioners should aid in getting the message out. Chairman Edens asked the staff to let the Commissioners participate in the program to the extent they can.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommended Architects/Engineers for Mariculture Research Center: Benny Reeves went over the procedure for recommending architects/engineers noting that three would be recommended to the Commission for their approval and this would then be submitted to the Budget and Control Board for their final approval. Dr. Joseph reported that twenty-one firms responded to the advertisement and six firms were interviewed by the staff with each interview lasting about two hours. The six firms interviewed were Wilbur Smith; Lockwood & Greene; Stanley Consultants; Kramer, Chin & Mayo; Enright & Associates; and Tomlinson, Harbin & Associates. The first priority, as determined from the interviews, is Kramer, Chin & Mayo. When the interviews were held, it became obvious that this firm had linked up with Enright & Associates; thus, their proposals should be considered as a joint proposal. As such, the first priority is Kramer, Chin & Mayo and Enright & Associates. The second choice is Stanley Consultants and the third choice is Wilbur Smith. Dr. Joseph noted that Kramer, Chin & Mayo was the only firm that had specific experience in this field. Following other discussion, Commissioner Boykin moved that these firms be recommended to the Budget and



Control Board in the priority submitted by Dr. Joseph. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. Proposed Registration Agreement (York County): Tom Kohlsaas noted that information on this proposed registration agreement was mailed out to the Commissioners. This is an eighty-acre site in York County with some unusual plants and the owner has already signed the agreement. Commissioner Pendarvis moved that the Commission approve this registration agreement as submitted. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission.

C. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that a memo from W. C. West was mailed to the Commission which recommended a limit on refunding overpayment be set at \$2.00. If the overpayment is \$2.00 or less, it will not be refunded but a log will be kept and the refund will be made if the individual requests it. This would save a great deal of time and effort. The Auditor's Office said this practice would be o. k. if approved by the Commission. Commissioner Boykin moved for approval of the recommendation. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Mr. Reeves noted that we currently charge fifty cents (.50¢) for duplicate decals and he recommended that this be increased to one dollar (\$1.00) which can be done within the law. Commissioner Shuler moved that the Commission approve this recommendation. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Mr. Reeves reported that Commissioner Boykin had brought up the idea, at the November meeting, of possibly using a stamp in lieu of the GMA permit in order to attain additional revenue from collectors. Mr. Reeves noted that IPA has contacted the other forty-nine (49) states to get their experience on this matter. Twenty-two responses have been received and most of them are unfavorable. The main response has been that it provides revenue, but it costs more to do than is feasible. Mr. Reeves suggested that we wait on further responses and provide more details at the February meeting. Chairman Edens asked Commissioner Boykin to meet with the staff on this matter to discuss and have this item on the agenda for the February meeting.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller noted that proposed regulations for the Victoria Bluff property had been mailed out to the Commissioners (copy attached to original Commission minutes). Tom Kohlsaas stated that one item had been added which excluded Department personnel



from these regulations in conjunction with work at the proposed mariculture center. Chairman Edens asked if the regulations are the same for all preserve areas. Mr. Kohlsaas noted that they are essentially the same as other Heritage Trust areas and there were a couple of changes made to accommodate deer harvest in this area. Commissioner Dawson moved that the Commission approve the regulations. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Jeff Fuller reported that he, Pat Ryan, and Brock Conrad have discussed the dove baiting regulations and they do not have any recommendations to make any changes in the regulations.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: There was nothing to add to the written report.

4. Information and Public Affairs: Sonny Baines reported that they will have recommendations on the service award at the next meeting.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph stated that he did not have any further comments. Commissioner Dawson asked how the recreational shellfish guide is going. Dr. Joseph noted that it is going very well and is now being put in retail outlets. It will probably be paid off by the end of the month.

D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Pendarvis stated that the next meeting will be held on February 14, 1980 at Yawkey Wildlife Center.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Shuler noted that the Board met at Eutaw Springs and the Minutes will be mailed out next week. There are no specific comments. Commissioner Shuler noted that he had talked with Commissioner Pendarvis and they plan to have a joint meeting in the spring.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Dawson stated that they would meet in February.

4. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the Board this month.

E. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that this committee has met and everything is in order.



F. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Timmerman went over the recommended DWCO re-appointments, new DWCO appointments and DWCO re-appointments and new DWCO appointments not recommended. In regard to C. Spears Westbrook, Dr. Timmerman noted that he had not received a letter from Cliff Moyer at the Criminal Justice Academy requesting his appointment and he suggested that he be taken off the list until a letter is received. Chairman Edens stated that this will be taken off the list until a request is received from Mr. Moyer. Commissioner Shuler moved that all DWCO appointments and re-appointments, including those not recommended, be approved by the Commission. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Pendarvis asked if the appointments of Advisory Board members meet the criteria. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Commission has traditionally given appointments to Advisory Board members. Dr. Timmerman went over the recommended re-appointments of Conservation Officers and the new Conservation Officer appointment of Joel D. Hudson in McCormick County. In addition, Dr. Timmerman noted that the staff has just completed the investigation of Wesley Howard Wells in Union County and he is recommended for appointment as a Conservation Officer. Upon a motion and a second, the Commission approved the Conservation Officer re-appointments and new appointments as recommended.

G. Other Remarks: Commissioner Dawson suggested that Jim Mills be on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss the Hunter Safety Program. Commissioner Dawson noted that in his area, there are at least twenty-five (25) schools that have requested the program but the manpower is not adequate to provide the program. Chairman Edens noted that we need to look at spreading the program to more people as he has had requests of this nature also. Chairman Edens noted that, without objection, this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Edens reported that the next meeting will be held in Columbia on February 15, 1980, at 10:00 a. m. Dr. Timmerman noted that it is important now for the Commissioners to work with the legislators on our budget needs.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN

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

