

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Bankers Trust Tower
Columbia, South Carolina

January 20, 1978

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at the Bankers Trust Tower office in Columbia, South Carolina, at 10:00 a.m. on January 20, 1978 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Boykin, Trask, Edens, Buchanan, Bennett, and Shuler. Directors and staff members present were Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Dr. Beam, John Culler, Pat Ryan, John Reeves, Jeff Fuller, Fred Ramage, Bob Campbell, Freddie Ziegler, Dan Dobbins, Brock Conrad, Joe Logan, Bill Chastain, Terry Hughey, Ned Pendarvis, and various other staff members. Guests present were Frank Caggiano, Director of Research and Administration of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Mike Copeland of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee, J. C. Boles, President of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Pat Robertson of the Columbia Record, Alvin Dawson and various others.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no call for Executive Session.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Edens made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 1977 Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trask and passed.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman introduced and welcomed the guests present at the meeting.

Dr. Timmerman recommended that the Commission change the rules on Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers to require only a one day training period rather than a two day on the renewals. Commissioner Edens made a motion to approve Dr. Timmerman's recommendation and amend the DWCO rules to reflect this. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dr. Timmerman stated that he has had a request from the Law Enforcement staff to allow them to distribute the Law Enforcement Division Reports to all Conservation Officers. In reviewing past Minutes, Dr. Timmerman stated that he found that it was felt that distribution of this report may cause problems with competition of Districts on making cases. Staff feels that this problem could be controlled. Dr. Timmerman also suggested that this information could be printed in The Resource and any other publication that desires the information. Pat Ryan commented that Law Enforcement staff does not feel that distribution of this information will encourage competition on making cases but that it will enhance the Law Enforcement program. Ryan stated that if at any time, staff sees that this is working conversely to the Law Enforcement Program, they will immediately recommend that the distribution be discontinued. Ryan stated that staff would like to try this for a one year period to see what effect it would have. Commissioner Edens suggested that Mr. Ryan ask his District Captains to make note in these reports any outstanding



accomplishments of officers as an incentive to encourage others. Commissioner Bennett stated that he felt it would be beneficial to distribute this information to the news media and if it was felt that by naming districts it would cause conflicts, that information could be omitted. This matter will be considered by the Commission and put on the Agenda for the February Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman stated that staff is in the process of interviewing for someone to fill the two vacancies in Chester County. These vacancies were created by two officers resigning to take other jobs.

Dr. Timmerman stated that efforts are being made through the legislature to establish the position of a Farm Wildlife Program Leader and a Small Game Leader in the Furbearing Program. Chester McConnell with the Wildlife Management Institute who has expertise in the Small Game Program has selected some experts in the furbearing and small game programs to compose a study committee. Staff has met with the Chairman of the Committee. A Study Committee meeting will be held March 27th to hold interviews. A report will be submitted to Dr. Timmerman from the Committee by April 15th making recommendations on the program. After studying this program with staff, the recommendations will be submitted to the Advisory Board for its consideration and recommendations to the Commission.

It was reported that the February Commission meeting will be held at the regular time at the Direlton Plantation where a dedication will be held naming the Pee Dee Game Management area Samworth Game Management Area.

At the April Commission meeting the dedication of the Dennis Wildlife Center will be held at 2:00 pm following the meeting.

Dr. Timmerman gave an update report on the Trapping Bill stating that he has met with trappers groups and coon and fox hunters throughout the state. Rules and regulations have been issued on live traps, however, the leg hold or steel traps can only be used if the majority of the delegation in the game zone approves. The information was sent out to the various game zones and the majority approved in Game Zone Five (Kershaw, Chesterfield, and Marlboro Counties) where three leg hold or steel trap permits and in Game Zone Seven (Horry and Dillon Counties) ten permits were issued. After these permits were issued requests were received from members of the delegations to withdraw their names from the list so that we no longer have a majority of delegation approval in both counties. Dr. Timmerman checked with the Attorney General's office and found that these licenses cannot be revoked, but should not issue additional licenses. Dr. Timmerman stated that his recommendation to the Commission would be that leg hold or steel trap number two be allowed in those areas where the resource could stand it.

It was reported that the first two Game Management Booklets on rabbit and quail will be coming out the latter part of April.

A Duck Symposium will be held in February in Charleston on the 8th at 10:00 am at the Marine Resources Center. Dr. Timmerman passed out a copy of correspondence with Senator John C. Land, III regarding the hours for duck hunting. Dr. Timmerman

informed Senator Lands that the Wildlife Commission has taken no action to shorten the hours for the duck season and advised him of the Duck Symposium to be held in Charleston inviting him to attend.

Dr. Timmerman reported that there was some bonding money credit left over from construction of some other facilities and plans are being made to construct a building in Law Enforcement District Eight where property has been acquired from Clemson and in Game Zone Seven where property was acquired from the County. A facility is being placed in Beaufort where a trailer is presently located. Chairman Hudson stressed the fact that these facilities should be located in a centrally populated area which is easily accessible to the general public. He stated that the office in Greenville, for example, is so hard to find that it really does not meet the needs of the people in the area.

Also, there is a need for a radio station in Georgetown in order to have uniform coastal communication. Dr. Timmerman stated that Commissioner Lumpkin owns a trailer that is equipped in Georgetown and he has agreed to lease it to the Department for \$1.00 for ten years. A copy of a lease agreement was passed out to the Commission for their information. A motion was made to accept the offer to lease from Commissioner Lumpkin. The motion was seconded and passed. Commissioner Edens made a motion that the Commission's expression of appreciation to Commissioner Lumpkin be included in these minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Commission requested staff to look into the problems involved with the doe deer program and bring this information to the Advisory Board at its April meeting for consideration.

Dr. Timmerman reported on the letter received from Mr. D. B. Ray, Sr. by all Commissioners concerning a \$150 fine received by Mr. Ray and two other individuals for trespassing upon private lands. Dr. Timmerman reported that Mr. Ray came to his office and asked for a check for \$150 for the fine stating that if he received this check, he would not pursue the matter any further. Dr. Timmerman apologized to Mr. Ray for the confusion in the matter and told him that he could not issue a check unless so order to do so by the Attorney General's office or the court. Dr. Timmerman advised Mr. Ray to appeal the matter stating that he or any member of the staff would be there. Dr. Timmerman asked Brock Conrad to explain the matter to the Commission. Conrad drew a diagram of the roads, signs, etc. on the board stating basically that some of the signs were placed incorrectly. Commissioner Edens made a motion that the Commission advise Mr. Ray to appeal his case and the Department give him every assistance in his appeal in an attempt to have the conviction overturned and his fine refunded and that we admit that we have signs in the wrong place and stress the point that this has been a long time used road. Commissioner Trask seconded the motion. The motion was passed. Dr. Timmerman was instructed to inform Mr. Ray of the Commission's decision on this matter.

Commissioner Boykin asked that the Commission receive copies of the entire proceedings of the Public Hearing held on January 19, 1978 and that Dr. Timmerman make sure that a response is given to those persons asking for a reponse on the matters discussed.



On the trapping matter, Chairman Hudson asked that staff come up with an overall trapping program and then go back to Commissioner Bennett's Committee with a workable program. Commissioner Boykin requested that staff notify Mr. Brice, the gentleman at the Public Hearing who requested a response from the Department on trapping, that we are in the process of putting together the recommendations that will come to the Commission and that this item will be included in those recommendations. Dr. Timmerman reported that the South Carolina Wildlife Federation is having a meeting the first of February to which they have invited the presidents of the fox hunters group and the coon hunters groups and have asked some representatives from the legislature. Our staff will go to this meeting and give the history of the bill, what we have done, some problems that exist administratively and learn from this meeting. Chairman Hudson feels that someone from the national organizations such as Dan Poole of the Wildlife Management Institute or John Gottschalk of the International who are completely aware of the national implications on this matter would be happy to come down or send a representative if someone would contact them. Mr. Boles, President of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation asked if Dr. Timmerman would issue an invitation to one of the gentlemen from the national level to come down to the meeting. Dr. Timmerman stated that he would be happy to do what he could in the matter and asked that Mr. Boles have Dr. Jacobs call him to work out the details.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recommendations on Purchase of State Vehicles: John Reeves stated that following discussion at the last two Commission meetings regarding the way the state agencies go about purchasing vehicles as far as size, specifications, etc. and the problems the department was having with General Services with the way the bid is made, Reeves asked Terry Hughey to give a brief report on the way this works and some of the problems we have run into in the past. Hughey stated that the authority to purchase supplies, equipment, vehicles, etc. was transferred from the state agencies to the Budget and Control Board. The Budget and Control Board has the power to develop rules and regulations concerning how equipment is purchased. Working through the Budget and Control Board, the Division of Motor Vehicle Management and the Division of General Services Purchasing Office handle the purchasing of motor vehicles. The purpose of the Division of Motor Vehicle Management is to establish state policies concerning the management of all state owned vehicles. The purchases are made on the basis of low bid and the only operational cost considered in the awarding of a contract of a vehicle is gas mileage. Hughey stated that he does not feel that there is any way to change this method at this time. Approval would have to be obtained from the State Budget and Control Board. Commissioner Buchanan asked if we could make recommendations to them as to our particular needs. Hughey stated that this would not be a problem and that vehicle specifications written by the Division of Motor Vehicle Management are written with the advise of state agencies. Any recommendations would have to go to the State Budget and Control Board.

Dr. Timmerman introduced a guest of his, John Lindburgh, who is doing work out on the west coast particularly in mariculture.



Commissioner Edens stated that he felt that the staff should come back to the Commission with some specific problems on the vehicle situation for the Commission's consideration and the Commission will take the matter up with the Budget and Control Board.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 1978-79 Game Management Area Seasons and Regulations: Brock Conrad brought up a number of items for discussion with the Commission before finalizing the recommendations for the 1978-79 season. Commissioner Edens presented his Advisory Board report at this time since it is in regard to the rabbit season. Commissioner Edens stated that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board recommends that this year that the deer hunting season be closed the Monday after Thanksgiving for two weeks to allow rabbit hunting and also they recommend extending the rabbit season to March 1st. Commissioner Edens also noted that in the Advisory Board Minutes it states three weeks instead of two and this is an error. The Minutes should read two weeks. Conrad stated that this would include private and game management area land in the Central and Western Piedmont where the deer season would be closed. Conrad stated that the best alternative would be to designate areas on the map and let deer season go straight through and allow the designated areas be open for small game hunting only. Conrad also stated that it was his opinion that if we let private land remain open during this two week period that it would cause problems as far as trespassing, etc. Commissioner Buchanan stated that in his opinion this would not resolve the problem. He stated that he feels that deer and rabbit hunting should be allowed simultaneously and let law enforcement check the type of shot a man is using if a violation is suspected. There was some concern expressed over the fact of having private land closed during this two week period to deer hunting. Chastain stated that he felt that enforcement may be a problem if deer and rabbit hunting was allowed simultaneously. He stated that there has been a problem in the Mountain Hunt Unit on this. Commissioner Edens made a motion to close the deer season the Monday after Thanksgiving for two weeks for rabbit hunting and to extend the rabbit season to March 1st. The extension to March 1st would have to have legislative approval. Commissioner Buchanan asked about the possibility of opening archery and primitive weapon two weeks earlier in order not to take away from the deer hunters. Conrad stated that the law would have to be changed because presently we cannot open prior to October 1st in those areas. Additionally, staff does not feel, from a biological standpoint, that archery should be opened prior to October 1st since fawns are still dependent on their mother for milk up to that time. Either sex hunting is necessary for archery. It should be noted that the motion made by Commissioner Edens includes private and game management area land. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was passed. Other items brought up by Conrad included a recommendation by staff to drop the regulation prohibiting the use of buckshot on the Broad River and Carlisle Game Management areas. A motion was made by Commissioner Trask to accept this recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed. Consideration was given to changing the hours for man-drive deer hunts to 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and allowing the drivers to use guns. Also, Conrad stated that staff is recommending changing the fee for overnight accommodations, two meals, an elevated stand to deer hunt and a guide to quail hunt from \$20 to \$25 next year. Commissioner Edens made a motion to adopt this recommendation. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was passed. A recommendation was also made to charge



\$5 next year for the Game Management Area Permit. Authorization from the legislature has been granted. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Edens seconded the motion and it was passed. A recommendation was made to change the fee of \$3 for waterfowl hunts to \$10. A motion was made to approve this recommendation by Commission Buchanan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed. In addition, a recommendation was made to allow an individual to submit one application for the waterfowl hunts rather than being allowed to submit five different applications. He would have a place to list first, second, third, fourth and fifth choice and when his application was drawn, if his first choice for a hunt was already filled, he would be eligible for his second choice and so on. This will give a higher percentage of people that apply being drawn and more different people using the GMA lands. The doe harvest problem has been discussed earlier in the meeting and will be studied and a recommendation made at a later date. Conrad also stated that there has been discussion on changing the regulations regarding wearing a coat or vest of International Orange to read a coat, vest or hat of International Orange color. Commissioner Shuler asked why the turkey season in the Francis Marion Game Management area was not recommended to open all others in that area. Conrad stated that a few years ago all the Game Management Area seasons on turkey were standardized to be April 1st to May 1st. The regular Game Zone opens March 15th and the Francis Marion used to be opened on March 15th, but staff felt that the weather was not suitable at that time and that the gobblers were not gobbling at that time and that they were being harrassed before they were really ready to respond to call. It was felt that there would be better hunting by waiting to April 1st. We do not have any authority under Game Zone Six Regulations so they stayed with March 15th. Brochures are being processed now as these seasons are standardized.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing to add to the written report.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing to add to the written report.
3. Information & Public Affairs: There was nothing to add to the written report.
4. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing to add to the written report.
5. Marine Resources: There was nothing to add to the written report.
6. Natural Area Acquisition & Resource Planning: There was nothing to add to the written report.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Edens gave his Advisory Board report earlier in the meeting. See Item IV. New Business A.
2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Boykin stated due to no quorum



the last Advisory Board Meeting was postponed and the next meeting is scheduled for February 10th.

3. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph reported in Commissioner Lumpkin's absence that no meeting was held since the last Commission Meeting.
4. Heritage Trust: Chairman Hudson stated that no meeting of this Board has been held.

D. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that the Salary Review Committee has met and all reviews are in order. A copy of the report was handed to the Chairman for the file.

E. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman went over the list of recommendations for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer re-appointments. Timmerman also reported that a Committee of Commissioner Edens and Boykin, Dr. Timmerman, Pat Ryan and Bill Chastain to hear a case from Eldred Williams, a former DWCO whose Commission was revoked. Dr. Timmerman went over the recommendations for new appointments for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers. Dr. Timmerman noted a correction on J. W. Rushton of Aiken, DWCO, which should have been authority on land owned by Mr. Rushton in Aiken County as well as Barnwell County. Dr. Timmerman went over the Conservation Officer re-appointments and other department personnel appointments. Pat Ryan stated that a telephone call was received from Representative M. Lois Eargle withdrawing her objection to the appointment of Michael Foreman after reviewing the matter. She was instructed by Dr. Timmerman to write the Chairman stating her withdrawal. Chairman Hudson stated that he felt that this was not necessary since the Commission is not asking for the Delegation approval, only derogatory information that they may have concerning individuals being considered for positions. Chairman Hudson stated that if we find no basis for the objections, there is no reason to hold up on hiring that individual and that staff should proceed with hiring Mr. Foreman. Commissioner Edens suggested that Pat Ryan acknowledge Representative Eargle's telephone call in writing by letter for the record. Commissioner Trask made a motion to accept the recommendations as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed.

F. Other Remarks: Commissioner Shuler brought up for discussion and thought the matter of items discussed at the meeting regarding Legislative process. These included the Bill prohibiting hunting within the right away of all publicly owned and maintained roads. Commissioner Shuler asked if this meant that a man could not stand on the right away of the highway. Dr. Timmerman stated that no legislation has been drafted and that law enforcement has a concern for safety in this matter. Ryan stated that it needs to be standardized throughout the state on hunting and standing for deer hunting on highways throughout the state. There was some concern by the Commission that this would eliminate dog drives for deer. Also, Commissioner Shuler stated that he personally was against passing a law where a man has got to wear an orange hat to deer hunt, but would go along with it if everyone else thought it would be the best thing. Also, Shuler stated that he would be against removing the exemption on hunting license requirements for military personnel on leave or furlough. Other items discussed were the ninety day residence requirement, the fine for hunters from out of state hunting on a South Carolina Hunting License, and it was



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reported that the Point Bill was passed the House and the Senate and is going back to the House for changes.

There being no further business to bring before the meeting, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine S. Murray

Christine S. Murray,
Commission Secretary

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