

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
January 20, 1984
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Room 335 of the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a.m., January 20, 1984, with Chairman Webster 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 Webster, Compton, Harrelson, Owen, Quackenbush, Dawson, Stubbs and Bennett. Directors and staff members present included Dr. James A. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Dr. Ed Joseph, Dr. Paul Sandifer, Pat Ryan and various other staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all guests to the meeting.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission approved a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the December 16, 1983 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that he met with the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board and asked them for names of individuals to contact concerning contributions to Operation Game Thief.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that a proviso has been included in the budget bill to transfer all aircraft from agencies to the S. C. Aeronautics Commission. A copy of the proviso and a letter written to John Hamilton, Director of the Aeronautics Commission, were passed out to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that such a transfer is not good for our law enforcement program and we cannot see how such a transfer could be handled any more economically than currently exists by our Department. Following discussion, Commissioner Dawson moved for the Executive Director to make every effort possible to keep the Department's aircraft under our control. Commissioner Quackenbush seconded the motion and it was unanimously adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman distributed to the Commissioners, a list of accomplishments in the Department in 1983 and the primary work objectives for the Department in 1984. Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission for their input on objectives for 1984 and he noted these will be presented to the Advisory Boards for their input. Commissioner Owen asked when we will be looking at a mandatory hunter safety program. Pat Ryan stated this program is ready for discussion and such will be presented to the appropriate Advisory Boards for their review.



Dr. Timmerman noted there is another budget proviso whereby the Commission will appraise the Executive Director and make recommended salary increases.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Mr. Claymon Grimes has donated almost one acre of land in Georgetown to the Department for an office site and we are grateful for this tract of land. He noted that bonding money has been approved for this office and we will move ahead with design and construction. Dr. Timmerman expressed thanks to Commissioner Dawson for his assistance with this land donation.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we are looking at the possibility of securing a swingspan bridge from Sullivan's Island which could be placed at South Island to replace the ferry at this site. He asked for the Commission's guidance on this project. The Commission adopted a motion to authorize the staff to proceed with seeking funding, permits, etc., for this project.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the six-month vehicle accident report to the Commissioners for their information.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that an Executive Session will be held following the regular meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Law Enforcement Rank System: Bill Chastain noted that they don't have any recommended changes at this time and we will continue to operate under our present system. Mr. Chastain stated that a sub-committee of the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board is reviewing this matter.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Night Hunting Violations: Bill Chastain stated that night hunting violations are on the increase and the Department has already made more night hunting cases this fiscal year than the total number of cases made in all of last fiscal year. Mr. Chastain stated that this is not out of control and necessary measures have been taken to keep such violations under control. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have proposed a bill on shining which is quite important and he asked the Commission to make contacts to get support for this proposed legislation. Dan Dobbins stated this is in the legislative package, but some groups have expressed concern over this proposal.

B. Discussion on Field Trials: Billy McTeer noted that the Attorney General's Office has issued an opinion that field trials are a form of hunting. Mr. McTeer noted that field trials have been scheduled on GMA lands on Sunday and since field trials have been ruled a form of hunting, this conflicts with GMA regulations whereby Sunday hunting is prohibited. Mr. John Little of the S. C. Association of



Field Trial Clubs noted that they have used Webb Center to conduct their field trials and this involves a good number of people. Mr. Little asked the Commission to review this matter carefully and not make a hasty decision. Dr. Frank Hines, Jr. of the S. C. Field Trial Association noted that with the quail that we have in the state, the field trials are a saleable commodity and there are hopes for a national championship in South Carolina in a few years. Dr. Hines noted that these championships have to run on Sundays. This was discussed by the Commission and they expressed their concern over the problem of those involved with the field trails. Following other discussion by the Commission, Dr. Timmerman noted that he would ask the staff to work on this matter in the legislative process to see if some legislative provision could be made to allow for field trials on Sunday.

C. Proposed Wood Stork Registration Agreement: Stu Greeter noted that a proposed Wood Stork Registration Agreement was sent to the Commission in their packet (copy attached to the original Commission Minutes). This site is the only nesting site for wood stork in South Carolina and such is recommended for approval by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve this Registration Agreement as presented. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that a meeting will be held with staff on February 1, 1984, to discuss the FY 85-86 budget process. He invited the Commissioners to attend this meeting.

Betty Spence of the S. C. Wildlife Federation invited the Commissioners to attend their Annual Meeting on February 4, 1984, at the Sheraton in Myrtle Beach.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that proposed changes in GMA regulations were sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). These changes would add hunting periods in various areas of the state. Following discussion, Commissioner Dawson moved for the Commission to adopt these GMA regulation changes as presented. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bobby Gifford recommended the Commission approve for the Department to provide the Corps of Engineers with a mobile radio for use in their office at the Russell Lake. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

4. Information & Public Affairs: Sonny Baines advised the Commission that the new issue of the magazine has been very successful and receipts are very good. The Commission expressed their compliments for the fine quality of this issue. Dr. Timmerman noted this issue was presented to Governor Riley recently and he was very complimentary of this issue.



5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph noted the Commission was polled to close the shrimp season on January 11, 1984, and approved the closing of such. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to ratify this action. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Dr. Joseph informed the Commission that it appears this year will be the second highest on record in terms of the value of harvest for shrimp. Dr. Joseph noted that the hearings have been completed and transcripts are being developed. When the transcripts are available, they will be sent to the Commission and the Chairman of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Dr. Joseph has assumed a new role in the Division of Marine Resources as Director of Regional, National and Scientific Affairs. Dr. Joseph noted that he hopes to keep working with the Commission on fishery issues.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush stated that most of the items discussed by the Board have already been covered.

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

F. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman noted that we have six Conservation Officer positions to fill, but we don't have vehicles for these personnel at this time. Following discussion, it was agreed that three positions in critical areas would be filled at the February Commission meeting and the other three would be filled at the March Commission meeting. Chairman Webster stated that we will hold one position to fill at a later time.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the appointments and re-appointments for Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission approved all recommendations as presented as well as the following changes: a) Warren Evans (Georgetown) - authority expanded to include Arcadia Plantation and Debordieu Corporation, and surrounding rivers, fresh and saltwater ditches, creeks, canals and watercourses, adjacent roads and highways; b) Gary Lee Trotter (Simpsonville) - expand authority to statewide, and c) Raymond M. Stivender (Colleton County) - new Conservation Officer appointment in District #4. Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of promotions to Sergeant and Corporal to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). The Commission adopted a motion to approve all promotions as recommended.

G. Other Remarks: Dr. Timmerman noted that we had a tragic loss with the death of Jack Bayless. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will dedicate the Open House at the Dennis Center in his honor. The Commission adopted a motion for the staff to draw up an appropriate resolution to send to the family and place in the Minutes.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its February meeting on February 17, 1984, at 10:00 a.m., at Gaillard Auditorium in Charleston, S. C.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

The Commission adopted a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and go into Executive Session as previously approved.



RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and invited participants into the meeting. Chairman Webster announced that the Commission took the following action while in Executive Session:

1. The Commission unanimously adopted a motion to approve the recommendation of Dr. Timmerman to appoint Dr. Paul Sandifer as Director of the Division of Marine Resources.

Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to ratify this action and confirm the recommendation of Dr. Timmerman to appoint Dr. Paul Sandifer as Director of the Division of Marine Resources. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. There being no further business, the Commission adopted a motion to adjourn.

