

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335
Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
January 21, 1994
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., on Friday, January 21, 1994, in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., with Chairman Burnside presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Burnside, Graham, Rasor, Leary, Miller, Pendarvis and Haynsworth. Directors and staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines, John Miglarese, and various other staff members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Commission adopted a motion to amend the agenda to include a presentation later in the meeting by Mr. Billy Nowlen.

ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November 19, 1993 Commission meeting and to approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that he has worked with all the divisions on the new Department of Natural Resources' budget and he asked the Commissioners to seek support for proposed increases in our budget, especially the \$500,000 recommended by the Governor for law enforcement. In addition, he noted that \$50,000 is being proposed to be transferred from the Authur Smith Tournament to the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Paul Sandifer was recently recognized as a "Fellow" by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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Dr. Timmerman distributed minutes from the last staff meeting noting that we were working on the development of a plan of action for the Department of Natural Resources. He noted that as a DNR Board, the Commission will have a number of new items to deal with and a decision-making process needs to be established. He noted that Buford Mabry is coordinating this process and this matter will be coordinated with the Commission as it evolves.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Governor had an interest in lands being acquired during his administration, and a list of lands acquired by the Department during the Governor's administration had been prepared and a copy of this list was passed out to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that the lands acquired from the COE mitigation process near the Webb Center will be dedicated in the Spring and he recommended the Commission consider having their meeting at the Webb Center in April.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he recently attended the Land Resources Conservation District's annual meeting and he worked with these individuals on various concerns as it relates to restructuring. Dr. Timmerman noted that they have established a Conservation Districts Association that will be very active.

Dr. Timmerman noted that at the February commission meeting he would distribute the 1994 Goals and Objectives and the 1993 Accomplishments for the Commission's review and comments.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we currently have 25 vacancies in law enforcement with 22 of these being from state funds and 3 being on revenue. He noted that 7 officers will be retiring on June 30, 1994. Dr. Timmerman stated that with no new funds we would need to keep 19 vacancies open to meet the payroll and the staff will be recommending where to fill 5 state funded positions, 2 revenue positions, and 2 positions in District 9 with shrimp baiting funds and marine recreational stamp funds. These will be presented to the Commission during Executive Session as a personnel matter for their action.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we need to look at a regional office structure, especially as it relates to the restructuring process. He stated that we would like to develop a plan for future consideration by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the Quarterly Accident Report to the Commission for their information, as well as a new radio call book, which was passed out to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the next Commission meeting would be held in Charleston on February 18, 1994, in conjunction with the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition. He distributed a sheet to the Commissioners for them to sign up as to whether they need tickets or not. He noted that we will have lunch at the State Aquarium and the meeting would be held at the Marine Resources Center.

ITEM III CHECK PRESENTATION

A. Check Presentation - Newberry Fire Department: Chief Lewis Lee of the Newberry Fire Department and Assistant Chief Bobby Rowe presented a check for \$3,000 to the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund for the Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs Program. Chief Lee noted that this check was being presented in memory of Sgt. Joel Bowers and the Commission expressed thanks to the Newberry Fire Department for their efforts and this presentation for the HOFNOD Program. Dr. Timmerman noted that Sonny Baines and the staff have been meeting to discuss the HOFNOD Program to see how to make improvements and this will be pursued within the next few weeks.

ITEM IV - LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dan Dobbins distributed a copy of the Legislative Report to the Commission and went over this report. He noted that a Legislative Planning Committee has been set-up to coordinate legislative needs within the Department and he discussed this process and how this committee was being implemented.

ITEM V - NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation - The Wildlife Society: Breck Carmichael gave a presentation on the background and history of The Wildlife Society and also presented a resolution adopted by the Society to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission minutes).

B. 1993 Heritage Trust Review: Tom Kohlsaas made a presentation with slides to the Commission on the accomplishments during 1993 for the Heritage Trust Program.

C. Presentation - Mr. Billy Nowlen: Mr. Billy Nowlen of Kershaw County made a presentation to the Commission on concerns with shining in Kershaw County. He noted that in Kershaw County it is legal to use headlights and spotlights to shine until 11:00 p.m. and this is not a good situation, and many of the residents of Kershaw County would like to see this repealed. He also noted that there were concerns by local residents on dog hunters using

the right-of-way to hunt, and he asked the Commission to address this problem as well as the problems associated with shining. Mr. Nowlen noted that there were only two conservation officers in Kershaw County and that it is not possible for them to cover the county to deal with all of these problems. The Commission accepted this presentation as information for follow up review and recommendations by the staff.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted there is a proviso in the Budget on the reconciliation of vacancies in the Department and we will be required for the DNR to reduce our head count by seven positions. Dr. Timmerman noted that he will be reviewing these in the Department and would coordinate this matter with the Chairman.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad gave a report to the Commission on the proposed turkey hunting regulations for the Donnelley Wildlife Management Area.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing further to report.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: John Miglares informed the Commission that the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series recently received an award by the South Carolina Wildlife Federation.

Val Nash informed the Commission that the model on the wall was a fifty-five and three-quarter pound striped bass that is the new record from Lake Thurmond and this model will be provided to the State Museum for their use.

The Commission also noted recently the news release on the goose hunts excluded Edgefield County and Brock Conrad noted that this was an error that we will seek to correct.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Haynsworth noted that he did not have anything to report and that the Board would meet on February 10, 1994.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Miller noted that the Board met recently but did not have any items for action by the Commission. He noted that the Board is reviewing the issue of trespassing and is also reviewing the possibility of raising fines on some violations.

3. Conservation Education & Communication: Commissioner Graham noted that the Board met on December 3, 1993, and he went over the items discussed at the meeting. He noted the primary items discussed included the magazine and the by-products which are being pursued by the CEC staff.

4. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted the Board met on January 14, 1994, and he went over the various items discussed at the meeting. Commissioner Pendarvis recommended that the Commission approve the Marine Game Fish State Record Policy which was adopted by the Board and the Commission adopted this as a policy as presented (copy attached to original Commission minutes). Commissioner Pendarvis noted that a letter had recently been received from Bo Stokes on the channel net fishery and that we are seeking a legal ruling on this letter from the Attorney General's Office. Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Ad Hoc Shrimp Baiting Committee has prepared a report and will meet on February 17, 1994 to discuss this report.

F. Other Remarks:

Commissioner Pendarvis noted that he has received several responses from around the state and the country regarding disability hunting and he passed these on to Dr. Timmerman and Chairman Burnside for their information. He asked Dr. Timmerman to appoint someone to respond to these letters and also to ask that he appoint someone to coordinate this matter and make the Commission aware of the staff person appointed to coordinate information on disability hunting.

Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to instruct the staff to come up with a proposal on the licensing of hunting and fishing guides and to report their recommendations to the Commission at a future meeting. He further recommended that the staff look at surrounding states and see how this is handled in other states to help in the development of a proposal for review and consideration by the Commission. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the recommendation as presented by Commissioner Pendarvis.

There were no further remarks from the Commissioners and at this time, Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to hold an executive session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Commissioner Pendarvis seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside announced that at this time the Commission would hold an executive session.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the regular meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting.

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The Commission adopted a motion to accept the staff recommendations on the Waccamaw Bridge's addition (copy attached to original Commission minutes).

The Commission adopted a motion to non-concur with the Corps of Engineers' request regarding dredging at Lake Russell and to listen to additional data if they wish to present it.

The Commission adopted a motion to direct the Director of Law Enforcement to fill five (5) state positions, two (2) revenue positions and two (2) stamp and shrimp baiting positions.

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the DWCO appointments including the one change as presented by staff.

The Commission adopted a motion to direct Dr. Timmerman to go further with the merger of hunter education and boating education.

The Commission adopted a motion to appoint Dr. Timmerman as Director Designee until such time as the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department becomes the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

G. Appointments: This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting at the Marine Resources Center in Charleston at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 18, 1994.

ITEM V - ADJOURN

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

