

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION Bankers Trust Columbia, South Carolina

January 23, 1976

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at Bankers Trust Tower, Columbia, South Carolina at 10:00 am January 23, 1976 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Rhame, Harris, Boykin, Buchanan and Glenn. Others present were Dr. Timmerman, John Culler, Jeff Fuller, Benny Reeves, Pat Ryan, Dr. Andy Laurent, Brock Conrad, Bill Cotty, Ned Pendarvis, Ed Latimer, Fred Ramage, Bob Campbell, Bill Chastain, Mac Flood, Larry Cartee, Dr. Vic Burrell, Sam Crouch, Bernard Goette, Jim Webb, Clark Surratt (State Newspaper) and various other staff members.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as they were mailed out with the exception of the corrections mentioned by Dr. Timmerman. A copy of these corrections has been mailed to the Commission and made a part of the original Minutes. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approved these minutes with the corrections mentioned above.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Sam Boykin made a motion that an Executive Session be held following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harris and passed.

COMMENTS:

Dr. Timmerman passed out to the Commission for their information a list of Departmental Activities that have been developed or accomplished by the staff. He asked for input from the Commission on these items. He briefly went over these items with the Commission. One item not mentioned in this list is the development of a Public Involvement Program. We have one set up in the Heritage Trust and Coastal Zone Program. Timmerman stated that he would like to outline a plan such as this and present it at either the February or March Commission Meeting.

Dr. Timmerman stated that he has received a petition requesting a change in the regulations to permit rabbit hunting with dogs on GMA Land on Mondays through Saturdays during the entire rabbit season. This item will be put on the agenda for the February meeting.

Commissioner Rhame commented that his Advisory Board would take the rabbit issue under advisement.

Commissioner Harris requested that a copy of the Departmental Activities be mailed to all Advisory Board Members for their comments.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Establishment of Motor Pools: Dr. Timmerman reported that a car pool system as outlined at the last Commission Meeting has been implemented. Under this new system the only personnel retaining vehicles are the Division Directors, Law Enforcement and isolated personnel requiring a vehicle for their job. Cars are available to anyone to use for departmental business and they may be checked out in advance. A letter has been written to the Budget &



Control Board requesting permission for our Department to use our own decal. Have not received this approval yet, but feel that there will be no problem.

B. Hunter Education Course Data: Pat Ryan reported in Jim Mills' absence. A letter from Jim Mills to Pat Ryan containing information on mandatory Hunter Education programs which are operated by the wildlife departments of various states was passed out to the Commission for their information. There was some discussion regarding this program by the Commission and the general feeling of the Commission was that we continue on with the program under a voluntary basis, but not exclude the possibility that at sometime in the future it may become desirable to evolve into some type of mandatory program. Pat Ryan requested permission of the Commission to have Jim Mills appear at the next Commission Meeting to report on the number of instructors he has trained, number of people that have been certified, etc. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

C. Proposed Plan for New Wildlife Districts: Bill Chastain reported that at this time Law Enforcement would not go along with or recommend a plan such as the proposed plan for redistricting due to the fact that there is nothing that goes along with the proposal showing why this needs to be done. Cannot say that this is not a good plan, but do not know that it is a good one. Chastain stated that he would solicit ideas from anyone in favor of this plan showing why it should be done. Commissioner Harris stated that he felt it is inappropriate for the sub-committee to try to push anything that has not been made a bona fide project. His Committee will be willing to review any plans that have the full support of the Department and make a recommendation to the Commission as a whole. Chairman Hudson asked Pat Ryan to submit his Division's ideas on this project to Commissioner Harris's Committee.

D. Budget Report: Benny Reeves reported that we will meet our goal (the department as a whole) based on revenue projections and the money we are allocating through December 31st. Some Division's will still have to very carefully monitor their expenditures in order to insure themselves that they will be within their goal. A copy of the Budget Status 1976-77 was passed out to the Commission for their information. At Dr. Timmerman's request, Benny Reeves, Bill Cotty and Ned Pendarvis met with Baron Holmes and Mack Johnson regarding this budget. There will be no cost of living increases or merit increases for the state employees and assuming this budget will not be cut further, our Department will be operating on approximately \$201,745 less than we had July 1, 1975. Bill Cotty commented on three items that staff has discussed on going to legislation with: 1) Increase in cost factor, 2) increase in ammunition tax to include .22 and nail out by legislation or by formal agreement with the Tax Commission how our portion is to be determined, 3) look into a new sales tax over and above on any new boat, new trailer or new motor such as over 50 hp, 4) County Fund Problem.

Commissioner Buchanan asked if the Department was building any boat ramps in the state. Pat Ryan stated that we have approximately thirteen boat ramps on the drawing board waiting for funding. About three of these ramps will involve the county funds if they are approved.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS



A. Progress Report on Departmental Goals and Objectives: Larry Cartee presented a draft report to the Commission on Departmental Goals and Objectives and briefly explained the purpose of the report. Due to the high cost of reproducing this report, one copy of the report was handed over to the Commission Secretary to be made available to anyone interested in taking a look at it. Basically, the purpose of this report is to provide the Department with a perspective as we work to manage, conserve, and protect the wildlife and marine resources of the State and to provide a sound basis for developing and initiating a meaningful planning process in the Department.

B. Spring Turkey Gobbler Season: Brock Conrad reported that the recommendations for the 1976 Spring Turkey Gobbler Season on game management areas were mailed out to the Commission prior to this meeting. These dates are basically the same as last year with the following change in the Francis Marion Area: The Hellhole Unit will be open for the entire season rather than the 10 day season during last year's hunt. It is also recommended that the bag limit on the Francis Marion be increased from two gobblers to three gobblers. This change is recommended due to the reports of an excellent hatch during the spring of 1975. It is felt that the increased bag limit will result in a better reporting rate without greatly affecting the total harvest. The dates are as follows: Central Piedmont Hunt Unit - April 1 - May 1, inclusive, three (3) gobblers per season; Western Piedmont Hunt Unit, April 1-May 1, inclusive, three (3) gobblers per season; Mountain Hunt Unit, April 16-May 1, inclusive, two (2) gobblers per season; Palachucola, April 1 - May 1, inclusive, two (2) gobblers per season; Francis Marion, April 1 - May 1, inclusive, three (3) gobblers per season on entire Francis Marion; Game Zone Eight, no open season. A motion was made by Commissioner Rhame to approve these recommendation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed.

C. Division Reports: Dr. Vic Burrell of Marine Resources Division reported that Mr. Bernard Goetee, President of the S. C. Wildlife Federation has voiced some concern from one of his constituents about the clam harvesting that is going on. The staff feels that the best thing to do now is to contact this person directly and inform them of the Departments findings on the effects of this machine and try to settle the problem.

John Culler of Information & Public Affairs Division commended the Boating Division for the Boating Manual they recently published. The Commission commended Tommy Welch and Dudley Overton personally on the fine job they did on putting this boating manual together. There was some discussion on whether or not this boating manual should be included in the cost of titling and registration. It should go to every registered boat owner in the State but some source of revenue is needed to cover the cost of producing this material. After discussion on the possibility of raising the cost of registering and titling boats and motors to cover cost in this Division, Chairman Hudson asked the Administrative Services Division to come up with some cost recommendations on this.

Dr. Laurent of Natural Area Acquisition & Resources Planning Division reported that the Santee Management Plan has been approved by the Nature Conservancy. Chairman Hudson complimented Laurent and his staff on this plan. The Secretary of the Interior, in a meeting last week with Commissioner Hudson



Governor Edwards, Department Staff and others in Washington, said that this study was as good as he had ever seen and they were very pleased with the work. Chairman Hudson feels that a Bill will be put forth in Congress in the near future to further this program. The Secretary did not give a lot of hope that this Bill would go through this year.

D. Salary Review Committee: In keeping with Commission Policy, Dr. Timmerman turned over to the Chairman the Performance Evaluation Report and stated that this report was in order. Dr. Timmerman also stated that the total employees reviewed year-to-date is 133 with 2 Marginal, 65 Satisfactory, 63 Superior, and 3 Outstanding.

E. Advisory Board Reports: Dr. Vic Burrell reported on the Marine Resources Advisory Board Meeting held in Charleston on January 22, 1976. Dr. Timmerman reported on the Budget situation; shrimping interest on the port study was brought up; brought the Advisory Board up to date on the landings, oysters, shrimp and crab; the Minutes of that meeting will be mailed out. The next Advisory Board Meeting will be held at McClellanville.

Commissioner Harris reported that a joint meeting will be held at Direlton on February 4th and 5th. Plans are to visit South Island and see Mr. Yawkey. A report of that meeting will be given at the February Commission Meeting. The problem with the timing on reports has been worked out. The redistricting of Law Enforcement will also be discussed.

Commissioner Rhame reported that his Committee will meet jointly with the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, but will also have a seperate meeting. Anyone who would like to come down to this meeting may do so at their own expense and stay at the Holiday Inn on the 4th and attend the meeting on the 5th.

Commissioner Hudson reported that the Heritage Trust Bill passed the House last year and got tied up in the Senate but should be out very shortly. He reported that he has had two calls in the last thirty days of substantial pieces of property that the Conservancy and Lawyers are working on now. One is near Aiken and the other near Georgetown.

Commissioner Rhame asked for clarification as to whether or not the sub-committee of Commissioner Harris' were expected to explore possibilities of both consolidation of districts in addition to Game Districts. Chairman Hudson stated that he would like to expand the original request of the Commission to the sub-committee to explore the possibilities of redistricting to include both game and law enforcement areas and get the input of the Advisory Boards. Staff will provide the necessary information to the sub-committee. All Commissioners are invited to attend the Advisory Board Meetings.

Commissioner Harris asked Bill Chastain about the status of the Communication System that we visualized at one time. The LEAA money will tie our base stations into other enforcement stations and that should become a reality this summer. The micro-wave system did not go through due to the fact that at the time we thought the Health Department would receive money to build the micro-wave towers, however, they did not receive the money.

F. Appointments: Commissioner Rhame made a motion that all recommendations for appointments that were mailed out be approved subject to the approval of



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the resident Commissioner. The motion was seconded by Boykin and passed. A recommendation was presented at the meeting that was not mailed out prior to this meeting for re-appointment of a non-pay game warden for John S. McGill III, Willis Farms, Woodruff, South Carolina. A motion was made to approve this recommendation subject to the approval of the Law Enforcement Division. The motion was seconded and passed.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned and the Commission went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,



(Miss) Chris Stapleton
Secretary to the Commission

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