

MINUTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCE
COMMISSION MEETING**

**Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
July 15, 1988
10:00 A.M.**

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., July 15, 1988 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, Drummond, Compton, Pendarvis, Owen, Miller, Stokes, Thomason and Bennett. Directors and staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer, Sonny Baines, Brock Conrad and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed all guests who were in attendance at the meeting.

ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the June 17, 1988 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman introduced the three (3) new Commission appointees and welcomed them as members of the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he held a Staff Meeting on July 12, 1988 and he went over the Department's programs and operations with the new members of the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman distributed the Employee Accident Report to the Commissioners for their information.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he has presented each Commissioner with a listing of the License Fee Collections through the end of June and he went over this report very briefly.

Dr. Timmerman noted that current legislation calls for new Commissioners to go through an Agency Head Training Program and this will be conducted for the benefit of the new Commissioners at the end of the Commission Meeting.

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Dr. Timmerman informed the Commissioners that new stationery is available in his office for them to pick up following the end of the Commission Meeting.

Dr. Timmerman presented an in-depth discussion of the Emergency Regulation for the use of TEDs by the shrimping industry. Dr. Timmerman asked members of the staff to present background information concerning the use of TEDs. Paul Sandifer presented an in-depth discussion on TEDs from the standpoint of the Marine Resources Division and Sally Murphy presented the Commission with some detailed information on turtle mortality as it related to this matter. Buford Mabry advised the Commission that the Supreme Court has currently overturned the temporary restraining order to preclude our Department from enforcing the TED regulations. Several individuals spoke to the Commission from the coastal area regarding the need to protect turtles and also concerns were expressed about requiring the use of TEDs and its effect on the shrimping industry.

Following a very detailed discussion of this matter and presentation to the Commission, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside announced that at this time, the Commission would recess the regular meeting and hold an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to approve a motion to recall the Emergency TED Regulations and amend the regulations to suspend the TED enforcement and further amend the regulations to limit the trawl time to a 90-minute time limit. The motion was seconded, but was not adopted by the Commission. Following this motion, Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to leave the current Emergency TED Regulation in effect, but not continue enforcement of this regulation until July 25, 1988. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Compton moved for the staff to look into securing funds from the Governor's Office for reimbursement to shrimpers for TEDs and installation costs of TEDs. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.

ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed the year-end Legislative Report to the Commissioners for their information. Mr. Dobbins expressed thanks to Commissioners Drummond and Bennett for their invaluable assistance in the legislative process this year.

ITEM IV - NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed 89-90 Budget Request: Dr. Timmerman distributed a listing of the Department's head count in personnel since 1976 and went over this briefly with the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission Finance Committee had met and went over the budget request for FY 89-90 (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Timmerman noted that the 3% budget cut is a Number One priority that we will need to secure, but this is not on the list and he recommended that it be given the Number One priority in our budget request. Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt the FY 89-90 budget request and recommendations made by Dr. Timmerman as submitted. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Drummond abstained from voting on this motion.

B. FY 88-89 Agency Head Planning Document: Dr. Timmerman noted that this was sent to the Commission for their review and any input for this planning document would be greatly appreciated.

C. Use of State Field Cemetery: Brock Conrad noted that a request for the Commission to approve the burial for eight (8) individuals in the State Field Cemetery at Webb Wildlife Center had been sent to the Commissioners (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this request as presented.

D. Proposed Early Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations: Brock Conrad noted that the proposed 1988-89 early season migratory bird hunting seasons and regulations had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad went over these proposed seasons and regulations with the Commission and several points and questions were raised concerning this by members of the Commission. Following a detailed discussion, Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to approve the proposed 1988-89 seasons and regulations as submitted by staff. Commissioner Drummond seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission with Commissioners Pendarvis and Stokes voting against the motion.

E. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.

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

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines distributed a copy of the newly printed Saltwater Fish Identification poster to the Commissioners.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer asked Betty Spence to present a short program concerning the proposed saltwater fishing license. Betty Spence presented a report on the educational program for the proposed saltwater fishing license and went over the details of the outreach and public information efforts which have been presented throughout the state as of this date.

Paul Sandifer informed the Commissioners that the sinking of the ship, The USS Vermilion, off the coast for an artificial reef has been set for August 12, 1988 and the Commissioners will be invited to this event.

F. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Thomason informed the Commission that the Division's "Take Pride in America Award" has been made and such will be presented at a visit with the President at the White House in the near future. Commissioner Thomason noted that there were 500 entries for the "Take Pride in America Award" and the Division will receive a Certificate of Merit as a semi-finalist in the awards for this program.

Commissioner Thomason noted that the Advisory Board has been reviewing educational programs in the Department and a proposal has been developed for each Division to appoint someone to a Committee to coordinate educational programs in the Department for future planning purposes and until the Year 2000.

At this time, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Commissioner Drummond seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside announced that the Commission would now hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve all appointments, re-appointments, promotions and a new Conservation

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Officer recommendation as presented to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Compton also moved for the Commission to approve the reports on the fish kills on Crowder Creek and the Rocky River (copy attached to original Commission Minutes), and for the Commission to approve the damages to fish as presented by staff. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

G. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commissioners.

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

I. Time & Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Burnside announced that the next Meeting would be held at 10:00 A.M., August 19, 1988 in Columbia, S. C.

ITEM V - ADJOURN

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

