

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

Bankers Trust Tower
Columbia, South Carolina

July 19, 1974

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Bankers Trust Tower in Columbia, South Carolina on July 19, 1974 at 10:00 a.m. with Chairman Hudson presiding. Commissioners present were Glenn, Rhame, Boykin, Buchanan, Lumpkin and Dennis. Other in attendance were Mr. Webb, Dr. Timmerman, Culler, Belangia, Fuller, Ryan, Laurent, Cotty, Burrell, Bearden, Latimer, Campbell and other staff members.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as mailed out with one correction, that the I & PA Division won the overall First Place in the U.S. and Canadian competition for the best I & PA Department.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Hudson reported that he has talked with Mr. Burris in regard to the Catawba Fish Kill and he thinks that Mr. Burris is going to be willing to settle for an undetermined amount of money.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Hudson asked Commissioner Glenn and his Finance Committee to plan to meet and review our current budget with the final changes and give final approval, and also to be prepared to review the 1975-76 budget that will be submitted in September. This information will be turned over to the Finance Committee as soon as it is available.

Chairman Hudson reported that we have asked the Personnel Division to approve a differential between Unit Leaders and Supervisors payroll. They have objected to doing this. Wash Belangia introduced Mr. Mack, Director of Personnel Division and Mr. Derrick, Director of Classification Compensation. They told the Commission why they have rejected this request. There was much discussion on the matter between the Commission and these representatives and Chairman Hudson asked for a formal motion, again reaffirming the Commission's position in this matter and stated that he will pursue this with the Staff and Personnel people to try to accomplish what the Commission has asked for in having this \$500 differential between Unit Leaders and Supervisors salaries.

A. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Game and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller reported that



in regard to the Santee Swamp, the S. C. Public Service Authorities wanted to start cutting timber. A study was made and completed with all the different agencies contributing to it and this has been distributed to the Legislative Committee that wanted to study this. The Committee met yesterday and decided to take this under advisement. They plan to meet again the 2nd or 3rd day after the Legislature reconvenes in August and should come up with a final answer at that time. Commissioner Rhame asked for permission to give a final report on his Advisory Board meeting at the next meeting, since the minutes of that meeting have not been completed.

2. Marine Resources: Dr. Vic Burrell reported in Dr. Joseph's absence that they met with the marmouth people in Washington and our contract looks very good for next year. The only major change other than the shrimp sampling program would be that we are going to start a drift bottle study to determine the water currents.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Pat Ryan gave a progress report on the implementation of the Boat Titling law which was implemented on July 1st. There was some discussion on having an educational program on this new law, since the public and boat dealers seem to be confused on the matter. Also suggested getting out more news releases out. Dr. Timmerman suggested that Mr. Ryan, Mr. Culler, Mr. Cotty and himself get together to see what can be done about informing the public in more detail on this law. Commissioner Lumpkin reported that he had received several calls recently about illegal shrimpers. Dr. Timmerman explained that this had looked into and it was determined that it was research vessels doing drags to determine when to reopen the season, etc. Asked Mr. Bearden and Mr. Sullivan to coordinate a system to identify these vessels so there will be no question.

Hunter Safety Program - Chairman Hudson reported that he has recently met with Mr. Warren Page, head of the National Sports Shooting Foundation and a Director of the National Riflemans Association. This program is a 75% Federally funded program and we are one of the two states in the nation that do not have it. The feeling of the Commission was that this is a very good program and that we should have it in this state. NRA and NSSF will send their people down here to get the program started. A motion was made, seconded, and passed for this Commission to go on record as approving this program. Chairman Hudson will meet with Mr. Ryan and Mr. Culler to coordinate this program and will give a report at the next meeting.

4. Information and Public Affairs: John Culler reported on a Waterfowl Program. Would like to run about a sixteen page spread in the magazine around Christmas on the eight best waterfowl artists and why they painted waterfowl. Asked the Commission for recommendations on artist to be included in this eight. Dr. Timmerman asked Mr. Culler if it would be possible to take the summary that was in the brochure on the Heritage Trust Program and write an article and mail out to all the Legislature and interested parties. Mr. Culler said that he would try to get this done.

5. Administrative Services: Chairman Hudson stated that at the last meeting of the Commission, they went on record as instituting



a new policy which has to do with a Salary Review Committee and that he has appointed that Committee within the last month, which consists of Mr. Webb, Dr. Timmerman, Wash Belangia and Directors of the Division that they are dealing with. The first report was passed out to the Commission showing merit rating that the individual got, old salary, new salary, Supervisor's name. Wash Belangia went over the report with the Commission explaining who it worked. The Commission asked for some explanations to be listed at the bottom of this sheet, also to show district, rating given by Supervisor and rating given by Salary Review Committee and reason for any change, if any. Wash Belangia will send a copy of the form used for the review to each Commissioner.

Legal - Bill Cotty reported that the final Legislative Report has been mailed out and that new pages for the law manual will be mailed out next week.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the Arthur Andersen procedure will be fully implemented by the first of October.

Wash Belangia explained the new expense rates to the Commission and stated that more information will follow with the next few weeks. This was effective July 1, 1974.

6. Natural Area Acquisition & Resource Planning: Dr. Laurent reported that the Heritage Trust office is now set up with a small staff and they have people out in the field conducting an inventory of the land in the state. Will keep Commission informed of any meetings in their areas. Chairman Hudson brought the Commission up-to-date on the acquisition of the Santee property for the state and hopefully will have some news on that in the near future.

B. HERITAGE TRUST: More meetings with the Council of Governments around the state are set up for the last week in July and the first week in August.

C. APPOINTMENTS: All appointments mailed out prior to this meeting were approved by the Commission. The Commission will postpone any action on non-pay Commissions until we have final recommendations for Commissioner Harris. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

Reappointments of Wash Belangia, Richland County; Joe L. Smith, Sr., Allendale County; and Amos L. Gourdine, Berkley County as salaried personnel were approved by the Commission.

New appointments of Paul Blackwell, Clarendon County; Donald Wayne Bellany, Horry County; and Robert J. McIntyre, Marion County as salaried officers were approved by the Commission, subject to approval of the Commissioner in their districts.

Commissioner Rhame asked for an additional Conservation Officer in Orangeburg County since they only have four at the present time and this is a very large county to protect. Mr. Webb reported that a list of recommended officers will be sent out to the Commission prior to the next meeting.



Dr. Timmerman reported that Mr. Mac Flood is now working in the Executive Office in taking a complete inventory of all state owned properties. When this is complete, he will go by each of these properties and work with the Conservation Officers to coordinate the upkeep on the properties and report on the conditions. Chairman Hudson stated that the Commission had asked for this complete list of state owned properties over a year ago and has not received it yet and the Commission would like to see this list as soon as it is completed.

D. COMMENTS: Dr. Timmerman reported that he has asked Mrs. Doris Akers, Administrative Assistant to Dr. Joseph to work with Commissioner Lumpkin in coordinating his Advisory Board meetings; Jeff Fuller to work with Commissioner Rhame; and Pat Ryan to work with Commissioner Harris, so they can deal in a more orderly fashion. These meetings are set up for the second Friday of every other month, unless the Chairman alters it. The Commission meeting will continue to be on the third Friday of each month as far as possible.

Commissioner Rhame asked about the status of Jack's Hole Project. Wash Belangia reported that we have asked four contractors to bid on this, and three of those have submitted sealed bids. Bid opening will be Monday, July 22nd at 10:00 and a report will be sent out on that at that time.

Ed Latimer reported that he talked to the Attorney General this morning and we are involved with a problem at South Litchfield regarding a land fill proposition. Will fill Commission in at a later date, but we may have to move on an injunction on the Corporation.

There being no further business at this time, Chairman Hudson stated that the Commission would go into Executive Session and asked Dr. Timmerman, Mr. Webb, Wash Belangia and the secretary to attend this meeting. The regular Commission meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Stapleton
(Miss) Chris Stapleton,
Secretary to the Commission

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