

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Marine Resources Center - Fort Johnson
Charleston, S. C.
July 31, 1992
2:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, July 31, 1992, at the Marine Resources Center, Fort Johnson, located in Charleston, 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, Pendarvis, Miller, Poston, Leary, Graham, Rasor and Haynsworth. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Bill Chastain, Brock Conrad, Paul Sandifer and various other staff members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed all guests to the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Burnside introduced newly appointed Commissioners Jake Rasor of Cross Hill and Knox Haynsworth of Greenville and welcomed them to the Commission. Chairman Burnside noted that Knox Haynsworth would be appointed to serve as Chairman of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board.

Chairman Burnside opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Commission and Tom Miller was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the June 19, 1992 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman discussed the Department's budget, noting that the situation looks worse since the last Commission Meeting. He noted that a freeze has been imposed as of July 1 on holding 3% of all funds in the Department in anticipation of another upcoming budget cut. Dr. Timmerman noted that he recently attended a budget presentation in the Freshwater Fisheries



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Section and was very impressed by this presentation and has asked all the Divisions to develop such a presentation for their key staff.

Dr. Timmerman noted that an article appeared recently in *USA TODAY* on hunting which was sent to him by Commissioner Haynsworth and he passed this article out to the Commissioners for their information. Dr. Timmerman asked Tim Ivey to give a briefing on a recent meeting in Montana as it related to hunting and the anti-hunting movement throughout the country. Dr. Timmerman noted that he recently went to a meeting in Colorado on the Management Effectiveness Study and a great deal of discussion was held at this meeting on a variety of subjects and he informed the Commission that we need to look more closely at integrated wildlife management in the Department.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the Quarterly Vehicle Accident Report to the Commissioners for their information.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a draft agenda for the Commission Retreat on August 20-21 at the Webb Wildlife Center and he noted that user fees and potential license adjustments will also be included on this agenda. Dr. Timmerman asked the Commissioners to inform himself or Larry Cartee of any other items they would like to have on the agenda for this Commission Retreat.

ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins noted that all items had been sent out to the Commission and there was nothing further to report at this meeting.

ITEM IV - OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Interim Use Plan for Mary's Island: Brock Conrad noted that a proposed Interim Use Plan for Mary's Island had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). He noted that a more detailed Use Plan will be prepared and submitted to the Commissioners at a later time. Commissioner Pendarvis asked about the idea of requiring a WMA permit for non-hunting activities and looking at such user fees in the future. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion whereby the staff would look at such user fees in the future for this property and all other properties in the Department. Following this action, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the Interim Use Plan at Mary's Island as presented.



ITEM V - NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Purchase of Property in Horry County: Stuart Greeter distributed some recent articles on the Heritage Trust Program to the Commission that appeared in the newspaper and he noted that the proposed purchase of property in Horry County would be held for discussion until Executive Session.

B. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that he had just returned from the Atlantic Flyway Council Meeting and he does not expect any liberalization of waterfowl seasons this year. He noted that he would have recommendations for the waterfowl seasons at the next Commission Meeting. Mr. Conrad noted that there was a recent fish kill at Lake Russell which was in the news and the staff is following through on this matter and he further noted that the staff is conducting their turkey survey and he would be looking at developing recommendations on the fall season and a possible change in the limit of turkeys harvested at the next Commission Meeting.

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

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines noted he had just returned from the recent meeting of the Association for Conservation Information and the Department had received a number of awards and he went over these awards with the Commission (copy of awards attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Baines noted that Bob Campbell was elected President of the ACI at this meeting. John Davis discussed with the Commission, the Regional Publishers Association and noted that the Department had been elected into this group and he went over various awards that been presented to the Department by this Association. Dr. Timmerman noted that at the ACI Meeting, an individual was involved dealing with how to meet and deal with the press and we plan to have this individual to conduct a seminar for the Department staff and the Commission in the Spring of 1993.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer discussed the Marine Fishing Week activities and noted that efforts are proceeding on the purchase of land at Victoria Bluff. He further noted that the shrimp baiting season will open on September 11, 1992.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Miller noted that the Board met in Spartanburg and he went over the various items discussed at this meeting. He noted that the Board felt that the Department needs to study the regulation of hog



hunting and he asked for a joint effort of the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries and Law Enforcement & Boating staff and Advisory Boards to proceed on this matter and develop joint recommendations. Dr. Timmerman noted that we would follow through on this matter in the Department. Commissioner Miller noted that the Board discussed S-757 (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) as it relates to the regulation of big game contests and the Board recommended that the Commission support the re-enactment of this proposal into legislation by the General Assembly. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to support the Board's recommendation.

2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board met on July 31, 1992 and he went over the various items discussed at the meeting, but noted that no items required Commission action.

3. Marine Recreational Fisheries: Commissioner Poston noted that the Board met recently and he went over the various items discussed at the meeting. He noted that there were no items for action by the Commission from this Board.

D. Other Remarks: 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 legal and personnel matters. Commissioner Poston seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside announced that at this time, the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to approve the acquisition of the 200-acre Little Pee Dee River Tract as presented and further to dedicate it as a Heritage Preserve and place it under the corpus of the Trust (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Poston seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.



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Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to waive the Mary's Island Manager's rent and utilities as requested. Commissioner Poston seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission with Commissioner Pendarvis voting in the negative.

Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to approve the slate of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers as presented for re-appointment, as well as the change of authority. Commissioner Pendarvis seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

E. Appointments: This matter was previously acted upon by the Commission.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting following the Commission Retreat at the Webb Wildlife Center on August 21, 1992, at 1:00 p.m.

ITEM VI - ADJOURN

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

