

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Eutaw Springs, S. C.
June 12, 1981

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Eutaw Springs, at 10:00 a.m., on June 12, 1981, with Chairman Edens presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Edens, Harrelson, Altman, Compton, Owen, Stubbs, Dawson, and Shuler. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain, John Evans, Jeff Fuller, Sonny Baines, Mike Creel, David Cupka, Ed Joseph, and John Davis. Guests at the meeting included Steve Illes of Eutaw Springs.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edens called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Stubbs moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the May 15, 1981 meeting for the regular session and executive session, and to approve them as submitted. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that the House passed a September 1 deer season opening bill and sent this bill to the Senate. A letter from Senator Waddell was passed out to the Commissioners requesting the Commission have hearings on this bill. Chairman Edens asked Commissioners Stubbs, Owen and Compton to hold such hearings on this bill. Dr. Timmerman stated that he will ask Dan Dobbins to coordinate these hearings and a format for this will be presented to the Commission at its July meeting. Commissioner Owen suggested that the Commission may want to meet in September at Table Rock and hold a hearing there.

Dr. Timmerman stated that he met yesterday with the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board and several issues were passed on to the Board for future discussion. These included the development of information for impoundments, urban wildlife management in the upstate area, and the distribution of wood duck boxes to be constructed by the YCC this summer.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a poster with new license fees and went over these fees with the Commission. Commissioner Altman was commended for his efforts on this legislation.

Dr. Timmerman discussed the upcoming budget noting that we will meet the seven percent (7%) personnel reduction without having to terminate any employees. Funds were restored in the Department's budget for five (5) Conservation Officers



positions for the upcoming budget year.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission had requested an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Carolina Refinery permit application last summer. Since that time, a revised Environmental Assessment has been prepared, but this does not answer all of the Department's questions. The Corps probably won't require an EIS and other agencies in the state probably will not request an EIS. Dr. Timmerman stated that we do not feel the applicant has provided all of our informational needs and we see no reason to recommend that the Commission change its position on this matter. Chairman Edens noted that the Wildlife Federation has requested that the Commission reiterate its position on this permit for an EIS, but we may be the only state agency to request an EIS. The Commissioners noted that this is an important area for fish and wildlife and we should stand by our original position. Commissioner Stubbs moved for the Commission to insist on an EIS for the Carolina Refinery permit application and to advise the Corps of Engineers of this position. Commissioner Harrelson recommended the motion include that the Commission request an EIS until such time as all questions are answered for the permit application. Commissioner Stubbs accepted this recommendation as an amendment to his motion. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that we will write the Corps of Engineers to reiterate our position on this permit application and send a copy to all Commissioners, the Wildlife Federation and the Yawkey Foundation Trustees.

Dr. Timmerman discussed the Union Camp plans to construct a paper mill on the Wateree River near Eastover. Discharges into the air and water will occur from the plant's operation, but permits from DHEC and other agencies will be required. Some residents in the area are concerned about odor from the plant and nutrients will be released into the water. DHEC has developed models which indicate the plant will meet state and federal water quality standards. Dr. Timmerman stated that we will have a more detailed report at the July meeting and some people in the area opposed to the project want to appear before the Commission. Dr. Timmerman passed out a memo (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) on this project which states we have no biological reason to object at this time to the project and for the Department to maintain a neutral position. Commissioner Shuler concurred that we not object at this time and the Commission agreed to the position recommended by Dr. Timmerman. Chairman Edens noted that the Sumter County Game and Fish Association is opposed to the plant and they will be on the agenda for the July meeting. Commissioner Shuler suggested that the Santee Cooper Promotion Commission be invited to attend also.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a legislative report and a status report on the Commission's legislative package which was briefly discussed with the Commissioners.



ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.
3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing further to report.
4. Information & Public Affairs: There was nothing further to report.
5. Marine Resources: Ed Joseph noted that nothing has changed on the white shrimp crop and our projections of no landings were on target. At this time, there are doubts on whether there are enough parent white shrimp to provide for a fall crop. It is expected that brown shrimp will move in around mid-June and an average crop is expected.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board met on June 11th and various items discussed were presented to the Commission for information. The next meeting will be held on August 13th and the Santee Cooper Public Service Authority will be invited to this meeting to discuss water levels in the lakes.
2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Shuler noted that the Board is looking at what needs to be done to honor the Conservation Officer of the Year and a recommendation will be developed for consideration by the Commission. Commissioner Owen recommended that honoring employees in this manner be extended to the other Divisions in the agency.
3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted that the Board will meet on July 10th. He stated that he took a recent tour of the Yawkey property and was impressed with the job the Department is doing there.
4. Heritage Trust: Dr. Timmerman stated that this Board had met and a five-year progress report will be sent to the Commissioners for their information.

C. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman stated that this report is in order and a copy has been sent to the Chairman.

D. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). All appointments and re-appointments were approved by the Commission as recommended on this list.



E. Other Remarks: Dr. Timmerman commended Sonny Baines and staff for their fine work on the new issue of the "Resource". Dr. Timmerman suggested that IPA may give a report on communications to the public at a future Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that a memo was recently sent out to the staff thanking them for their public relations efforts in securing the new license fees.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we will be discussing the setting of waterfowl seasons in the near future and we have to look at this closely in regard to state regulations being stricter than federal regulations. The regulations on the black duck may have to go through the state administrative promulgation process.

Commissioner Compton commended John Evans and Mac Flood for the public relations efforts and night programs given in regard to gaining support for the recent license fee increase.

Commissioner Stubbs asked if senior citizens will be required to purchase a state duck stamp for duck hunting under the new law. Dr. Timmerman stated that we would check on this and let him know.

Commissioner Stubbs noted that a lot of people have had trouble getting turkey tags and he asked if we could devise a new system to disburse these tags. Brock Conrad stated that the continued use of the tags will be evaluated and this matter will be further discussed. Commissioner Owen suggested that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board discuss this at their next meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Laniel Chapman has suggested a gathering in Columbia sometime this summer to recognize the Funding Study Committee with a plaque or certificate for their efforts in securing the license fee increase.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Edens announced that the next meeting will be held in Columbia on July 17, 1981.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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

