

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza, Columbia, S. C.
June 13, 1980

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at the Dutch Plaza Office, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a. m., June 13, 1980, 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, Dennis, Stubbs, Dawson, Pendarvis, Shuler, and Boykin. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, John Evans, Pat Ryan, Mike Creel, Benny Reeves, Dan Dobbins, Ed Joseph, David Cupka, Mac Flood, Derrell Shipes, Sumter Moore, Billy McTeer, Jack Bayless, Joe Logan, Tommy Edwards, Phillip Jones and Vernon Bevill. Guests at the meeting included Senator James M. Waddell, Jr. and Mrs. Gail McTeer.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Boykin moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the May 16, 1980 meeting and approve them as submitted. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Study Committee on Program Funding has been working and various sub-committees have been established in different funding area. The next meeting of the Study Committee is June 27th and the Commissioners were invited to attend.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the first meeting of the Marine Study Committee was held on June 9 - 10 in Charleston and it was very successful. All aspects of the Marine Center's operations, goals and objectives were reviewed and recommendations will be made to the Commission on management philosophy, goals and objectives for the 1980's. Senator Waddell noted that he was pleased with the meeting and the group that has been assembled for this study. He stated that the 80's will be the decade of the oceans and the Marine Resources Center is going to be the leader in increasing the wealth and welfare of the people of this state. Senator Waddell noted that he was proud that the Commission and Dr. Timmerman are taking the approach with this study. Chairman Edens



commended Dr. Timmerman for putting this group together as this study will be of tremendous benefit to the marine operation when the study is completed. Chairman Edens noted that if the Commissioners could attend any of the Study Committee meetings, it will be very beneficial. Senator Waddell commended the Marine Center staff and those at Clemson in the development of a mechanical oyster harvester which is now being used to transfer up to 5,000 bushels of oysters from polluted to unpolluted waters.

Dr. Timmerman went over funds in the Department's portion of the Supplemental Appropriations Bill noting that House and Senate conferees are working on this bill. Dr. Timmerman stated that he did not see any problems with our items in the bill and Commissioner Dennis noted that there should not be any major problems.

Dr. Timmerman noted that some shrimpers had taken court action recently and subpoenas were issued to several Commissioners. Chairman Edens reported that a meeting was held with the shrimpers and their attorney before the hearing and the issue was settled before the hearing. Chairman Edens noted that he had sent the Commissioners a copy of the letter sent to the attorney for the shrimpers outlining the points agreed upon and a letter from the attorney confirming this agreement was passed out to the Commissioners.

Dr. Timmerman stated that Joe Logan has been working on the commercial fishing proposal and this will be discussed later in the meeting.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that two (2) new Commissioners have been appointed. Charles L. Compton has been appointed in District #5 and he met with the staff recently in Columbia. Larry Owen has been appointed in District #3 and he will meet with the staff on July 8th.

Dr. Timmerman reported that funding alternatives for "The Resource" are being worked on and will be discussed at a later time.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Sonny Baines is at the National Association for Conservation Information workshop and we have learned how our IPA program was rated nationally. John Evans reported that, based on the judging, the radio program came in third and the magazine, film on wood ducks, news program, and public service announcements all came in number one in the nation. Chairman Edens expressed the Commission's pride and appreciation to the IPA staff for these awards and he suggested that we put out a news release regarding these awards.



Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission had approved an oyster lease transfer subject to the legality as determined by the Attorney General's Office. Tommy Edwards noted that the Commission had approved a transfer of the lease of Mr. Ed Pritchard to Mr. Danny Windham. At this time, a joint resolution was pending in the legislature and it has since passed. Mr. Edwards noted that Dr. Timmerman had asked for an opinion on the transfer of this lease with this joint resolution which was being considered and was subsequently adopted. The joint resolution states that no leases shall be re-issued or renewed prior to January 1, 1982, and those which expire will be extended to this date. Mr. Edwards stated that it appears that the transfer of this lease does not interfere with the provisions of this joint resolution and he advised the Commission to finalize the transfer of this lease from Mr. Pritchard to Mr. Windham for the remaining period of the lease. Senator Waddell noted that the lease needs to be worked and he does not see where this transfer would violate the intent of the joint resolution. Dr. Timmerman suggested that the Commission give final approval to this transfer and for the Department to inform all leaseholders of the joint resolution. Commissioner Boykin moved that the Commission approve the transfer of Mr. Pritchard's lease to Mr. Windham as recommended. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that a letter had been received from several House Members requesting that the Birch Branch Boat Ramp be named in honor of Representative C. Alex Harvin, III. Chairman Edens distributed a copy of this letter (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) and recommended that the request be approved. Commissioner Dennis moved for the Commission to approve this request. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens stated that he would send out a letter on this action and we should have an appropriate sign constructed and plans made for a dedication ceremony. Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that several signs have been constructed at several other boat ramps as approved by the Commission and pictures of these signs were passed around for review. Commissioner Dennis noted that an individual has served wildlife in various capacities and because of his dedicated service, he moved that the landing at Bonneau Beach be named the Augustus McDonald Flood, Jr. Landing. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.



SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO SENATOR JAMES M. WADDELL, JR.

Chairman Edens and Dr. Timmerman presented a framed resolution to Senator James M. Waddell denoting the Commission's action at a previous meeting in naming the Mariculture Center at Port Royal Sound the James M. Waddell, Jr. Mariculture Center. Dr. Timmerman noted that Senator Waddell has been a tremendous asset to the Department and a leader in the management, conservation and research of marine resources. Commissioner Dennis stated that Senator Waddell is a dedicated public servant and a tireless worker with the interest of the state at heart. Senator Waddell noted that this is one of the nicest things that has ever happened to him and he expressed his appreciation to the Commission for this honor.

SPECIAL ITEM

Chairman Edens noted that we have two Commissioners whose terms are expiring---Commissioners Boykin and Pendarvis. Chairman Edens presented a plaque to each individual and expressed thanks for their service on the Commission. A letter from Governor Riley to Commissioner Boykin was read, noting that he had perfect attendance at Commission meetings during his six-year term. Commissioner Boykin urged the Commission to continue with the merit selection for Conservation Officers.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a copy of the Legislative Report to the Commission for their information. Dr. Timmerman and Commissioner Dennis commended Mr. Dobbins for his efforts during the legislative session. Dr. Timmerman reported that the game management rules and regulations have been adopted by the General Assembly and the GMA brochure is now at the printer. Chairman Edens noted that the IPA Division has expedited the printing of this brochure and it should be available before the season opens.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Request from Beaufort County Board of Education - Use of Property at Victoria Bluff: Chairman Edens noted that he had sent a letter to the School Board reflecting the discussion at the last meeting. The Commissioners have received a letter from the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommending that we hold up on this matter. Commissioner Stubbs suggested that the School Board officials make a presentation at the next meeting on this matter. Chairman Edens noted that without objection, they will be invited to make a presentation at the next meeting or the August meeting. Commissioner Dennis suggested that the Commission adjourn debate on this matter and carry it over.



ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendations on Architects/Engineers for Construction Projects at Dennis Center, Union and Greenwood: Dr. Timmerman noted that all state procedures have been followed regarding this matter. Jack Bayless reported that thirty-four (34) firms were screened in this selection procedure. The selection committee recommended to the Commission, the following firms in order of priority:

1. Thomas W. Salmons - Columbia
2. Ard-Wood Associates - Greenville
3. Chris Schmitt Architect, Inc. - Charleston
4. W. Powers McElveen & Associates - Columbia

Following discussion by the Commission, Dr. Timmerman recommended that these be recommended to the Budget and Control Board in this priority and to instruct the Director of Administrative Services to negotiate a contract under consideration. Commissioner Shuler moved for the Commission to approve these firms in order of priority recommended by the staff and submit the four firms to the Budget and Control Board. Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. Update on Small Game Program: Billy McTeer presented a brief report on the small game program noting that it began in 1978 and we now have 65 - 70 landowners managing intensively for small game pursuant to contacts by the Department. Mr. McTeer noted that cooperative efforts on small game information is being undertaken with the Soil Conservation Service, Forestry Commission and the Clemson University Extension Service. Workshops have been held throughout the state with personnel from these agencies. A state-wide quail census is being conducted and some food habit studies are being done. Education on small game management is an important part of the program. Dr. Timmerman stated that he is pleased with the progress of this program and it offers hope in the future to make the best of the resources we have.

C. Heritage Trust Status Report: Tom Kohlsaas distributed a letter to the Commission from the Chairman of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board on the Victoria Bluff property for their information. Mr. Kohlsaas introduced Dr. Wade Batson and Mr. Ed Burgess who are members of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. Dr. Batson invited the Commission to attend the Advisory



Board meetings and noted that serious thought is given by the Board on all recommendations made to the Commission. Dr. Batson noted that the Board has four registration agreements approved by the Board to recommend to the Commission. These have been mailed out to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) and include three tracts owned by Parks, Recreation and Tourism and Bird Island owned by the S. C. Public Service Authority. Commissioner Dennis moved for the Commission to approve all four registration agreements as recommended. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Dennis noted that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board has sent out a letter on the Victoria Bluff property and the Board appears to want to know what action the Commission will take regarding this matter. Following other discussion, Commissioner Dennis moved that this item be on the agenda for a final decision at the next Commission meeting in July. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that he would notify the Beaufort County School Board regarding this and give them an opportunity to appear before the Commission at the next meeting.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves informed the Commission that the non-resident big-game permit bill had passed the General Assembly. This covers deer, bear and turkey.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Dr. Timmerman noted that we have been working on a commercial fishing proposal and is being presented to the Commission for their information before action is taken to sell various people on this legislation. Joe Logan reported that the Commission has approved this proposal at a previous meeting, but one change has been made which includes guidelines for eel pots on the Savannah River. When this proposal is put into a bill form, Dan Dobbins will arrange meetings with members of the legislature this year and a hearing will be held to allow the commercial fishermen to air their views before this is introduced in the General Assembly. Chairman Edens noted that without objection, Joe Logan and other staff will go ahead with this proposal to get it in a position to be introduced in the legislature next year.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission had adopted rules and regulations for rifle and bow hunting on the property at Victoria Bluff. The two-day rifle hunt can be done under very strict guidelines with a drawing for this hunt in



order to have more control. Dr. Timmerman noted that the gun hunts will be strictly supervised this year and we can take the results and look at it again for next year. Chairman Edens suggested that we consider increasing bow hunting in lieu of the present 2-day gun hunt as a means of adequately controlling the deer herd.

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

4. Information & Public Affairs: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph reported that the shrimp season opened on June 10th. The catch is disappointing from the standpoint of the industry, but the level of catch is running at about the level that we expected. The catch in Georgia is also running at about the same level as that in South Carolina. Commissioner Harrelson noted that the Commission is responsible for setting shrimp seasons and can work with the staff in fulfilling this responsibility. Chairman Edens stated that the Commission sets the season as required by law. Chairman Edens also noted that he has asked Tommy Edwards to review all laws that govern the Commission and determine all items that the Commission is specifically required to act on. Commissioner Harrelson stated that he had been advised that 21-25 count shrimp were being caught at the three-mile limit and now the catch is much smaller. Commissioner Harrelson asked about what happened to the large shrimp that were being caught. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have a lot of information on shrimp which can be presented to the Commission at the end of the shrimp season and the administrative procedure to be followed in the future on setting seasons. Chairman Edens stated that we have requested the staff to do what we can to determine the migratory habits of shrimp.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was no report from the Board this month.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was no report from the Board this month.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Dawson stated that the next meeting of the Board would be held in July.

4. Heritage Trust: There was nothing further to report from this Board.



F. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman stated that this report is in line and a copy has been sent to the Chairman of the Commission.

G. 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). The Commission adopted motions to approve all appointments and re-appointments as recommended. Chairman Edens asked about the status of the DWCO appointment of a Mr. Johnson at Bonneau Ferry which was discussed at a previous meeting. Commissioner Harrelson noted that it was his understanding that this was a personal request and was not requested by the landowner. Pat Ryan stated that Mr. Johnson had been written to get a request from the landowner and reapply if he desired to pursue this appointment.

H. Other Remarks: Dr. Timmerman introduced Mr. Pat Robertson of the "Columbia Record" as a guest at the meeting. Dr. Timmerman also advised the Commission that Mr. Vernon Bevill is the top candidate for the Executive Director's position with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Their Commission meets on June 16th to confirm this appointment. The Commission expressed their congratulations to Mr. Bevill for his selection for this job.

Commissioner Pendarvis presented an update to the Commissioners regarding ordering the commemorative pistols which were discussed at the last meeting. Forms for these pistols were passed out noting that a check for \$50.00 (made out to the Wildlife Commemorative Fund) is needed by July 1st to order a pistol. Commissioner Pendarvis suggested that Serial #1 on these pistols be given to Commissioner Dennis and that Governor Riley be given Serial #87 since he is the state's 87th Governor.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Commissioner Bennett was defeated in the primary election and he suggested that staff get him an appropriate plaque. Dr. Timmerman recommended that up to \$225.00 from the Cantey Memorial Award Fund be approved for this plaque for Commissioner Bennett and the plaques for Commissioners Boykin and Pendarvis. Commissioner Harrelson moved that the Commission adopt these recommendations of Dr. Timmerman. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Dennis suggested that Commissioner Pendarvis be invited to the July meeting to properly recognize his service on the Commission.



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I. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Edens announced that the next Commission meeting will be held at Eutaw Springs on July 18th at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Timmerman suggested that we invite the State Budget and Control Board to meet with the Commission at the Marine Center in August. Commissioner Dennis stated that he would extend an invitation for them to meet on August 19th, or some other date, and advise Chairman Edens of the date they can meet at the Marine Center.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN

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

