

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Eutaw Springs
June 18, 1982
10:00 a.m.

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 18, 1982, with Chairman Edens presiding. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Edens, Stubbs, Compton, Owen, Shuler, Harrelson, Altman and Dawson. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Pat Ryan, Sonny Baines, Ed Joseph, Jeff Fuller and various other staff. Guests at the meeting included Vic Evans of the Attorney General's Office, Pat Robertson of "The Columbia Record", Christie Fant of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, and Al Cannon of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edens called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introduced all guests at the meeting.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Stubbs moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the May 21, 1982 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that a proposed promotion policy to Corporal and Conservation Officer First Class was passed out at the last Commission meeting for consideration (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Bill Chastain briefly went over this proposal with the Commission. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to adopt the recommendation as presented. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of Conservation Officer vacancies in each county and noted that this will be done quarterly. He noted that he would like to work with the Commission to set up priorities for those to be filled. Dr. Timmerman urged the Commission to consider adding another position in York County. Following discussion of this matter, Dr. Timmerman stated the staff will recommend priorities for filling vacancies to the Commission. The Commission requested they be furnished information on the total number of officers in each county.



Dr. Timmerman noted that two employees at the Marine Center were involved in drug charges. One employee has been dismissed and a committee has been set up to hold a hearing on the other employee. Any action will be reported back to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Governor had vetoed about \$195,000 in our budget and a memo on this was passed out to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). This was discussed and Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission for any guidance they could provide on how the vetoed funds will be allocated. Commissioner Shuler moved for Dr. Timmerman and Benny Reeves to decide how the vetoed funds will be distributed and communicate this to the Chairman. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that he will also communicate the method of distributing the vetoed funds to three of the Commissioners which will be meeting in Columbia next week.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we have received information on new appointments. Commissioner Harrelson was re-appointed to a six-year term and Jim Quackenbush was appointed to a six-year term from Congressional District #2. Mr. Roy L. Faulk of Columbia has been appointed to the Marine Advisory Board replacing Mr. Harold Alexander.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will meet in Jacksonville, Florida on October 31 - November 3. The Atlantic Flyway Council will meet in Charleston from July 26-30. Dr. Timmerman stated that he will ask the Commission for its guidance at the next meeting regarding any items they would like for presentation to the Atlantic Flyway Council.

ITEM III. APPEARANCE - Representative Jean Toal

Chairman Edens noted that Representative Toal was not present for the meeting.

ITEM IV. PRESENTATION - Aquatic Investigation and Recovery Team

Conservation Officer Lee Mills presented an in-depth and informative discussion of the activities and accomplishments of the Aquatic Investigation and Recovery Team. Commissioner Harrelson noted that this duty requires a lot of extra time and hazardous duty. He suggested that the law enforcement staff give some thought for extra compensation for officers involved in this duty. Commissioners Shuler and Owen stated they supported this suggestion.



ITEM V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a preliminary report on ratified acts and went over various new laws adopted. A comprehensive report will be presented to the Commission in the near future.

ITEM VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Fisheries Statistics: Vic Evans of the Attorney General's Office discussed some legal problems with the fisheries statistics program and went over a memo sent to the Commission regarding this matter by Dan Dobbins (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Vic Evans noted that a formal request had been made from the National Marine Fisheries Service that all fisheries statistics records collected by the Marine Resources Division should be kept confidential in accordance with provisions of federal law and regulations. Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved that it be deemed that the public interest would best be served by not disclosing the fisheries statistical data collected by the Marine Resources Division and that this data should not be open to the public and shall be kept confidential. In addition, Commissioner Compton moved that it shall be the policy of the Commission that the records of the Marine Resources Division shall include a tabulation of all seafood products for which South Carolina is the original port of landing. Commissioner Owen seconded the motions and they were unanimously adopted by the eight Commissioners present.

B. Discussion of SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE Magazine: Sonny Baines noted that a package of information on the magazine had been sent to the Commission noting some of the financial problems with the magazine. John Davis and Jim Goller presented an in-depth discussion of the material sent to the Commission and the various financial problems associated with the magazine. Various options to aid the magazine were discussed by the staff and Commission. Chairman Edens noted that so much information was being presented that the Commission could not make a decision on a plan of action now. He asked Dr. Timmerman and Benny Reeves to work with Sonny Baines to come up with the best ideas or plan, with alternatives, and bring back to the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that he may ask newly appointed Commissioner Quackenbush to work with the staff on this matter. The radio and TV presentation will be made at the next Commission meeting.

C. Update on Policies: Dr. Timmerman passed out some proposed changes in Commission policies and noted this will be discussed at the next meeting.

ITEM VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Game Management Area Lands Discussion: Jeff Fuller distributed some information to the Commission noting that it appears a trend has been established on decreased acres of land in the GMA Program since



1978. Some action is needed to reverse this trend. Chairman Edens asked Commissioner Owen and the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board to look into this matter.

B. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: A brochure on the upcoming meeting of the Atlantic Flyway Council was distributed to the Commissioners. Dr. Timmerman noted that any proposed rules and regulations for duck hunting will be on the agenda for the next meeting for any guidance from the Commission.

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

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

5. Marine Resources: There was nothing further to report.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Advisory Board had approved a budget for the duck stamp which was mailed out to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Brock Conrad went over this briefly with the Commission. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to adopt this budget as sent out to them. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Owen noted that the Board acted upon two other items---revisions in fur trapping season and size limit on striped bass---which will be on the agenda for the July Commission meeting.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: There was no report from the Board this month. Commissioner Harrelson noted that some design for DWCO patches had been passed around and he recommended the Commission adopt one of these designs. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt Design #1 for DWCO patches. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Harrelson moved: 1) for the Department to have the patches made and to charge DWCOs the necessary amount to cover the cost and handling of such and, 2) to require DWCOs to purchase two patches upon initial appointment and maintain two patches so long as they hold the DWCO commission, and 3) that the wearing of the patch on a cap be mandatory and distinguishable when on duty. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

3. Marine Resources: There was no report from the Board this month.



4. Heritage Trust: Stu Greeter noted that the Board met yesterday and adopted four motions. First, the Board adopted a motion to ask the General Assembly that any tax checkoff programs they consider in the future be limited to critical areas of state endeavor such as endangered species. Second, motion passed that the recommendations of the natural areas committee regarding controlled burning of an area at Cheraw State Park be adopted. Third, a motion was approved for the staff to cooperate with the Society of American Foresters in adding Heritage Preserves, when appropriate, to their registry. The fourth motion adopted by the Board recommended that the Commission accept the Georgia Pacific easement which is a significant portion of the overall Ashley River Road Protection Project and is presently being held by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and that easement be entered into the Heritage Trust Program to be protected as a preserve. Mrs. Christie Fant of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History presented an in-depth discussion of the Ashley River Road Project and the reasons for actions by the Board to request that the Commission accept this easement. Chairman Edens noted this was discussed by the Commission in 1979 with Dr. Lee and the Commission asked him to report back to the Commission with a concrete plan noting the will of the land-owners in the area. Following other discussion, Commissioner Harrelson noted that not enough information has been presented for a decision today and he moved that this matter be received as information at this time. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. The Commission urged Mrs. Fant to negotiate this matter and see if she can come up with something satisfactory.

D. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman noted this report is in order and a copy has been forwarded to the Chairman.

E. 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). Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve Item #1 as recommended (DWCO re-appointments, new appointments, etc.). Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Harrelson moved for all other appointments and re-appointments be held over to an Executive Session following the regular meeting for discussion of personnel matters. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens announced that an Executive Session will be held following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters involving the appointment and re-appointments of Conservation Officers.

F. Other Remarks: Chairman Edens noted that this was Commissioner Shuler's last meeting and he presented a plaque to him to express appreciation for his service on the Commission from 1976 to 1982.



Commissioner Stubbs noted that various people and engineers have been reviewing the proposed design plans for the dam at Lake Oak Grove. They would like to present their recommendations to the Commission at its July meeting. Chairman Edens asked Commissioner Stubbs to notify these people and invite them to the Commission meeting in July.

Commissioner Dawson noted that Mr. Wallace Pate has requested the use of two of the Department walkie-talkie radios for 13,000 acres of land at Debordieu and Arcadia Plantation and he so moved for the Commission to approve this request. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens relinquished the chair to Vice-Chairman Dawson. Chairman Edens moved that the Commission's policy on issuance of radios outside the Department be amended to include the requirement that the Law Enforcement Division make an investigation of such requests for radios and make their recommendations to the Commission before the Commission considers any requests for radios. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Vice-Chairman Dawson relinquished the chair back to Chairman Edens.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia on July 16, 1982.

ITEM VIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting, the Commission voted to recess the regular meeting and go into Executive Session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and invited participants into the meeting. Chairman Edens announced that, in Executive Session, the following items were acted upon:

1. The Commission adopted a motion to approve all Conservation Officer re-appointments as recommended earlier in the meeting (copy attached to original Commission Minutes), excluding Reynold J. Wrenn of Bethera and to give him a DWCO commission if requested.
2. The Commission adopted a motion to appoint Priscilla Massenburg Knight as a Conservation Officer in District #9.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve and ratify these actions. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission. There being no further business, the Commission adopted a motion to adjourn.

