

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

BEAR ISLAND GAME MANAGEMENT AREA

MARCH 16, 1972

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was called to order by Chairman Eltzroth at 9:25 A. M. in the Clubhouse at the Bear Island Game Management Area near Green Pond. In attendance were Commissioners Mishoe, Eppes, Thompson and Rhame. Vice-Chairman Glenn notified the Chairman earlier in the morning that he would not be there until later, which he did when he arrived at 11:45 A. M. Commissioner Williams was absent because of illness. Also in attendance were Major Cantey, General Harris, Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Dr. Burrell, Charlie Bearden, Tommy Welch, Jeff Fuller and Ken Hare of The State newspaper.

The first order of business was a motion by Commissioner Eppes to approve the Minutes of the two preceding meetings as they were prepared and submitted by the Secretary. This motion was carried and the Minutes were accepted.

PROGRESS REPORT - Non-pay Game Warden Training Program.

Commissioner Mishoe presented the progress report relating to the proposed training program for non-pay Game Wardens. He noted that much planning and progress had been made in this new effort to provide both protection through knowledge for the individuals receiving non-pay Game Warden appointments and also to improve the effectiveness of these people when they are afield. A schedule of training dates have been decided upon, the basic curriculum has been developed and all such non-pay Game Wardens presently having commissions have received a letter from Mr. Ryan setting forth the new policy and program

At this point there was some discussion relative to the interpretation of the policy which was decided upon during the February meeting. This discussion centered around whether such training should be given only to those individuals who found that enforcing the game and fish laws was a part of their income and also if certain individuals would be excused from taking such training. After further discussion, it was decided to leave the policy as it had been decided upon in February.

Commissioner Mishoe continued to describe more of the program and stated that this was only a progress report and that more would be available to report upon as the program developed.



NON-PAY GAME WARDEN COMMISSION - Robert S. Byrd

During the Executive Session, which followed the regular meeting of the Commission, the Commission thoroughly discussed the previous appointment of Robert S. Byrd, of Marion County, as a non-pay Game Warden and subsequent action by the Commission in which they cancelled this appointment. After reviewing the files on this situation and thoroughly discussing all the conditions pertinent to the situation, the Commission re-affirmed their original decision and that they would not reverse themselves at this time. The Secretary was instructed to so notify Mr. Byrd.

APPOINTMENTS

The appointments as were mailed to the Commission prior to this meeting by the Executive Director, were approved, subject to the approval of Vice-Chairman Glenn and Commissioner Williams, both of whom were not present when this action was taken.

The appointments of two non-pay Game Warden appointments which were not mailed were approved subject to the investigation and concurrence by the Commission Members in whose Districts these individuals reside. Included in this group are F. J. Anderson, Aiken and Amos D. Ewers, Summerville.

Following the meeting, Vice-Chairman Glenn informed the Secretary that he, with the assistance of Conservation Officers, had reviewed the list as contained in Mr. Webb's letter of February 28, 1972, and was prepared to make the following recommendations concerning such appointments for individuals residing in his District. These recommendations are as follows:

J. Douglas Nettles, Ridgeland, - Drop  
John Edward Bailey, Burton - Drop  
Paul E. Freeman, Coosahatchie - Re-appoint  
Frederick D. Cody, McClellanville - Re-appoint  
William E. Lewis, Jr. - Charleston Heights - Drop  
Thomas L. Freeman, Ridgeville - Re-appoint  
Thomas M. Thompson, Yemassee - Re-appoint  
Lonnie M. Reynolds, Bluffton - Drop  
Floyd B. Hiott, Sr., Walterboro - Drop  
George S. Dasher, Bluffton - Re-appoint  
D. Calvin Baynard, Moncks Corner - Re-appoint



## FINANCE

The financial report and statement as prepared by the Financial Division was received and accepted as information.

The Secretary distributed the Summary of License Sales, together with a one page explanation as to the contents of this report and its interpretation. This was received as information.

## BELMONT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Commissioner Mishoe reported that his committee had met with staff personnel and that the proposed draft of the Management Plan for Belmont had been submitted to the committee. He stated that approximately two-thirds of the work had been accomplished on this proposal by his committee and that he felt that he was not in a position at this meeting to recommend a Management Plan to the Commission for its consideration. He reported that the Plan would be available by the April meeting for the Commission's consideration.

Chairman Eltzroth inquired of Mr. Fuller if the proposed timber sale for Belmont had been advertised as yet and Mr. Fuller informed him that it had been and that the removal of the prescribed timber was to be completed by December 31, 1972.

## REPORT ON BOATING FATALITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Welch stated that he would like to have Commissioner Mishoe report on this study and its recommendations which have been made concerning boating fatalities on South Carolina waters. Commissioner Mishoe stated that the report contained much information, that it pointed out those areas in the state where boating usage was concentrated and that it contained a number of recommendations. Commissioner Mishoe's committee felt that the Chief of Boating and Division Director Ryan should bring a list of specific recommendations to the Commission committee and that after consideration of these, the committee could then make a recommendation to the Commission for its action. This will be accomplished within the next 30 to 60 days.

## HERRING REGULATIONS

Commissioner Rhame inquired if the proposed herring regulations have been implemented and if both commercial and sports fishermen have been consulted in these regulations. Mr. Fuller reported that they have been considered and that the regulations had been implemented.



## EMPLOYEE'S HANDBOOK

The Secretary exhibited to the Commission the proposed first draft of the Employee's Handbook and explained its contents and concept. He pointed out that such a Handbook should include the basic information desired by an employee when entering the agency and also contain directions as to where such an employee may find additional information, if so desired. This Handbook cannot be detailed in nature as to specific policies within the Department, position descriptions or similar materials. These will have to be contained in other forms of written materials which will be more specific or precise in nature for the individual employee concerned.

Chairman Eltzroth inquired if there was input from others in this draft and the Secretary informed him that such was not possible in the time involved and that the draft appeared to follow normal format for such Handbooks and appeared, to him, to be basically complete. Chairman Eltzroth requested that the draft be given to Dr. Timmerman for his review, that it also be then forwarded to Mr. Ryan for his review and additions if such seemed to be in order and that possibly one or more employees should review the draft to determine if it meets the needs of the employee. No action was taken as to what would be done with the proposed publication after this review.

## MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION REPORT

Dr. Timmerman distributed and discussed the report for his Division. He called upon those members of his staff who were present to describe more fully parts of the report which were particularly related to their areas of responsibility. This included Dr. Burrell as it relates to the condition and future use of the proposed research vessel, Dr. Joseph concerning the Lab and specifically presenting the qualifications of Mr. Eldridge who it is hoped will fill the vacant position as a Chemical Oceanographer and Charlie Bearden as his work relates to management of shellfish. Copies of this progress report and Dr. Burrell's condition report of the Dolphin are attached to file copy of these Minutes and made a part thereof.

Chairman Eltzroth inquired if both Winthrop and South Carolina State College had been asked to provide input into the Marine Center. Dr. Joseph stated that they had, but at this time they did not desire to be directly related to it and that most certainly the door was always open for their participation.

Chairman Eltzroth inquired of Dr. Timmerman if he had taken any steps to have the \$30,000 item for fishing reefs restored in the proposed budget as being considered by the General Assembly. He stated that he had already talked to several members of the General Assembly on this and Chairman Eltzroth instructed that Mr. Bearden meet with the group who are concerned with offshore fishing reefs and to be sure to talk to the original members of the committee and ask for their support in this most worthwhile program.



Mr. Bearden asked guidance concerning Oyster Lease Number 215, stating that there had been non-payment of this lease for the past two years. Chairman Eltzroth instructed Mr. Bearden to prepare the necessary recommendations, submit them to the Commission for action and that appropriate action would be taken.

Mr. Bearden inquired and asked for guidance concerning the request made to his Section regarding the possible importation of sponge crabs from Georgia for processing in South Carolina. The taking or possession of such sponge crabs is illegal in South Carolina and Chairman Eltzroth noted that importation of such could cause many problems. He inquired if Mr. Bearden had any specific recommendations on this and not having such at this time, Mr. Bearden will report on this question to the Commission at its April meeting.

Chairman Eltzroth inquired as to the status of the proposed offshore sport fishing brochure. Dr. Timmerman reported that Waddell Robey is completing this and that he believed the charts and other materials were sufficiently advanced so that they could have the draft copy available for consideration at the April meeting.

Chairman Eltzroth was disturbed with that portion of the Dr. Timmerman's report concerning the completion of the Laboratory and Administration Building at the Center. He concurred with Dr. Timmerman that a "punch list" should be prepared, that no facilities be accepted until all items on this list had been satisfied and that penalties should be invoked wherever and whenever proper.

The required paving at the Marine Center can be done with state funding if the Center is classified as a "institution". The Attorney General's office was requested to review this and issue an opinion. Dr. Timmerman reported that he had just received an opinion from the Attorney General's office which stated that the Center could be classified as an institution and therefore it would be eligible for state funding for this necessary paving.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the Boat Slip is essentially complete and that he is most happy with the way this had been done.

Dr. Timmerman was concerned with Marine Law Enforcement and he noted that he had asked Mr. Ryan to look into this further and to have some discussions with him on the matter. He noted that in other states considerably more effort was being put in Marine Law Enforcement and that if management of marine resources was to become a reality, then enforcement must be a part and parcel of this management activity.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the completion of the Center dictates that the dedication will probably be done at the end of May or early June.



Chairman Eltzroth noted that this would have to be accomplished prior to June 9, 1972, because he would be unavailable after June 9th for some period of time.

In line with the dedication, Dr. Timmerman wishes to prepare a brochure on the Center and to have as a part of the dedication ceremonies, this brochure with an insert which will be the program for the dedication. He also had developed a partial invitation list and this was passed out to the Commission so that each Member could make suggestions and add names as he saw fit.

Further, concerning the dedication, the Commission met in Executive Session with Dr. Timmerman for the purpose of discussing names of proposed speakers and other items relative to personnel for this event.

For the deciation, the light lunch or food items which may be a part of the dedication is to be worked out by Dr. Timmerman and his staff with Vice-Chairman Glenn.

Dr. Timmerman described the plaque which will go in the Laboratory and noted that he wanted to place a border around the plaque which would include certain marine forms. The suggestion was approved by the Commission and Dr. Timmerman was instructed to proceed with this.

Mr. Bearden reported on the success of the oyster culture which resulted from the moving of seed oysters from the Wando River Bed and taking these to McClellanville. He believed that the Wando seed bed was of most importance and that immediate attention should be given to it to learn if it can be used as a source of seed oysters, if it has capabilities for reporducing itself and what its true value is so that this may be defended from the many threats that come through industrialization and other harbor uses.

#### LEGISLATIVE

Chairman Eltzroth noted that two branches of government did not recognize the limitations by the constitution concerning fish and game legislation as it applies to individual counties. He noted that the Judicial branch did take note of this and as a result, Judge George Bell Timmerman, Jr. ordered the Executive Director to close the seasons which had been authorized as extensions for several counties.

It was noted that the legislation relating to the change in Boating Rules and Regulations had been considered by the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee, accepted by them and would be introduced as a Committee Bill.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Saltwater Committee of the Commission will meet during the next several weeks and will have a report for the Commission at its April meeting.

## UNCLASSIFIED ITEMS

### Cape Romain Property

Commissioner Mishoe reported on the values of the Cape Romain property at McClellanville and the present status of the transfer of this property from the Department of the Interior to the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department and the sub-lease agreement between the Department and McClellanville.

Commissioner Mishoe recommended that the agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Wildlife Resources Department be executed in its present form by the Executive Director. On the motion of Commissioner Eppes, this authorization was granted to the Executive Director and he was instructed to sign the agreement.

The Commission instructed Mr. Latimer and Charleston County Councilman Graham to draw up an agreement for the sub-lease of a portion of this property to the Village of McClellanville for Executive Director Webb's signature. This agreement when drawn up, is to be submitted to Commissioner Mishoe's committee for review and if found satisfactory by them, the Commission committee will submit it to the whole Commission for its approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Mishoe, seconded by Commissioner Rhame, McClellanville was authorized to use part of the McClellanville property, prior to signing the sub-lease provided that no alterations shall be made to the property until after the lease has been executed.

## STATE ANIMAL AND STATE FISH

On a motion of Commissioner Eppes, the Commission designated the rock fish or striped bass to be South Carolina's State Fish. This was seconded by Commissioner Mishoe and voted.

On the motion of Commissioner Rhame, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, the Commission voted that the white tail deer shall be the State Animal.

The Secretary was instructed to prepare a letter to Representative Fred Moore of Anderson, informing him of the Commission action and recommending



that the General Assembly take action to enact legislation making this an official state position.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

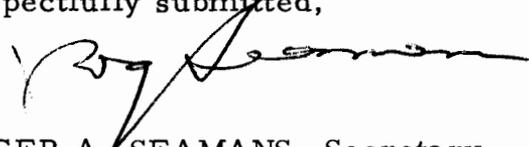
Commissioner Rhame inquired as to the delay in providing an up-to-date directory for the Department. Chairman Eltzroth noted that this was Mr. Ryan's responsibility and that he should accomplish it at the earliest practical date.

MARINE CENTER - AFFILIATIONS

The Commission noted that the several colleges and universities had extended to professional personnel at the Marine Center a reciprocal arrangement whereby these professional employees of the Department in marine sciences were made Adjunct Professors at these institutions of higher learning. The Commission, authorized the Director of the Division of Marine Resources to appoint such people from the colleges and universities within the state to be affiliated with the Marine Center on an associate basis whenever it would be in the best interests of the Marine Center.

The meeting of the Commission was completed at 11:35 A. M. and this was followed by a short Executive Session which ended at approximately 12:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,



ROGER A. SEAMANS, Secretary  
Wildlife Resources Commission

RAS/pal

