

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
March 17, 1989

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., Friday, March 17, 1989 in the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Room 335, located in Columbia, 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, Compton, Drummond, Pendarvis, Owen, Miller, Stokes, Thomason and Bennett. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines, Paul Sandifer and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed all guests to the meeting.

ITEM I - READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the February 17, 1989 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission on the status of the Department's budget and provided them with a handout on the items approved for our budget by the House of Representatives. Dr. Timmerman noted that our funding request will be presented to the Wildlife Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee in the near future.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Governor Campbell has initiated some new Executive Orders on the Advisory Boards and he discussed these new Executive Orders and the changes with the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the staff and some of the Commissioners recently met with the Legislative Black Caucus and the Human Affairs Commission concerning minority hiring. Dr. Timmerman distributed to the Commission a copy of the minutes of that meeting for their information.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the new Commission Policy Manual has been distributed to the Commissioners for their use as deemed appropriate.

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Dr. Timmerman distributed to the Commissioners a listing of all conservation officer positions which breaks all positions down by county of assignment, type of assignment and race. Commissioner Compton noted that the License Coordinators are not under Law Enforcement and their salary levels and grades need to be reviewed. Benny Reeves noted that he is currently looking into this matter.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we had a request from the Public Service Commission to use our radio system and this was reviewed by the staff and such was not recommended for approval since we have reached our capacity on this system. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the staff recommendation to not allow the use of our radio system by the Public Service Commission. Commissioner Drummond voted in the negative on this motion.

Dr. Timmerman noted that in the budget process in the House of Representatives, several amendments were brought up for consideration. One amendment provided that we could not spend any money at the Santee Coastal Reserve until a public boat ramp is constructed at this site, but the Speaker ruled that this amendment was non-germane. Another amendment provided that individuals could buy up to five (5) doe tags at \$5.00 each, but this amendment was withdrawn. Dr. Timmerman also noted that an amendment was approved by the House on the compensation for officers on the Drug Team to provide \$25,000 in funds to be distributed to these officers. Dr. Timmerman also noted the amendment was approved whereby the County Gasoline Tax Funds could be spent for any purpose, subject to approval of the County Legislative Delegation. Dr. Timmerman also noted that the House approved an amendment that personalized tags would be done away with, with the exception of the Legislature and the Highway Commission. He also noted that the House approved an amendment to prohibit the influence of Legislators by state employees.

ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins noted that the Legislative Report was sent to the Commission and he went over the various bills in this package. Commissioner Owen encouraged the Commissioners and Advisory Board members to support the various bills of the Department that are in this legislative package. Commissioner Bennett suggested that the Advisory Board members be sent a listing of bills to be discussed so that they could have input into this process.

Dan Dobbins noted that it appears there will be some legislation forthcoming to extend the shad seasons and it has been the Commission's position in the past to oppose such efforts. Mr.

Dobbins noted that it appears that such may not be of significant biological impact in some of the lower streams in the state and he asked the Commission for clarification on their position. Following discussion, the Commission agreed that no action should be taken concerning this matter until staff has developed a recommendation concerning specific legislative changes.

ITEM IV - AQUACULTURE PRESENTATION

Paul Sandifer noted that the Commission had requested this presentation be made at this meeting. Dr. Sandifer gave a background on the aquaculture program at the Marine Resources Center and Dr. Vic Burrell provided some additional background information concerning the aquaculture program. Following this discussion, Dr. John Manzi presented a slide show and some detailed information to the Commission concerning aquaculture projects and programs at the Marine Resources Center and Waddell Mariculture Center.

ITEM V - OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Land Purchase and Registration Agreement - Marion County: Stuart Greeter noted that the proposed land purchase in Marion County and a Registration Agreement with PRT at Myrtle Beach State was sent to the Commission in their packet (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the Registration Agreement as presented by staff. Following other discussion, Commissioner Stokes moved for the proposed property purchase to be discussed in Executive Session as a contractual matter. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside noted that this item would be discussed as a contractual matter when the Executive Session is held.

ITEM VI - NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposal - S. C. Migratory Waterfowl Committee: Mr. Jim Grayson, Chairman of the S. C. Migratory Waterfowl Committee, noted that he was seeking the Commission's endorsement of a proposal to create 1,500 Governor's Edition Stamps that would be sold to the public. Mr. Grayson noted that 500 of these stamps would be signed by the Governor and sold for \$100.00 each and the remaining 1,000 would have the Governor's medallion and be sold for \$50.00 each, together creating revenue of \$100,000 for the Department to use in the waterfowl program. It was noted that this is a voluntary program and it is felt that such can be very successful. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to endorse the proposal as presented by Mr. Grayson.

Following other discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to commend the fine work that Mrs. Linda Amick has done with the duck stamp program.

In addition, the Commission adopted a motion to provide that the Department would sell duck stamps signed by the artist so that the Department could create some additional revenue for the waterfowl program.

B. Proposed Penalties for Violating Provisions of the Antlerless Deer Quota Program: Brock Conrad noted that the proposed penalties for violating provisions of the antlerless deer quota program were sent to the Commission in their packet (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad noted that this proposal would require legislative action and recommends that an 18-point violation be established for possession of an untagged antlerless deer as required by Section 50-11-390. Mr. Conrad noted that this change would penalize the individual who violates the antlerless deer quota program rather than the club or fellow club members as is currently the case. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to endorse the proposal in principle whereby the proposed legislation would punish the individual and not a club, but appointed a committee composed of Commissioners Stokes and Owen and Bill Chastain and Brock Conrad to work out specific details concerning this proposal as discussed by the Commission.

C. Division Reports:

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

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad informed the Commission regarding the turkey restoration program, that twenty-two (22) sites in the state have been stocked with 334 birds and 100 birds have been stocked out-of-state as approved by the Commission. Mr. Conrad noted that the staff has prepared turkey restoration guidelines for consideration by the Commission at the April Meeting.

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

4. Conservation Education & Communications: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer informed the Commission that the staff will be harvesting hybrid bass at the Waddell Mariculture Center during the next two (2) weeks and he invited the Commission to the Waddell Center to see this harvest.

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D. 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: There was no report from the Board this month.
4. Conservation Education & Communications: There was no report from the Board this month.
5. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the Board this month.

E. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commission at this time.

Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual and personnel matters. Chairman Burnside announced that at this time, the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and contractual matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt the recommendation of staff to terminate Conservation Officer Jimmy Brazelle. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously by the Commission.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve all appointments, reappointments and new appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (DWCO) with the deletion of James T. Roberts as a DWCO reappointment and to exempt James P. Harrelson, Jr. from the one-week In-Service Training requirement of the DWCO Program, and to also approve the permission to use the new radio system for DWCO W. Jeffrey Price (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

F. APPOINTMENTS: This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

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G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Burnside noted that the next meeting would be held April 21, 1989 in Edgefield, S. C.

ITEM VII - ADJOURN

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