

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
March 18, 1988
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., Friday, March 18, 1988, in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Webster, Compton, Harrelson, Owen, Quackenbush Stokes, Thomason and Bennett. Directors and staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Paul Sandifer, Bill Chastain, Brock Conrad and various other staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed all guests who were attending the meeting.

ITEM I. CHECK PRESENTATION - S. C. Open Shooting Dog Championship: Chairman Webster introduced Dr. Frank Hines who presented a check to the Department for \$1,000.00 from the S. C. Open Shooting Dog Championship to be used for renovation work at the Webb Wildlife Center. Chairman Webster and the other members of the Commission expressed appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Hines and his organization for this donation.

ITEM II. READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 12, 1988 Commission Meeting as presented.

Commissioner Owen noted that the Commission had received a memorandum of March 8, 1988 (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) concerning turkey hunting regulations in Sumter and Marion Counties. Commissioner Owen noted that this memorandum was sent to the Commission to clarify turkey hunting regulations pursuant to previous action by the Commission. Following discussion, a motion was approved to adopt and clarify these turkey hunting regulations as presented.

ITEM III. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman distributed to the Commissioners, information on the Department's budget noting our original request, recommendations of the State Budget and Control Board, recommendations by the House Ways and Means Committee, and proposed requests to the Senate Finance Committee. Dr. Timmerman presented an in-depth



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discussion of our budget request and noted that he was seeking Commission approval to seek an additional \$350,000.00 for a boat at the Division of Marine Resources and \$300,000.00 for an educational center in the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. The Commission adopted a motion to approve these requests as presented.

Benny Reeves discussed the budgetary process, noting that the budget had been approved by the House of Representatives and such has now gone to the Senate Finance Committee. Mr. Reeves noted that the House of Representatives did approve the addition of one (1) conservation officer position in Saluda County.

Dr. Timmerman distributed to the Commission, a personnel head count analysis since 1976 showing differences in number of employees in each Division, by year, since this time period. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have been very conservative in the number of positions in the Department and that we are now developing a plan to seek additional funds through the General Assembly to meet the major concerns and problem areas that we have in the Department. Dr. Timmerman noted that these ideas will be formulated in the near future and such will be discussed with the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Division of Human Resource Management is continuing review of the proposed reallocation of law enforcement positions, but no recommendations on this matter have been made at this time.

ITEM IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed the Legislative Report and discussed this report with the Commissioners.

ITEM V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update - Proposed Stocking of Grass Carp in Lake Marion:

Brock Conrad noted that this proposal was discussed by the Commission at its last meeting and additional information concerning the proposed stocking of grass carp in Lake Marion was sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad noted that this recommendation was approved by the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board and Mr. Hank Stallworth and Mr. Danny Johnson of the South Carolina Water Resources Commission were at the meeting to answer additional questions concerning this matter. Mr. Stallworth presented a general discussion of the proposed stocking plan and following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the grass stocking plan in Lake Marion as proposed.



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B. UPDATE - COMMISSION POLICIES: Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission policies have been approved and such is being developed for distribution by July 1, 1988. In addition to these, Dr. Timmerman noted that two policies were omitted which we would like to include which include: (A) Damage Claims Procedure - Torts, and (B) Vehicle Accident Reporting and Processing Procedure. The Commission adopted a motion to approve these policies and include such in with the Commission policies already adopted.

C. PROPOSED AQUACULTURE LEGISLATION: Dan Dobbins noted that the Commission had previously approved a 16-point program for legislative consideration regarding the aquaculture of hybrid/striped bass. Since that time, Mr. Dobbins noted that the staff has been working to develop a legislative proposal and a broader concept has evolved and such was sent to the Commission in their packet (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Dobbins noted that this broader concept included greater protection for fishery species and carried heavy law enforcement penalties for any fishery species that may be proposed for aquaculture purposes in the State of South Carolina. Lt. Chip Sharpe discussed the nature of this concept and through other discussion, Dr. Timmerman noted that some fine tuning of this matter by the staff is still needed. Following detailed discussion, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the concept as presented, to be taken back to staff for further study and presentation back to the Commission at a later time. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission with Commissioner Owen voting in the negative.

Commissioner Quackenbush informed the Commission that at the April 15, 1988 Commission Meeting, he plans to make a motion at that time to open Fairfield County to Sunday hunting for deer and turkey on private lands. Commissioner Quackenbush noted that he wanted to present this matter to the Commission as information at this time in order that they could give the matter some thought prior to this being brought for proposed formal action to the Commission at the next meeting.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Brock Conrad distributed a copy of the 1987-88 WMA Permit Program Financial Statement to the Commission and discussed this in detail. In addition, a survey conducted by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies concerning public hunting on U. S. Forest Service lands was distributed to the Commission for their information. Mr. Don Eng of the U. S. Forest Service made a detailed presentation concerning funds from the



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WMA program that are allocated to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, noting that \$130,000.00 for 1987-88 will be paid to the Service for this program. Mr. Eng noted that through the cooperative agreement, he was seeking approval for a 15% share for 1988-89 which totals to approximately \$225,000.00. This matter was discussed by Mr. Eng with the Commission and the Chairman advised Mr. Eng that the Commission would further consider this request.

B. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves reported that the Commission had been presented some information at the previous meeting concerning a proposed lifetime license and a sub-committee reviewing this proposal has asked for more data which is currently being collected. Upon receipt of this additional data and information, Mr. Reeves noted that such will be sent to the Commission.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad distributed a copy of the Summary of Public Statements regarding proposed state TED regulations (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Conrad noted that this is being presented to the Commission for information and the staff plans to proceed with the implementation of these regulations under existing state legal requirements.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain informed the Commission that the staff is hosting a 4-day Operation Game Thief Conference in Columbia and these individuals will be presented to the Commission at the luncheon later this afternoon.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines presented the newly printed Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic poster to the Commission for their information, noting that this will be used in the Department's educational program with information printed on the reverse side of the poster. Commissioner Thomason commended the CEC staff for the fine job that they have done educating teachers and students through Project WILD over the past month or so.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer noted that Mr. William Hiott of the South Carolinians for Wildlife Conservation has asked the Commission for any input concerning recommended members for their organization to help provide education and promotional support for the proposed marine saltwater recreational fisheries license.

C. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that this Board will meet on April 14, 1988.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush noted that there was no report from the Board this month.



3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Harrelson stated that there was no report from the Board this month.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Harrelson reported that the Board would meet this afternoon at 2:00 P.M.

5. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the Board this month.

At this time, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Compton and adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that at this time, the Commission would recess the regular meeting to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve the appointments and reappointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers to the Commission as presented (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. OTHER REMARKS: There were no further remarks from the Commission.

E. APPOINTMENTS: This matter was previously acted upon by the Commission.

F. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: Chairman Webster announced that the next meeting would be held on April 15, 1988 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.



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