

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Riverbend Sportsmen's Lodge
Spartanburg, S. C.
May 15, 1987
11:00 A.M.

The regularly monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 11:00 A.M., May 15, 1987, at Riverbend Sportsmen's Lodge, Spartanburg, S. C., with Vice-Chairman Compton presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included: Commissioners Compton, Owen, Quackenbush, Harrelson, Thomason and Stokes. Directors and Staff present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Paul Sandifer, Bill Chastain, Sonny Baines and various other staff and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 11:00 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 April 17, 1987 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman introduced Pete Peterlik of the Greenville News and welcomed him to the meeting.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commissioners that he recently attended the Spring Directors' Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He noted that training and use of the video will be major items for the agenda of the Law Enforcement Committee of this Association.

In addition, he noted that he has discussed with the Directors, setting up a summer meeting of law enforcement officers on the issue of commercialization of striped bass and hybrid bass.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Freedom of Information Act is near passage and that he would recommend that this legislation be discussed at the June Commission Meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that at the Southeastern Meeting, he had also discussed setting up a team of geneticists to review the concerns raised over the commercialization of striped bass and hybrid bass. He noted that this study by geneticists will be conducted this summer and will be a topic for discussion at the Fall Meeting of the Southeastern Association.

Dr. Timmerman asked Benny Reeves to provide an update on the budget. Mr. Reeves noted that the budget was given a second reading yesterday and the Department had secured some additional funds in the Senate Finance Committee. Dr. Timmerman noted that \$50,000 was reduced from the Freshwater Fisheries' budget and we will utilize \$50,000 in departmental revenue to replace these funds that were cut.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a copy of the latest Legislative Report and went over the status of various bills with the Commission. Mr. Dobbins informed the Commission that H.2267 had been recommitted to the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion - Berry's Mill Fish Hatchery: Commissioner Thomason noted that the Berry's Mill Fish Hatchery has deteriorated and efforts need to be made to bring this Hatchery up to suitable operating conditions. Commissioner Thomason noted that the Commission sought to close this Hatchery in 1972, but did not do so due to the objections of various people and funds are needed to develop a plan to repair this Hatchery. Dr. Timmerman gave background information on this Hatchery and noted there is a need to establish a smallmouth bass hatchery operation in this area of the state. He noted that cool water is needed and he is asking assistance from Clemson University to get their engineers and water quality personnel to review the conditions at this Hatchery. Dr. Timmerman noted that a plan will be developed and we will report back to the Commission at the June Commission Meeting.

Following other discussion, Commissioner Thomason moved for the staff to review the Berry's Mill Fish Hatchery and report back to the Commission at the June Commission Meeting, the feasibility of operating this facility as a fish hatchery. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves advised the Commission that we are presently developing a five-year bond plan for the Department and he further informed them that a meeting on the FY 88-89 budget proposal will be held on May 19 and sometime during the summer, a meeting of the Commission Finance Committee will need to be held to consider the Department's budget proposal.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.

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 reported to the Commission that a shrimp season opening date has not yet been established and the Staff will continue sampling and open at some date in the near future. Dr. Sandifer also noted to the Commission that they had approved the Federal Three-Mile Limit line sometime ago and there is, currently, some grumbling in the coastal area about this line. Dr. Sandifer also noted that he would like to present the Marine Division Employee awards at the June Commission Meeting.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Heritage Trust: Dr. Timmerman noted that he attended this meeting and a report on this Board Meeting will be made to the Commission at their June Meeting.

D. Other Remarks: Commissioner Harrelson noted that he hoped that some of the Duck Stamp funds can be allocated for work at Bear Island. John Frampton informed the Commission that the proposed Duck Stamp budget will be presented to the Commission at the June Meeting.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Staff is reviewing the possibility of dike repair at Capers Island and this item will be put on the agenda for discussing in late summer.

Commissioner Owen asked John Frampton to prepare a report on the WMA lands, including total lands in the program and also identifying losses or gain that have occurred in the recent past.

Commissioner Harrelson noted that a marina at Fripp Island is in need of a "No Wake Area" and Bill Chastain stated that he would send someone down to review this situation.

Commissioner Compton noted that he is currently reviewing the possibility of legislation on the reckless discharge of firearms during turkey season. He stated that he is asking the Law Enforcement Division to review this matter and prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman discussed our efforts to seek mandatory hunter safety legislation as we are one of the few states that does not have such a law. Dan Dobbins noted there is an outside chance of getting this legislation through the legislature this year. Commissioner Compton asked the Commissioners to contact their House Members to seek passage of this legislation.

Commissioner Compton expressed thanks to Ralph Brendle for hosting the Commission Meeting at Riverbend Sportsmen's Lodge and he thanked Commissioner Thomason for making arrangements for the meeting.

Commissioner Thomason welcomed everyone to spend some time in the Spartanburg area and he invited all Commissioners and Staff to attend the Spartanburg Association Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund Banquet to be held this evening.

Following other discussion, Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Commissioner Quackbush seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Vice-Chairman Compton announced that the Commission would now recess the regular meeting to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and contractual matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

Vice-Chairman Compton asked Commissioner Harrelson to report on the actions taken in Executive Session.

Commissioner Harrelson reported that the Commission adopted motions to approve all appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers with addendums as presented (copy attached to original Commission Minutes), and the Commission approved a motion to acquire lands in Laurens County. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to adopt and ratify these actions. Commissioner Quackenbush seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by the Commission.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia, S. C., on June 19, 1987.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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

