

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
Bankers Trust Tower
Columbia, South Carolina

May 16, 1975

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at Bankers Trust Tower in Columbia, South Carolina at 10:00 am, May 16, 1975 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioner present were, Boykin, Harris, Glenn, Lumpkin and Buchanan. Other present were Advisor Coy Johnson, Dr. Timmerman; Dr. Joseph; Dr. Laurent; Mr. Webb, Consultant to the Commission; Belangia; Fuller; Culler; Durrant; Cotty; Latimer; Campbell; Evans; Logan; Clark Surratt with the STATE NEWSPAPER; and various others were present.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as they were mailed out with Dr. Timmerman making the correction that in the item on Page 4 regarding naming the wild turkey as the State Game Bird, this should be Representative Moore instead of Senator Moore.

COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman recommended to Pat Ryan, Bill Chastain and Tommy Welch, in that we have some cross-references in Law Enforcement working for boating and vice versa. and are setting up the mechanism where all Enforcement will be under Chastain and his activities and where all personnel that is needed will come under the Boating activities.

There will be a film presentation at the next Commission meeting on the James W. Webb Center telling what is being done there.

There will also be a presentation by Lockwood Greene Engineers of Spartanburg at the next meeting on the Dennis Center and the Marine Fisheries Center projects.

Commissioner Boykin, Finance Committee Chairman for the Commission, met with the Staff and discussed cost reduction method for fiscal year 1975-76.

Dr. Timmerman read a statement to the Commission regarding Boating Responsibilities stating that upon recommendation of the State Auditor's Office and Arthur Andersen that Titling and Registration of Boats be transferred to the Administrative Services Division. This becomes effective with this Commission Meeting and all responsibilities and authority pertaining to the complete process of Boat Titling and Registration have been permanently transferred to the Administrative Services Division. Also, boating programs, as outlined by Director Ryan at the last Commission meeting have been initiated under his Law Enforcement and Boating Division.

As per the Commission's request at their last meeting, Dr. Timmerman passed out a list containing vacancies within the Law Enforcement Division showing a new position open in Berkeley-Charleston Counties and Calhoun County; and vacancies in Laurens, Hampton and Lancaster Counties. He plans to make recommendations for Laurens and Hampton Counties at the next Commission meeting. This list will be mailed to the Commissioners not present today.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, through the Department of the Interior plan to close down their warm water fish hatcheries in South Carolina, by the first of July, 1976. Timmerman has been in contact with the head of service in Washington and he has informed him that we might be able to get continued funding for this in the future, but he feels that we should carry on this program in the State as it is a good PR program and that there is a basic need in the state. We should be alright until 1977 Budget Year



PAGE 2
SCW&MRC
May 16, 1975

and we should do everything we can to get this program financed. Should cost a total of \$150,000 a year. There are two hatcheries in the State and we would run them and they would continue to fund them for another two years.

ITEM II: OLD BUSINESS

A. INDEXING & AUTOMOBILE EXPENSE DATA: Wash Belangia passed out an example showing the Automobile Expense information and reported that his Division has contacted several other agencies in the state and they use this type of system. He stated that some problems that we have on this is that some of the National Gas companies do not send in the bills for as much as three to four months sometime and that the State does not bill us but about every six months. The problem that we run into is that a new car starts accumulating cost the day we purchase it. After we have had that car about a year, then the cost data, accumulative, would be correct, but at any given time in most cases, we would have as much as two months delay in cost data. This report would be good for information looking at the Accumulative Information, due to the lag in billing of the companies and the state. Suggested giving the Commission an Accumulative report on a Quarterly basis. After discussion of the Commission on whether or not they want to receive the actual report, it was decided that this information would be made available to the Commission or anyone interested and that Administrative Services Division would go over these reports and red-flag anything out of line and if need be this information could be brought to the attention of the Commission, if there is a real problem area. Also, this report will be given to each Division Director for their information so that they will know what their people are doing. This system will be implemented July 1, 1975.

B. RESOLUTION: STATE GAME BIRD: Dr. Timmerman stated that at the last Commission meeting the Commission approved the Eastern Wild Turkey as the State Game Bird and he has asked Jeff Fuller and Bill Cotty to submit a Resolution to the Committee and Bill Cotty read this Resolution. It was noted that the Carolina Wren is the State Bird and that this was in addition to that. A motion was made by Commissioner Lumpkin to adopt this Resolution, it was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed. The original of this Resolution was signed by the Commission. A copy of this Resolution is hereby made a part of these Minutes.

C. SUBSIDIZATION: IPA BUDGET DEFICIT: Dr. Timmerman reported that after reviewing the revenues with Wash Belangia, we anticipate some additional revenues coming into the magazine that we did not anticipate and we will use this and scrape the bottom and he feels that we should be able to come up with the needed \$50,000 in this Division for this year.

ITEM III: NEW BUSINESS

A. STATE OWNED HOUSING: Dr. Timmerman reported that a member of the Commission told him they read in the paper that the Wildlife Department had sixteen units and that in two of these units people that were living in them were not employed by the Department. He has had this thoroughly investigated and that all of the houses that are occupied are people that are needed for duty such as fish managers, etc. The two houses referred to are at the James W. Webb Center; Sometime last year there was an illness in a large family and there was a shack there which the Overseer at Webb Center allowed this family to move into. This was brought to Brock Conrad's attention



and on the 28th of January last year he asked them to vacate and this was done. The other house is the trailer at Direlton that Mr. Samms lived in. Mr. Samms donated his property to the Wildlife Department and we made an agreement at that time allowing him to live in a trailer on this property as long as he lived.

B. APPEARANCE: DR. WILLARD DAVIS: Dr. Davis appeared before the Commission on behalf of the sail boat operators and owners in the state, expressing concern that the sailors need to be given more consideration in the Rules and Regulations of Boating. It was felt by the Commission that the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board, chaired by Commission Harris should meet with this group and get their recommendations for changes and take them under consideration. Commissioner Harris advised Dr. Davis that he plans to hold an Advisory Board meeting on June 6th and if he could get this list to him prior to that time, his Board would be happy to look into this situation.

C. FUNDS RECEIVED FROM BURRIS CHEMICAL COMPANY: Dr. Timmerman stated that he has received several letters and telephone calls stating that since this was a fish kill, they would like to see the money from this claim put back into that particular area and Mr. Fuller reported with a suggestion to the Commission for the use of this money. His Division has been working with Duke Power Company and they have told him that they would give him a lease on one (1) acre of land in York County close to the dam, probably with a 25 year lease. Would like to use this property and use the money from the Burris claim to construct a building and the purpose of this building will be to provide two offices for District Fisheries Biologists, one secretarial office, one laboratory, one storage room and a small shed for boats and other equipment. Have discussed this with Enforcement and they are interested in possibly putting a radio station in that area. Also would like to use a portion of the funds for Enforcement in that area. Might need more money than the amount received from Burris. Chastain stated there is definitely a need for better communication in that area. Fuller asked the Commission for permission to go into the planning stages of this project and come back to the Commission with a definite plan and money involved and the Commission can act on it at that time.

LAKE WARREN: Fuller reported that since the last meeting, he has contact Representative Tison and he was interested in a road for Lake Warren. He was not interested in a road along the shallow side or a walkway up that side. He was also interested in a boat ramp about four miles from Yemassee that he thought we were constructing which we were not, but the funds from BOR came through us and a local planning agency down there was doing the work on that particular project at that time. Fuller has checked into both things and gave Rep. Tison a report and he wanted to make a decision as to whether to put money on a road at Lake Warren or the ramp at Yemassee. We suggested that a road go into the picnic shed and put a 100 foot parking lot there. We did not offer suggestions on the boat ramp, but the people on that project are to meet with him and we do not have those results. At this time we are waiting to hear back from him. The cost of the road work would be approximately \$6,000. A report will be given to the Commission when this information is available.

D. IN-DEPTH REPORT - IPA: John Culler and his Staff presented a slide program describing all the different areas his Division is working in titled COMMUNICATION. The Commission accepted this as very interesting and informative information.

E. DIVISION REPORTS

1. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES: Wash Belangia passed out a copy of the Budget as approved by the Senate Finance Committee. Have been working on a daily basis on



the budget and brings it to the attention of the Commission to show them how the budget process takes place. He went over this briefly with the Commission pointing out different items and giving explanations. This is given as information to the Commission and if there are any particular questions, they can be asked of the staff following this meeting. Dr. Timmerman pointed out that in Law Enforcement the Senate Finance put in six (6) additional Conservation Officers. This does not mean new positions; it means that we will not have to relieve some. We have more positions than we do money, and this would authorize some money to keep the same people we have. In Dr. Laurents Division, the Governor, last year, transferred two of his staff members to this office, and this means we can keep these two employees on. There were no questions on this at this time.

2. GAME & FRESHWATER FISHERIES: Progress Report on Dennis Center:

Jeff Fuller reported that Dr. Timmerman, Jack Bayless and he had a meeting with the Architects, Lockwood Greene Engineers on this second phase of the Dennis Center and next month hope to have a presentation by Lockwood Greene on the overall project. He reported that at the present were are trying to work into this phase of the project a maintenance and utility building for boat storage, tractor storage, welding and automotive shop, woodworking shop, walk in freezer, walk in cooler and fertilizer storage. Another thing we are having to work in is a sewage treatment facility. We cannot tie on local to anything. Probably \$50-60,000 item. Fish Raceway building is being constructed to be used for raising the larvae striped bass, etc. for a short time. Also trying to get a student lodging and conference building. There will be ten ponds that will be one-quarter acre each and ten ponds which will be one acre each for research which will be fenced. Also in this area we will have game holding pens. Had to pay for land out of the original \$42,000 and at the present time we are about \$100,000 short of what we need, but we are working on solving the problem without the additional money.

ARCHERY REQUEST: Recently Mr. Fuller's Division has received a request from the Governor's office and Chairman Hudson's office to modify places to hunt, etc. with archery season on our Game Management Lands. He went over the present approved hunt schedule pointing out the dates and places for Archery and Primitive Weapon hunts. Chairman Hudson stated that this was not exactly the question that was ask. The questions was, are there areas, and there are, two, one being Capers Island and Santee Gun Club, could there be areas set aside that are not presently under the Game Management regulations, for bow hunting for an extended period. For example, start with Capers Island on October 1 and say that that area will be bow hunting only until November 1 and that Santee Gun Club would be bow hunting from November 1 until the beginning of the Duck Season. There was no intention to change our regulations in the Game Mangement areas, but expanding it to other areas that we have. Dr. Joseph reported that his staff is developing a potential use plan for Capers which a preliminary version has already been submitted and a more highly developed version is ready for delivery up here. Plan to ask Fuller's Division to do a population study there, but from personal observation it is not too good. One thing that is being recommended in this use plan is that hunting be used where necessary if it appears that wild hog or deer population is getting out of hand. Dr. Joseph personally feels that Capers is not going to provide a great deal of hunting activity for several reasons. Most of the non-hunting public use of that island will come at the same time hunting season comes. Insects and snakes out there are pretty much going to limit much summer use. Have recommended that Mr. Fuller's staff make a population assessment. Mr. Fuller will look further into this and come back to the Commission with a recommendation and more information.

CAPERS AND SANTEE GUN CLUB: Commissioner Glenn stated that regarding these



subjects, he knows little or nothing about them and referred to an article in the News and Courier regarding the use of these islands. He asked if this is a policy matter that should come before the Commission and Chairman Hudson stated that it is being studied and will come before the Commission. Dr. Joseph commented that this article was written by Barbara Williams and that she made a request through the Department that she be allowed to examine the preliminary use plan and this was cleared all the way through the Department and we emphasized very strongly to her that the document had no official status and is simply the plan that we are developing for formal submission and Dr. Timmerman will receive the completed version within the next week. The state purchased Capers Island and title was turned over to the Wildlife Department and we do have this deed in our possession. We have a conservation easement on Dewees Island. There was some discussion and questions regarding the acquisition of the Santee Gun Club and Capers and Dewees Island and some of the Commission members expressed the desire to have further details and information on these projects. It was suggested that the staff come up with a package on this and make it available to anyone who would like to have it. The staff will look into this at some time in the near future.

3. MARINE RESOURCES: PROGRESS: COOPERATIVE RESEARCH FACILITY & SOUTHEASTERN UTILIZATION RESEARCH CENTER: Dr. Joseph reported that the Cooperative Research building is progressing well. About half of the floor is in and the rest is being formed, all the foundation is in and we seem to be running on schedule. The Southeastern Utilization Center (Seafood Technology Lab), he has been in contact with Lockwood Greene Engineers and they have informed him that the design is essentially complete and they are in the process of drawing up the bid specifications and should have that ready within a month to go out for bids. We opened the shrimp season on the day called for by law which is May 15th. Do not have to go through the traditional Rule and Regulation if we do that. Monday, the Marine Resources Center served as host to the Coastal Plains Regional Commission with all the Governors represented from Florida to Virginia and it was a very successful meeting. Also the Marine Center is hosting the National Shellfish Institute and National Shellfisheries Association joint meeting beginning June 23rd, 1975 at the Mills Hyatt House. Welcome any Commissioner who would like to join in on this and notices will be sent out on this.

4. LAW ENFORCEMENT & BOATING: Bill Chastain reported the on May 5th he was asked to go out to San Antonio to the Big Game Conference of Game Conservation International and there was an award presented called the Winchester Award to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Wildlife anywhere in the world. This year it was presented on behalf of Charles McNeil and a check was presented to the Foundation which was created by Chairman Hudson and Mr. James C. Rikhoff of Winchester and earmarked for McNeil's children. Mr. Ryan is in the hospital and could not be present today.

5. NATURAL AREA ACQUISITION & RESOURCE PLANNING: Dr. Laurent reported that the Federal Funds of \$230,000 for Coastal Zone Planning should be approved within the next couple of weeks.

F. SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Dr. Timmerman stated that he and Wash Belangia have met and have review all increases and that they are in line. Have not had an opportunity to discuss this to Bill Chastain as yet, but as soon as it has his signature, it will be passed on to the Chairman.

G. APPOINTMENTS: Dr. Timmerman stated that we have turned down a number of non-pay commissions and that he is writing the proper letters to these individuals



and telling them why they were not approved. Commissioner Harris asked Dr. Timmerman to defer action on Ezra Huff, who works for Ben Scott Whaley, until more information is available.

Recommended appointment for non-pay is Dan T. Suddeth in Oconee County which was held pending at the last meeting for further investigation. 5,250 acres of land located in Oconee and Pickens Counties, Estate of L. M. Brown, lands of C. Craig and the area known as Isqueena Point, with authority limited to these lands.

Recommended re-appointment of James C. Matthews, Johnsonville, S. C. as non-pay game warden to enforce game and fish laws on approximately 3,000 acres located in the Johnsonville-Pamplico area, Florence County.

Recommended re-appointment for non-pay is Arthur C. Williams, Spartanburg, S. C. Advisory Board for Law Enforcement & Boating, and to protect approximately 100 acres known as "Mackenzie's Cove" at Lake Bowen, South Carolina.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lumpkin to approve these recommendations, it was seconded by Commissioner Buchanan and passed.

Recommended for appointment is James J. Barry, Jr., St. Stephens, S. C. as a salaried conservation officer in the Berkeley-Charleston County area.

Recommended for re-appointment is Thomas P. Robertson, Jr., Charleston Office, Information Specialist - Division of Information & Public Affairs as a salaried conservation officer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boykin to approve these recommendations, it was seconded by Commissioner Buchanan and passed.

Commissioner Harris stated that regarding Trotters Shoals he asked his Advisory Committee to come up with what they thought might be a good policy in respect to these environmental matters and he gave the job to David Bryan who is an attorney in Columbia. He turned this over to the Chairman as a suggestion to him approved by his Advisory Board and himself and then if it appeals as a policy it could be put through the staff. This is on any project where there is environmental impact that is adverse and this tries to get us around opposing state positions.

Chairman Hudson reported that we are still trying to get the economic update and have met with the Governor's staff and have talked to Congressman Dorn and they are looking forward to the hearing and as soon as this information is available we will schedule this meeting so that we might have a position on this.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Boykin to adjourn, it was seconded and the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Stapleton

(Miss) Chris Stapleton,
Secretary to the Commission

