

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza
Columbia, S. C.

May 19, 1978

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at the Dutch Plaza office in Columbia, South Carolina at 10:00 am on May 19, 1978 with Commissioner Boykin presiding in Chairman Hudson's absence. Other Commissioners present were Buchanan, Shuler, Edens and Bennett. Directors and staff members present were Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr., Jeff Fuller, Dan Dobbins, John Reeves, Pat Ryan, Brock Conrad, Larry Cartee, Johnny Evans, Tom Kohlsaas, Charles Bearden, Fred Ziegler and various others. Guests present were Julian Morris and his attorney Philip Middleton; Rutledge Leland and his attorney Fred Scott; Tom Duke, Jr. and his attorney Hal Strange; Hugh Gibson, Charleston News & Courier; Pat Robertson, Columbia Record; Dr. Jacqueline Jacobs, Executive Director of the S. C. Wildlife Federation; Mike Copeland, Administrative Assistant to the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee; and Frank Caggiano, Director of Research and Administration of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Boykin called the meeting to order.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no call for Executive Session.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Edens noted that the Amendment to the Minutes of the September 1977 Commission Meeting should be corrected to read: Page 6, Item D. 1, paragraph 2 was amended on April 21, 1978...instead of April 21, 1977. A motion was made to approve the April 1978 Commission Meeting Minutes and the Amendment to the September 1977 Commission Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman presented the Commission with a resolution for their signatures commending David Baumann for his heroic actions in saving the life of a fellow employee.

Dr. Timmerman noted that a former Conservation Officer, with above average ratings, had applied for an existing Law Enforcement vacancy and the staff had recommended that he be rehired. Dr. Timmerman asked for the Commission's guidance on whether or not he should be considered as a new applicant and follow the testing procedure. The Commission was in agreement that he should be considered as a new applicant and follow the existing procedures.

Dr. Timmerman reported that effective July 2, 1978, Mr. Archie R. Stubbs from Greenville will begin serving his term as Commissioner until July 1, 1984. A letter has been received from the Governor confirming this appointment.



Also, it was reported that Mr. Calvin C. Dawson, Sr. has been confirmed by the Senate to serve the same length of time as Commissioner from Georgetown, although no letter has been received from the Governor regarding this appointment. In addition, letters have been received from the Governor confirming the re-appointment of Mr. Carroll Godwin and Mr. Gaines Smith to their Advisory Boards.

Dr. Timmerman asked for the Commission's comments on the proposed Administrative Policy on Employee Political Activities. Commissioner Edens recommended that Section A of the policy be amended to read as follows: "Non-partisan elections are those in which none of the candidates are to be nominated or elected as representing any political party that is certified as a legal party in South Carolina by the Secretary of State." Subject to this amendment, Commissioner Edens made a motion to adopt such as an Administrative Policy of the Executive Director. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission to appoint a Committee from the Commission to work with staff early next month putting guidelines for Commissioners in draft form to be mailed out to the Commission prior to the next Commission Meeting. Commissioner Boykin appointed Commissioners Shuler and Edens to work with staff on this matter.

It was also noted by Dr. Timmerman that he has requested Cecil Godwin, Wayne Odell and Luther Anderson from Clemson to meet in his office with Commissioner Edens, Dr. Joseph and his staff and Jeff Fuller and his staff on June 7, 1978 at 10:00 am to discuss wildlife and marine extension activities and how to develop a more suitable wildlife food source.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department owns approximately two (2) acres of property near Socastee in Horry County which is to be developed into a boat ramp. The Department has attempted to develop this property, but funds have not been available. Horry County officials have stated that they would develop and maintain the property if deeded to them. A proviso would be put into the deed that if they failed to do so this the property would revert back to the Department. Dr. Timmerman recommended that the property be deeded over to Horry County and that we offer them assistance in seeking federal funds. A motion was made by Commissioner Buchanan to approve this recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he would work with the resident Commissioner in developing alternatives for use of the house owned by the Department on Lake Greenwood.

It was noted that the study committee to evaluate the Information & Public Affairs program has been assembled and will meet on June 8-10, 1978. Those serving on the committee are Jim Rikhoff, National Sporting Fraternity; Ed Carlson, formerly with the federal government in I & E; Bill Emerson with the Department of Journalism; Jim Keefe, I & E Division of the Missouri Wildlife Department; and Andy Laurent, State Statistical Research. The only cost of this study will be that our Department will pay their expenses while they are here.



Dr. Timmerman stated that a training program for Commissioners is being developed for the Southeastern Association meeting in November. More information on this will be passed out to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that an airstrip at Webb Center, which is not used frequently, could be planted as a food source for wildlife. Another airstrip is located about four miles from the Center. A motion was made to abandon the use of the airstrip at this time and utilize such in the best interest of wildlife resources. The motion was seconded and passed.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins distributed a legislative report and several bills introduced since the last Commission Meeting. Dr. Timmerman discussed recent budget requests presented to the Senate Finance Committee and asked for the Commission's assistance in getting necessary funds approved. Commissioner Shuler recommended that changes in the boat registration and titling law be considered to alleviate many of the existing problems.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Oral Arguments on Oyster Lease No. 45 (Bulls Bay)
Mr. Philip Middleton, Mr. Fred Scott, Mr. Claymon Grimes:
Attorneys Philip Middleton, Fred Scott and Hal Strange presented arguments on behalf of their clients regarding the contested Oyster Lease Number 45 currently held by Bulls Bay Seafood Company. A complete transcript of the Hearing is attached to the original copy of these Minutes and will be furnished to each Commissioner. The Commission accepted the arguments as information and stated that they would render a decision at the June Commission Meeting.
- B. Proposed Placement of Capers Island in the Heritage Trust:
Tom Kohlsaas presented a deed for the Commission to approve and sign placing Capers Island into the Heritage Trust. A motion was made by Commissioner Shuler to approve this deed. The motion was seconded and passed and the Commissioners present at the meeting signed the deed. Other signatures will be obtained.
- C. Recommendations Concerning Countersuit of Use of Electric Seines:
Fred Ziegler reported that a proposed countersuit on the electric seine issue had been discussed by staff and no action was recommended at this time. Commissioner Edens stated that he felt that those individuals involved should be made aware of the fact that the Department did consider a countersuit in this matter.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commercial Fishing Recommendations: Commissioner Edens reported



that staff is coordinating commercial fishing recommendations with commercial fishermen in the area and when completed, they will be presented to the Commission for action.

- B. Recommendations on Furbearer Program: Commissioner Edens reported that the Small Game Program and the Furbearer Program have been approved in principle at the April 1978 Commission Meeting. A copy of the revised Small Game Program has been furnished to the Commission and a copy of the Furbearer Program has also been furnished to the Commission which no revisions have been made. Commissioner Edens made a motion that the Commission officially adopt the Small Game Program as revised and presented to the Commission. Commissioner Edens also recommended that the Furbearer Program be referred back to the Advisory Board at it's June meeting to be discussed in detail and brought back to the Commission at it's June meeting. He also asked Jeff Fuller to place that item on the Agenda for the June Advisory Board meeting.
- C. Recommendations on Notifying Legislators of Conservation Officer Vacancies: Commissioner Bennett noted that he had received complaints from a House Member about not being notified of an individual to fill a conservation officer vacancy in the County. It was suggested that all House Members be notified in the County where an applicant resides. Following some discussion, it was decided that such would be considered by the Commission and placed on the Agenda for the June meeting.
- D. Division Reports:
1. Administrative Services: John Reeves reported that the bids on the radio stations to be constructed should be in next Friday. As it looks now, funds will be available to construct these facilities. Dr. Timmerman noted that all division expenditures have been frozen and the budget is being monitored very closely.
 2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller had nothing to add to the written report.
 3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Pat Ryan passed out a report on the Hot Line for the Commission's information and noted that staff plans to publicize that such be used only for reporting violations and not for information. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has appointed a Committee to evaluate this matter and recommendations will be made by July 1st.
 4. Information & Public Affairs: Johnny Evans reported that the duck identification film was completed and will be shown at the June Commission meeting.



5. Marine Resources: Dr. Vic Burrell stated that there was nothing to add to the written report.

6. Natural Area Acquisition & Resources Planning: Tom Kohlsaad stated that there was nothing to add to the written report.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Edens had nothing to report at this time.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing to report at this time.

3. Marine Resources: Dr. Timmerman reported that this Board will meet June 9, 1978 at Point South.

4. Heritage Trust: There was no report at this time.

F. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that all reviews were in order and that there was nothing to report. A copy of the report was placed in the Commission files.

G. Appointments: A motion was made by Commissioner Edens to approved all recommendations for appointments and re-appointments as submitted by Dr. Timmerman. The motion was seconded and passed.

H. Other remarks: Dr. Timmerman reported that he had received several calls and letters complimenting the way the Dedication of the Dennis Center was handled. Also, he reported that the Yawkey property has been officially dedicated. John Reeves asked that the members of the Finance Committee meet briefly following this meeting.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before this meeting at this time, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine S. Murray

(Mrs.) Christine S. Murray,
Commission Secretary

