

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Riverbend Sportsmen's Lodge
Spartanburg, S. C.
May 19, 1989
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 a.m., May 19, 1989, at the Riverbend Sportsmen's Lodge in Spartanburg, 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, Thomason, Owen, Stokes, Drummond, Pendarvis, Miller and Compton. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Bill Chastain, Sonny Baines, Brock Conrad, 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 April 21, 1989 regular Commission Meeting and the May 5, 1989 Special Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commissioners that he has a meeting scheduled with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers on Monday to discuss water flow problems at the Santee Cooper lakes. In addition, Dr. Timmerman noted that a meeting will be held on May 25 and 26 with staff of the Santee Cooper Public Service Authority to discuss water flow problems also.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the "Retreat" with the Commission and staff is planned June 15-16, 1989 at the Wampee Conference Center. He noted this "Retreat" will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, 1989, and the Commission Meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on June 16, 1989. Dr. Timmerman noted that key issues such as the deer season, minority employment, the legislative process will be discussed during this "Retreat" and he asked the Commissioners for any other items or issue areas that they would like to discuss during this time.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Dan Dobbins and Benny Reeves were not at the Commission Meeting as they remained in Columbia to work with the Legislature on the Department's budget.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had some personnel matters and a property acquisition matter to discuss later during the meeting if the Commission holds an Executive Session.

ITEM III - APPEARANCE - Bill Thomas

Mr. Bill Thomas, a commercial catfisherman from Santee Cooper appeared before the Commission, noting that he supports the Department and all of its efforts regarding law enforcement and management of fishery resources. Mr. Thomas noted that he felt that the law requiring the marking of equipment and traps is unfair and unjust as it provides a means whereby people find these traps and destroy or take these from the people that have set this equipment. Mr. Thomas also noted that he was concerned that the 3 X 6 trap had to be round and noted that more unmarked law enforcement boats are needed for patrolling the Santee Cooper lakes. Mr. Thomas expressed a number of other concerns to the Commission and the Commission asked Mr. Thomas to place his concerns in writing so that these could be referred to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and the Law Enforcement Advisory Boards for proper review and recommendations to the Commission.

ITEM IV - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dr. Timmerman reported on this item for Dan Dobbins and passed out a copy of the Legislative Report to the Commissioners for their information. Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the "lifetime" license has passed and he noted that we need to reduce our number of legislative proposals next year and he recommended that we only present legislative proposals that are needed on an emergency basis.

Dr. Timmerman also distributed to the Commissioners, a copy of the new law concerning the gasoline tax funds whereby such may be used for capital improvements for recreational purposes. Dr. Timmerman noted that these funds are suppose to be used to benefit the boating public, but with this change in the law, such will be allowed to be used for capital improvements for recreational purposes throughout the state.

ITEM V - OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Guidelines for Turkey Restoration:

Commissioner Owen noted that the Proposed Guidelines for Turkey Restoration had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) and that the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board had adopted these guidelines for

recommendation to the Commission. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to approve these guidelines as presented and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Compton. Commissioner Thomason noted that he had various problems with these guidelines and the provision of turkeys to stock in other states. Mr. Thomason raised various questions and issues concerning this matter with the Commission. Following discussion, Commissioner Owen moved to amend his motion whereby he moved for the Commission to approve these guidelines subject to the legal review and approval of these guidelines by the Department's General Counsel. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion as amended and the motion as amended was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM VI - NEW BUSINESS

A. Update - Hunter Education Program: Bill Bowers presented an update on the Hunter Education Program and distributed to the Commissioners a packet of information on this program. Lt. Bowers went over the purposes of the Hunter Safety Program and discussed number of students trained, accident reporting, as well as priorities and plans for the program. Lt. Bowers presented an in-depth discussion of the Hunter Education and Safety Program and sought the advice and guidance from the Commission for any aspects regarding this program.

Commissioner Owen asked that the staff review the possibility of skeet shooting and archery for the Department's ranges which we currently operate.

B. Inland Impoundments Policy:
and

C. Instream Flow Policy: Commissioner Owen noted that the proposed inland impoundments policy and the instream flow policy were recently sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Owen discussed these guidelines and noted that they have been approved and recommended to the Commission by the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board. Following discussion, Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to approve these policies in concept for use as guidelines in the Department. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Dr. Timmerman noted that Benny Reeves is in Columbia working on the Department's budget and he went over the various items in our budget that had been approved by the Senate Finance Committee.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad distributed to the Commission, a copy of the waterfowl status report and noted that the staff is working on a waterfowl survey for presentation to the Commission at a future 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 distributed to the Commission, a new brochure on the Governor's Cup Billfish Series Tournament and also distributed a report on the Division's activities, as well as information on an environmental meeting to be held at the Marine Resources Center.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Heritage Trust: Brock Conrad noted that this Board had met, but there were no items for action by the Commission.

F. Other Remarks: Commissioner Thomason noted that the Spartanburg Banquet of the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund would be held tonight at the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium. He invited all the Commissioners and staff to attend this Banquet.

At this time, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Commissioner Thomason seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. 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 endorse Senator Bryan's legislation that pertains specifically to the study for law enforcement officer needs every five (5) years throughout the state. Commissioner Drummond seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Minutes - SCWMRC Meeting
May 19, 1989
Page Five

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve all appointments, re-appointments, revocation and change of authority for Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers, as well as the promotion of J. Alvin Wright to the position of Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement as included on the attached list (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

G. Appointments: This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed that its next meeting will be held on June 16, 1989 at 1:00 p.m. at the Wampee Conference Center.

ITEM VII - ADJOURN

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

