

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza Conference Room
Columbia, South Carolina
May 20, 1977

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at the Dutch Plaza Conference Room in Columbia, South Carolina at 10:00 am, with Vice-Chairman Lumpkin presiding in Chairman Hudson's absence. Other Commissioners present were Trask, Boykin, Buchanan, and Edens. Others present were Dr. Timmerman, Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Dr. Beam, John Culler, John Reeves, Larry Cartee, Bob Campbell, Brock Conrad, Tom Kohlsatt, Duncan Newkirk, Mike McKenzie, Melvin Cumbee, Ned Pendarvis, Tommy Welch, Frank Caggiano (House Agricultural & Natural Resources Committee), Clark Surratt (State Newspaper), Colonel Bev Snow (Director, Coastal Marine Center, Wilmington, N.C.) and various others.

CALL TO ORDER

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION - A motion was made by Commissioner Buchanan to hold an Executive Session following the regular Commission Meeting to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trask and passed.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Commissioner Lumpkin noted a correction to the April 15, 1977 Commission Meeting Minutes on page one, Item II., paragraph two, should read "Dr. Timmerman stated that he and staff met with individuals from Greenwood" instead of Greenville. Commissioner Edens noted a correction on page four, paragraph one, should be corrected to read "There was a question raised as to the possibility of placing a small pier or walkway going out into the water between the boat ramps to assist boaters in getting their boats out of the water, primarily in the coastal areas where the tide is going out or coming in." Also, page five, paragraph one, should read "Representative Sauls from Jasper County has introduced a bill..." instead of Gaston County. A motion was made by Commissioner Boykin to approve the Commission Meeting Minutes for April 15, 1977 with the noted corrections to be made. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edens and passed.

ITEM II. COMMENTS: Dr. Timmerman recognized guests present in the meeting and welcomed them. Dr. Timmerman reported that he attended the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Agencies meeting recently. The Annual Meeting of the Association will meet October 9-12th in San Antonio, Texas and Dr. Timmerman extended an invitation to all Commissioners to attend this meeting and urged those who could attend to do so. He stated that he would send out information on details of the meeting at a later date. In addition, Dr. Timmerman gave a status report on Legislation noting that the License Bill, which has passed the House, is in the third reading of the Senate. The Senate version of the Bill keeps the Non-resident Hunting License fee at \$52 instead of the \$37.50 which the Commission supported the House on. The Bill also raises the Titling Fee on Boats and Motors from \$1.50 to \$3.00 and gives authority to the Executive Director to issue some Complimentary Licenses. This would be highly restrictive and closely guarded in number. Another Bill authorizing a transfer of approximately two (2) acres to the Wildlife Department from Clemson University in Florence County to locate a radio tower is in the Senate Finance Committee at this time and there should be no problem in getting this transfer authorized. Dr. Timmerman reported that approval on our Department getting bonding money to build a radio station in District Seven and one in District Eight was pending before the Senate Finance Committee and he anticipates approval of this request. A Fur Trapping Bill which was passed by the House has been modified in the Senate to give the Department



more control through Rules and Regulations on where traps should and should not be set. The Point System Bill is also being considered and would cost approximately \$4,000 per year for rental service on the computer. Another Bill, Commercial Fish Violation, is in the panel of the House and the Senate. Dr. Timmerman asked Benny Reeves to mail a copy of each of these Bills to the Commissioners for their information. Also reported was that Dr. Timmerman and staff met with the Dean of Agriculture and staff from Clemson recently at Eutaw Springs to discuss some common problems and made plans to try to get funding to do some research on crop depredation by deer in particular and on the fur bearing program. A Concurrent Resolution was received by Dr. Timmerman from Senators Garrison and Lake requesting the Department and Clemson University to investigate damage being done to agriculture lands by beavers and to make recommendations for possible changes in the law for controlling such damage. Dr. Timmerman stated that he would pass the Resolution on to Jeff Fuller so that he might work with Clemson and come up with recommendations. A copy of an article that Dr. Timmerman wrote and sent to Senators Garrison and Lake concerning the Departments Furbearing Program was passed out to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman also reported that testing on the new Conservation Officer Hiring procedure has begun and he should be in a position to make recommendations at the July 1977 Commission Meeting for vacancies to be filled. It was also noted that the Non-resident Hunting License Bill is pending it's third reading in the Senate now and it is felt that the House will not adopt the Senate's amendment of \$52. Therefore, it is expected that this Bill will go to Conference Committee. It was reported by Dr. Timmerman that at the next staff meeting a procedure for working with the Legislature will be discussed.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROPOSED SMALL GAME PROGRAM: Jeff Fuller reported that a proposal was submitted to the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board regarding a Small Game Program and the Advisory Board approved the proposal and recommended that the Commission approve the plan. Fuller stated that with the exception of doves, the harvest on small game in recent years has declined significantly. He attributed this to cleaner, more mechanized farming, pine timber increasing and the hardwood decreasing, increasing deer hunting, etc. Some of the objectives in the proposal were technical assistance to land owners on having small game on his property; working with the shooting preserves; working with other agencies that have related interests in small game such as the forestry department; providing educational input to youth groups; providing limited research; etc. Fuller stated that the estimated cost of the proposed program would be \$40,700 for the first year of operation, however, the funding for the project has not been worked out. Commissioner Edens stated that the Advisory Board recommended that an initial inventory of some type be done as an early part of the program so that progress can be measured. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Advisory Board and approve the proposal as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed.

B. PROPOSED FURBEARERS PROGRAM: Jeff Fuller reported that a proposal was submitted to the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board regarding a Furbearers Program and the Advisory Board approved the proposal and recommended that a study Committee be appointed made up of a representative from the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division, one from the Non-Game and Endangered Species Division,



one from the Law Enforcement Division and one from the Administrative Division. This committee would be responsible for a final report evaluating the overall problem and offering recommendations of a plan of action. The committee would solicit information from trappers, coon hunters, fox hunters, land owners, etc. The magnitude of the overall problem would determine personnel and funding needed to start handling the furbearing problem. Fuller stated that some legislation would probably be required and suggested legislative regulations would be included in a rough draft with the committee's report. He estimated the cost of the first years operation to be approximately \$40,000 and funding for the project would have to be worked out. Dr. Timmerman stated that he feels that it is important that we re-set priorities within the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division to establish in a skeletal form a position for an individual for the Small Game Program and an individual for the Furbearing Program and during our next budget process and if necessary, we could ask the Legislature to continue this project. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Advisory Board to initiate the program with formation of a study group. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edens and passed.

Commissioner Buchanan brought up the matter of the rabbit hunters in his District wanting to be allowed to hunt rabbit on Game Management Areas during deer season; or, at least be given the same dates as they had last year. Commissioner Trask suggested setting aside certain areas for rabbit hunting only. Commissioner Lumpkin suggested that this matter go before the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board. Brock Conrad pointed out that the Game Management Area brochure would be going to the printers right away and that any changes after July 1, 1977 would have to go through the State Register, which would entail advertising changes through the news media. Commissioner Edens stated that the Advisory Board would meet on June 9th and would come back at the July Commission meeting with recommendations on the matter.

C. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves reported that the Appropriation Bill has been sent to the Governor and our Budget has not been affected since it went to Senate Finance.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division: Jeff Fuller reported that Representative Ashe requested that the Commission be informed that he is requesting that the Commission consider allowing the use of buckshot on the Broad River and Carlisle Game Management Areas on private land only during the entire season, rather than the two week period currently allowed. Commissioner Lumpkin suggested that Fuller take this up with the Advisory Board and it can be discussed at the next Commission Meeting.

3. Information & Public Affairs Division: John Culler gave the Commissioners a copy of our Trophy Deer and Fish Record Book and noted that this is part of our effort to encourage trophy hunting and to promote South Carolina. Copies of these will be sent to news media, license agents, etc. Dr. Timmerman commended I & PA on the good job they are doing on The Resource Newspaper. The new editor, Mike Creel, is doing an excellent job.



4. Law Enforcement & Boating Division: Pat Ryan reported that the laws have been recodified to Title 50 instead of Title 28. General Assembly has not adopted it as yet, therefore, it will not become law until such time that they do. A copy of the department's laws will be mailed to the Commission in the near future. Melvin Cumbee, Hunter Education Training Officer gave the Commission an up-date status report on the Hunter Safety and Education Program. Cumbee reported that to date 3,296 students have been certified, received diplomas and patches. Another 2,000 students are anticipated to be certified by the end of the school year. Also, we have 543 instructors teaching the course in the school system at night on a voluntary basis. Cumbee reported that firing ranges are proposed for Spartanburg, Laurens and Sumter Counties and plans are to certify approximately 2,000 individuals in summer camps this summer.

5. Marine Resources Division: Nothing to add to the written report.

6. Natural Area Acquisition and Resources Planning: Dr. Beam reported that the Tidelands Legislation has been ratified by both the House and Senate and awaiting the Governor's action on it.

D. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS:

1. Marine Resources Division: Commissioner Lumpkin stated that he had no report at this time.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating Division: Commissioner Boykin stated that he had no report at this time.

3. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division: Commissioner Edens reported that the Advisory Board met at the Dennis Center April 14, 1977 and advised that copies of the Minutes of that meeting have been mailed out. Edens stated that in addition to the Small Game and Furbearer program proposals, other items discussed were the Waterfowl Symposium held jointly by Ducks Unlimited and the Wildlife Department. Some suggestions for next years symposium were that the waterfowl hunter be given more of an opportunity for input into the program; that the symposium be publicized through our publications stressing the point that the meeting is not limited to Ducks Unlimited Members. Another item discussed at the Board meeting was the possibility of a State Duck Stamp. The Advisory Board did not take a position on the matter, but did suggest that anyone who would like to write directly to the Commission and request an opportunity to appear and present their proposal directly to the Commission. Six out of seven members of the Board were in attendance at the meeting. Commissioner Buchanan asked about the status of the 3 o'clock closing for duck hunting. It was reported that a handshow was taken at the symposium and the results were approximately 57% for the closing and about 42% opposed to the closing with the remainder not voting. This matter will be taken up at the August Commission Meeting and if the Commission decides to go to the 3 o'clock closing public hearings will have to be held due to the State Register law.

4. Heritage Trust Division: Dr. Wayne Beam reported in Chairman Hudson's absence that at the Heritage Trust Advisory Meeting on April 19, 1977 the Board voted to dedicate Capers Island and Stevens Creek Natural Area and place these properties in the Heritage Trust. The Board recommended that the Commission adopt



the Board's recommendation. Dr. Timmerman stated that Chairman Hudson said that he would recommend to the Commission that these be accepted. Commissioner Buchanan made a motion to adopt this recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed. Beam stated that the papers will be prepared for the June Commission Meeting in regard to this.

E. SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Dr. Timmerman reported that there were no outstanding or marginal reviews in the report and passed the report on to the Secretary for the Commission file.

F. APPOINTMENTS: Dr. Timmerman presented recommendations for Re-appointments-Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers as follows: Lee Barnes - District 3; J. D. Bryan - District 4; Marvin Bert McClure - District 6; Robert Poland - District 4; James M. Russell - District 6; Richard D. Villepontaux - District 5; Eldred B. Williams - District 8. Recommendations for New Appointments-Duputy Wildlife Conservation Officers are as follows: James H. King, Jr. - District 1; John Benson Rodgers - District 8. Recommendation for Correction to change authority from restricted to Statewide Authority on Billy R. Shuman, District 3. The information on all of these were mailed to the Commission prior to this meeting for their review. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to approve the recommendations as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edens and passed.

G. OTHER REMARKS: Commissioner Buchanan stated that there is a problem on Little River at Clark Hill with the Bass Clubs in that our Officers are having trouble apprehending the high-speed bass boats and suggested that staff look into the possibility of changing the type of boats we are using in certain areas. Commissioner Lumpkin asked Dr. Timmerman if it would be possible to get a statement from the Federal Government as to why Georgetown and Colleton Counties were required to use Steel Shot. Dr. Timmerman asked Jeff Fuller and Brock Conrad to get a news release or statement prepared explaining the guidelines that were followed in this matter and will advise the Commission.

ITEM IV. ADJOURN: Commissioner Trask made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed. The Commission asked that Pat Ryan, Bobby Gifford, Mike McKenzie and Dr. Timmerman remain and the Commission went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris S. Murray
(Mrs.) Chris S. Murray,
Commission Secretary

