

## MINUTES

### SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building  
Columbia, S. C.  
May 20, 1983  
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 A.M., on May 20, 1983, with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Webster, Compton, Harrelson, Owen, Dawson, Stubbs, Altman and Quackenbush. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, A. M. Flood, Benny Reeves, Ed Joseph, Jeff Fuller, Bill Chastain, Sonny Baines and various other staff. Guests at the meeting included Brad Bradford of Columbia, Pat Robertson of the "Columbia Record", Coy Johnston of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board, Trish Jerman of the Governor's Office and Betty Spence of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and introduced all guests at the meeting.

#### ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission approved a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the April 15, 1983 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

Chairman Webster, Dr. Timmerman and Benny Reeves presented the Certificate of Meritorious Service Award to Jean Bradford who is retiring after thirty (30) years service to the Department. Mrs. Bradford expressed her thanks to the Commission for this award.

#### ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that he recently met with the sub-committee of the Senate Finance Committee to discuss our budget needs and they plan to recommend additional funds for the Department.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the Law Enforcement Study Committee Report to the Commission. He suggested the staff work with the Advisory Board to review this report and develop recommendations for the Commission to consider. Chairman Webster asked Commissioner Quackenbush and the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board to work with staff on this matter and report back to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of Conservation Officer vacancies (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) noting that Oconee and Greenville have been added to this list. Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that we have funds to fill the



next three (3) positions in McCormick, Charleston and Berkeley Counties and he suggested we go ahead with filling these positions. Following discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve filling these three (3) positions as suggested. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that with the vacancies to come through retirement, we may want to change the priority on filling vacancies and he suggested this item be on the agenda for the July meeting to plan priorities. The Commission agreed that this should be discussed in July.

Dr. Timmerman noted that in Williamsburg County, Conservation Officer Jimmy Langley was shot in the line of duty a few years ago and has recently been working in boating. Dr. Timmerman requested that the Commission approve finding a job for Officer Langley from a fund source outside law enforcement and to fill this position in Williamsburg County. Commissioner Dawson expressed support for Dr. Timmerman's recommendation and he moved for the Commission to adopt this recommendation. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that he met last night with some dog hunters from the lowstate area to discuss various problems. He noted this meeting went well and hopefully some of the problems are resolved.

Dr. Timmerman distributed to the Commission, for information, a survey of states in the Atlantic Flyway that will or will not enforce steel shot regulations for 1983 (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

Dr. Timmerman stated that he has received a number of calls about making the turkey season more uniform across the state, opening at an earlier date and the like. He noted these questions will continue and he suggested the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board review this matter and come back to the Commission with appropriate recommendations. Chairman Webster asked Commissioner Owen and the Board to review this matter.

Dr. Timmerman noted that a lot of requests have been made to extend the duck season. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires a standard season for five (5) years and the last year of the standard season ends this year. At a later meeting, we will be asking the Commission to look at starting the season later and extending it beyond the current ending date.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that the staff has recommended that a Conservation Officer in District #9 in Colleton County be transferred to District #4 in Colleton County. Following discussion, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve this action. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.



Dr. Timmerman distributed an article the staff had written for the National Outdoor Ethics Newsletter to the Commission for their information.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins discussed the status of various bills and presented a report on committee actions on several bills recommended by the Department.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves informed the Commission that a proviso has been included in the budget bill on the Cheraw Hatchery to provide a user-fee system. Mr. Reeves also noted that there are second thoughts on the requirement for the Department to collect casual sales tax on boats and motors. It is hoped this situation will be worked out satisfactorily.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller distributed a copy of the schedule of fees for stocking private ponds for information (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Bill Chastain advised the Commission on the Green Hill Hunt Club investigation that eleven (11) of seventeen (17) charged have pleaded guilty, one (1) was found not guilty, two (2) were not prosecuted, and three (3) more remain to stand trial. Mr. Chastain commended Officers Chip Sharpe, Eddie McGee and Jimmy Sims for the outstanding job done on this investigation.

Mr. Chastain stated that several Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers have requested approval to purchase radios. These have been investigated by law enforcement and the staff recommends the Commission approve such for Fred Price with the National Marine Fisheries Service, John Graham in Colleton County, Wayne Grice in Greenville County, and Robert Marion in Berkeley County. Mr. Michael Cox in Georgetown County was investigated and he is not recommended to approve purchasing a radio. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to accept and approve the recommendations made by Mr. Chastain. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted we are working with General Services on the radio system and we are trying to get on a microwave system by 1986. The legislature is interested in this type system.

In regard to the policy of allowing DWCOs to purchase radios, Commissioner Compton noted we may need to reconsider the policy as the radio system is becoming so crowded.

4. Information and Public Affairs: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph informed the Commission that since the shrimp season opened, most of the shrimp are staying inside and many of the boats did not go out on opening day. He noted that warm weather is needed to move the shrimp out to the beaches.



Commissioner Compton noted there is an opening on the Marine Advisory Board and he moved for the Commission to approve appointing Mr. Ben Hardesty to the Board. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted there was a recent Sea Grant site visit and this went very well.

Dr. Joseph advised the Commission that there is now in effect, a federal closure prohibiting the commercial hook and line taking of king mackerel outside the three-mile limit until July 1.

B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen stated the Board will meet on June 16th.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush stated the Board met on April 20th and most of the matters at the meeting have already been discussed. Commissioner Quackenbush praised Bill Chastain for the way he handled the Green Hill Hunt Club investigation and the Officers which were involved. He requested that letters of commendation be sent to these Officers and Mr. Chastain and for such to be included in their personnel files. Dr. Timmerman noted this would be done.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted the Board will meet on June 7th.

4. Heritage Trust: Stu Greeter stated the Board met on April 29th in Charleston and the main item of discussion was the Ashley River Road Protection Project. The Board suggested the Department send a letter to the Natural Trust for Historic Preservation which is the group acquiring easements along the road. The Board requests this letter state that the easements will ultimately be put under the Heritage Trust for protection. Dr. Timmerman noted the Commission had stated in 1979 and in 1982 that we did not want to accept easements in a piece-meal fashion, but that it would accept a large majority of easements from landowners in the area. Mr. Greeter noted the Natural Trust has indicated that they have commitments from over 80% of the property owners along the roadway.

Mr. Greeter further advised the Commission that The Nature Conservancy has acquired 376 acres on Cat Island which will be added to the Yawkey Center.

Mr. Greeter briefly went over other items which were discussed by the Board.

C. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). This list included the new DWCO appointment of Wayne Gregory of Bonneau and a change of authority of David Davis in Pickens County to add 350 acres of the Southerland Property in Pickens County. The Commission approved a motion to adopt all re-appointments and appointments as recommended.



D. Other Remarks: John Evans noted that an Open House was held at the Dennis Center last month and he commended the biologists and law enforcement staff in District #5 for the fine job they did under the heavy rain which occurred during this event.

Mac Flood noted this is the last Commission meeting to attend as an employee after over 40 years of service and he expressed his pleasure and gratitude for his time with the Department. Mr. Flood noted that if he had the time to do over again, he would do the same thing he had done with the Department.

E. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting at Eutaw Springs on June 17, 1983, at 10:00 A.M.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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

