

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dennis Building, Room 335
Columbia, S. C.
May 21, 1982
10:00 a.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a.m., on May 21, 1982, with Chairman Edens 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 Edens, Altman, Stubbs, Dawson, Owen, Harrelson, and Compton. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Ed Joseph, Jeff Fuller, Pat Ryan and various other staff. Guests present included Dr. Jackie Jacobs and Al Cannon of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Pat Robertson of "The Columbia Record" and Trish Jerman of the Governor's Office.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edens called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introduced all guests at the meeting.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Owen moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the April 16, 1982 Commission meeting and adopt them as submitted. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that Commissioners Dennis and Shuler called to advise they could not attend the meeting. Commissioner Shuler invited the Commission to meet at Eutaw Springs in June.

Dr. Timmerman noted that a memo had been sent to the Commission seeking names of people that may contribute to the 1982 IAFWA/AFS Conference at Hilton Head in September. He asked the Commissioners to provide any names and addresses to himself or Larry Cartee.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies voted to recommend an increase in the dove limit to 15 with an option on half-day or all-day hunting. This has been sent to the Department of Interior and they have responded that such is being considered.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Conservation Officer Robert Sadler in Horry County was killed in an automobile accident.

Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens announced that an Executive Session would be held following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Chairman Edens presented the Certificate of Meritorious Service Award to Pat Robertson of "The Columbia Record". In the presentation of this Award, Dr. Timmerman read the following statement:

"Pat Robertson has consistently provided a source of readable, relevant, recent and reliable information to South Carolina sportsmen and other concerned public-at-large.

He has presented information that is applicable throughout the state and nation, covering a broad range of wildlife-oriented subjects. The many diverse subjects covered in his weekly (and special) columns in THE COLUMBIA RECORD, are especially helpful to a variety of persons interested in the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources, including this agency and staff, commission members, as well as dedicated conservationists among sportsmen and other recreationists from the public-at-large.

His sphere of influence is vital and viable in assuring (his readers) that Wildlife Conservation decisions are based on the best knowledge and understanding available.

With these credentials, and continuing contribution to basic communication with the public to wildlife concerns, I sincerely feel that Pat Robertson deserves consideration for the (Department) MERITORIOUS AWARD."

Mr. Robertson expressed appreciation to the Commission for this Award and noted his good working relationship with the staff and Commission.

ITEM III. APPEARANCE - Representative Jean Hoefer Toal

Chairman Edens noted that Representative Toal could not attend this meeting and that this matter will be carried over until the June meeting.

ITEM IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins passed out the new legislative report and went over action on various bills. He noted that a bill requiring retirement of Conservation Officers at age 65 had passed. Mr. Dobbins noted that amendments to bills which affect the resource or the Commission's authority

will be sent to the Commissioners for information. Chairman Edens noted that Commissioner Altman had sent out a letter on the proposed shellfish legislation which will be prefiled for next year.

ITEM V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Steel Shot: The Commission discussed their action on steel shot taken last year to be effective this year. This action was taken at the August 21, 1981 Commission meeting for steel shot to be required in the non-toxic shot zones for all 10-gauge, 12-gauge and 3-inch magnum 20-gauge guns for the upcoming duck season. Following extensive discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to re-affirm its action on steel shot taken at its meeting on August 21, 1981. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that we need to get this information to wholesalers, retailers, etc., throughout the state.

B. Discussion on Alignment of Units in Law Enforcement District #1: Dr. Timmerman noted that a proposal for realigning units in District #1 had been sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) and he went over this with the Commission. Commissioner Stubbs stated he felt this was justified and he moved for the Commission to adopt Table #2 as presented for unit alignment in District #1. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

C. Discussion on Housing, Vehicles and Policies: Dr. Timmerman noted that memorandums on utilities and vehicle assignments had been sent to the Commission to seek their guidance. The Commission noted these two issues involved personnel matters and agreed to defer discussion on both issues until the Executive Session following the regular meeting.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a package of Commission and Administrative Policies and asked for their review and comments. He noted these will be distributed to the Directors for their review and further discussion with the Commission at its June meeting.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 1981 Boating Accident Statistics: Alvin Taylor distributed the 1981 Boating Accident Report to the Commission and went over the types and numbers of boating accidents in the state with the Commission.

B. FY 1983-84 Budget Proposal: Commissioner Stubbs noted that the Commission's Finance Committee met on May 7th and approved the budget request to be discussed by Benny Reeves. Mr. Reeves discussed the budget process and went over a memorandum sent out to the staff on this procedure. Each Division submitted requests for additional funds and following meetings with the staff, the second proposal (attached to original Commission Minutes) for additional budget funds, was approved by the Commission Finance Committee. Commissioner Stubbs moved for the Commission to approve this as recommended. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted we will be working over the next few months to develop priorities for budgeting in the Department. This will include a review of how revenue is allocated for programs and development of principal priorities in the Department. He noted that we need the Commission's guidance as this is developed and plans are made for developing a budget for FY 1984-85.

C. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that we appeared before the Senate Finance Committee and he went over various projects which were funded in our budget by this Committee.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Bill Chastain noted that we work closely with SLED on riot control, man-hunts, etc., but do not have any communications with them. It is requested that we assign three of our radios to SLED for the SWAT Team Van, Dog Wagon, and the sedan of Lt. Ben Thomas. In turn, SLED will furnish us with three of their radios which will also provide contact with the South Carolina Highway Patrol. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve this as requested, if it does not involve spending any money at this time. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens asked Bill Chastain to bring a report to the Commission at some time in the future on the Department's radio system.

4. Information and Public Affairs: Sonny Baines noted some problems that exist with the magazine subscriber list and a proposal is being developed for consideration by the Commission at its June meeting. Some problems with confidentiality exist and this will also be discussed at the next meeting. Chairman Edens noted that he was concerned about the magazine circulation and this should be discussed at the June meeting.

5. Marine Resources: Ed Joseph noted that the shrimp season opened on May 17th and the first day catch was about what was projected. Dr. Joseph also noted that some problems exist on confidentiality of fisheries statistics data collected under a cooperative agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service and this will be discussed with the Commission at its June meeting.

D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted that the Board will meet on June 10, 1982. Chairman Edens commended Commissioner Owen for a letter he recently sent to Advisory Board members regarding attendance.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Pat Ryan noted that the Board met on May 13th. The Board discussed the proposed firearms policy noting that anyone which receives a firearm be required to take firearms training and certification. This will be sent to the other Divisions and Advisory Boards for consideration. Mr. Ryan expressed appreciation to Commissioner Shuler for his service as Chairman of the Board.

Commissioner Harrelson noted that some type of identification is needed for DWCOs. Mr. Ryan stated that a design for patches and a cap is being developed and will be brought to the Commission.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton stated that the Board met on May 14, 1982, and had hearings on eleven (11) oyster leases. This was presented to the Commission for information.

4. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the Board this month.

E. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman noted this report is in order and a copy has been forwarded to the Chairman.

F. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

G. Other Remarks: Commissioner Altman noted that he had been contacted by the attorney for Mr. Samworth's family and they have requested the Department place a stone on the property at Dirleton. Chairman Edens asked Mac Flood to work on this and communicate to the attorney and Mr. Samworth's family that we will work with them on this matter.

Commissioner Stubbs noted that he will be meeting with the Committee for the Preservation of Lake Oak Grove to discuss problems with the lake's dam. They may want to meet with the Commission to further discuss this matter.

Commissioner Stubbs also noted that an article appeared in the newspaper on the Mountain Bridge Project and this will be sent to Dr. Timmerman for information. The Commission may want to further discuss the use of this property at some future meeting.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to meet at Eutaw Springs on June 18, 1982.

ITEM VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting, the Commission voted to adjourn the regular meeting and go into Executive Session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and invited participants into the meeting. Chairman Edens announced that, in Executive Session, the following items were acted upon:

1. The Commission adopted a motion to terminate Conservation Officer John Jordan.
2. The Commission adopted a motion to establish a policy, excluding the house(s) at the Yawkey Center and the Santee Coastal Reserve where utilities are paid from sources outside Department funds, that when houses owned by the Department are vacated and become occupied by new employees or existing employees for whom the Department never has previously paid utility bills, at that time the Department would cease paying utilities for the new occupant, and a decision will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Department whether or not to impose a rental charge.
3. The Commission adopted a motion for the Chairman to appoint a committee to study vehicle assignments and report back to the Commission at the appropriate time.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve and ratify these actions. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. There being no further business, the Commission adopted a motion to adjourn.