

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
November 18, 1983
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Room 335 of the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a.m., November 18, 1983, with Chairman Webster presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present included Commissioners Webster, Compton, Harrelson, Quackenbush, Dawson and Stubbs. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Dan Dobbins, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Jeff Fuller, Dr. Joseph, Pat Ryan, Bill Chastain and various other staff. There were numerous guests also in attendance at the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster 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 approved a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the October 21, 1983, Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commissioners that a copy of the FY 1982-83 Annual Report of the Department has been distributed to them for information.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we are now working on setting dates for hearings in the fishery zones along the coast. These will be publicized and a news release on this matter will be sent to the media.

Commissioner Quackenbush noted that the Outdoor Advertisers Association of South Carolina has provided a great service to the Department by providing billboards to use for the tax checkoff and other programs. In early 1984, the Department will have over fifty such billboards available for use. Due to this outstanding contribution, Commissioner Quackenbush moved for the Commission to present the Certificate of Meritorious Service to the Outdoor Advertisers Association of South Carolina. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster presented this Certificate to Mr. Canteay Heath and expressed appreciation for their contributions.



ITEM III. APPEARANCE - Walter L. Schaffer, Jr. - President, S. C. Shrimpers Association

Mr. Schaffer expressed thanks for the opportunity to speak to the Commission and noted the shrimping fleet has been having some bad times and there is a problem with shrimp being caught on the inside in such large quantities with no restrictions. Mr. Schaffer distributed a copy of some recent news articles for the Commissioners for their information. Mr. Schaffer noted the set net situation in Georgetown County is of concern to their group. Mr. Schaffer noted that they would like to see the Commission give law enforcement more men and a bigger budget even at the expense of reducing the research budget. Mr. Schaffer asked for support in drafting legislation to make all shrimping conform to laws of the ocean. This would include illegal night shrimping, a 30-lb. or 30-quart limit on all inside fishing, removal of the bag from the seine, restrict cast nets to a five-foot length, outlaw baiting, and differentiating between part-time and full-time fishermen. Mr. Schaffer noted they would support licenses on seines and cast nets and they would like to see the Department take a stand on closing the inside to shrimping at times of the year when it would be advantageous to do so. Mr. Schaffer noted that his group needs help and he asked the Commission to appoint a group to work with the Shrimpers Association in drafting legislation for 1984.

Mr. Jimmy Connor of Kingstree noted that he was representing the South Carolina Bateau Fishermen's Association which is composed of small boat fishermen. Mr. Connor noted this group is already very much restricted and they have not damaged the shrimp supply to any great extent. Mr. Connor noted they would like to have input into the hearings to be scheduled.

Mr. Andy Jordan, Vice President of the South Carolina Bateau Fishermen's Association noted that many of the small boat fishermen make a living by fishing and many members use the channel net to catch shrimp.

Commissioner Compton noted that there is a great deal of concern over these problems and hearings will be scheduled along the coast in December and January. As part of these hearings, we will be communicating with all groups involved.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Law Enforcement Rank System and Promotions: Dr. Timmerman noted that a recommendation on this matter was presented at the last Commission meeting. Pros and cons of this proposal were distributed to the Commission for information. Commissioner Quackenbush noted the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board reviewed this matter and a committee was appointed to work with staff and report to the Commission in January. Chairman Webster noted that we need to develop a plan on this matter.



B. Discussion of Santee Reserve Boat Ramp: Dr. Timmerman noted that a ramp is being proposed for construction at the South Santee River. The South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation has approved this site for design and acquisition. If any land is condemned at this site, the Charleston Delegation will have to approve the use of "C" funds to purchase the property. This ramp would be constructed for general public use. Buford Mabry noted that the Commission has received a request from Mr. William Howell Morrison to use the Santee Reserve boat ramp this year. Mr. Morrison has acquired Brown Island from Dr. Lee Morrison who was granted permission along with several other individuals to use the Santee Reserve boat ramp last year. Mr. Mabry noted that Dr. Morrison, Fred Felder and Robert Knoth were granted permission to use the ramp last year. Following discussion, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to grant permission to Mr. William Howell Morrison to use the Santee Reserve boat ramp this year along with those individuals that used the ramp last year if they so request to use the ramp, along with the same terms and conditions that have applied in previous years to include use by the immediate families of these individuals. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.

C. 1984 Legislative Proposal: Dan Dobbins noted that the second Draft of the 1984 Legislative Proposal has been sent to the Commission and several amendments and additional proposals have been developed. These were discussed with the Commission. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to give tentative approval to the draft legislative proposal with final approval to be given on such at the December meeting.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion - Project WILD: Dr. Timmerman noted the staff has been reviewing Project WILD which is a comprehensive wildlife education program for the state's public schools. Larry Cartee presented some details regarding this program which is being recommended by the staff. Mr. Cartee noted this will be a cooperative educational program with other agencies and organizations with the Department taking a lead role. Dr. Timmerman stated that he felt this is a useful program to go into and he recommended that such be endorsed. Following other discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to endorse the implementation of Project WILD in the state's public schools with the Department taking a lead role in cooperation with other educational groups and for the Executive Director to give priority status to funding this program. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Mr. Cartee noted that the Harry Hampton Fund and the South Carolina Wildlife Federation would probably assist with funding of this program.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves distributed a copy of the State Budget and Control Board's budget allocation for the Department to the Commissioners for their information.



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

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain reported to the Commission that the Staff recommends that the Commission approve permission to use the Department's radio frequency for Mr. Manning Shuler of Holly Hill and Mr. David Cline of Greenville. In accordance with the Commission's policy, these individuals would pay for the cost of these radios. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this use of the radio frequency as recommended.

4. Information & Public Affairs: Sonny Baines informed the Commission that the Magazine Advisory Council met yesterday and various promotional efforts are being reviewed. Commissioner Quackenbush noted the Council was divided into various committees and assignments were provided to each group.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph introduced Mr. Billy Silcox who is the new Executive Director of the South Carolina Shrimpers Association and noted that we look forward to working with him.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was no report from the Board this month.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush reported that the Board met and discussed the law enforcement rank system and the Board is reviewing the powers, duties and training of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted the Board did not meet and hearings along the coast will be scheduled in December and January.

4. Heritage Trust: Tom Kohlsaas reported that the Board met on October 28th at Brookgreen Gardens. The Board recommends two property acquisitions which were mailed to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). These include acquisition of the Ashmore Property in Greenville County and the Colleton County Cowbane property. Details of these proposed acquisitions were discussed by Mr. Kohlsaas. The Commission approved a motion to use tax checkoff funds for the Colleton County Cowbane property. In addition, the Commission gave tentative approval to seek funding through the General Assembly to acquire the Ashmore property and come back to the Commission for final approval.

D. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommended appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Timmerman noted the Commission appointed Mr. Michael Enzar as a new Conservation Officer in Horry County last month, but he resigned. Mr. Raymond Stanley Woodle is being recommended for appointment to District #8 in Horry County. In addition,



the following are being recommended, along with Mr. Woodle, for appointment as new Conservation Officers pending background investigations:

- Gary Thomas Haile, Lexington County - District 6
- Dudley Hampton Britt, III, Richland County - District 6
- Normandus Manie Polk, IV, Beaufort County - District 9

Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve all appointments and re-appointments as distributed and the new Conservation Officers as recommended pending a background investigation, Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Harrelson noted that he had received a letter from Senator McDonald regarding a Conservation Officer position in Chester County. Chairman Webster noted that we will wait on the new statewide hiring system before this position is filled as we have searched the County and no one meets the qualifications.

E. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commissioners.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster announced that the next meeting of the Commission will be held in Columbia on December 16, 1983.

Commissioner Quackenbush moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that the Commission would hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at the end of the regular meeting.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN

The Commission adopted a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and go into Executive Session as previously approved.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and invited participants into the meeting. Chairman Webster announced that no formal actions were adopted by the Commission in Executive Session.

There being no further business, the Commission adopted a motion to adjourn.

