

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
November 18, 1988
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, November 18, 1988 in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, 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, Compton, Pendarvis, Owen, Miller, Stokes, Thomason and Bennett. Directors and Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Paul Sandifer, Brock Conrad, Sonny Baines, 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 October 21, 1988 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - 1987-88 EMPLOYEE AWARDS PRESENTATION

Dr. Timmerman and the Division Directors presented the 1987-88 Employee Awards to the employees in each respective Division.

ITEM III - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we hosted the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies at Hilton Head last week and he noted that we had received a positive response from all participants at the meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that a number of calls had been received concerning a recent article in the paper concerning comments made by the Governor on wetlands and it was noted that the Governor was misquoted in this article that appeared in the newspaper.

ITEM IV - OLD BUSINESS

A. 1989 Legislative Proposal: Dan Dobbins distributed to the Commission, a copy of the Department's 1989 Legislative Proposal (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Dobbins discussed this with the Commission and following discussion, the Commission moved to adopt this proposal as presented to the Commission for such to be presented to the General Assembly.

B. Recommendations - Blue Ribbon Committee on Marine Recreational Fisheries License: Chairman Burnside noted that a number of people were in attendance at the meeting who wish to express their comments concerning a proposed Marine Recreational Fisheries License. Chairman Burnside called upon these individuals to make their comments at this time. Mr. Kevin Egan expressed opposition to the proposed license and distributed to the Commission, a survey done by the S. C. Recreational Shrimpers Association expressing its opposition to this license (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Tom Swatzel of the S. C. Freedom to Fish Coalition read a prepared statement expressing opposition to the license and presented the Commission Chairman with a petition containing 15,000 signatures which are opposed to this license (petitions returned to Mr. Swatzel following the meeting upon his request). Mr. Bill Oberst, Executive Director, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, expressed his opposition to this proposed license and went over the reasons for his opposition. Following these discussions, Mr. Ben Hardesty, Chairman of the Blue Ribbon Committee on a proposed Marine Recreational Fisheries License, showed the Commission a video concerning the need for a marine recreational fisheries license and distributed a copy of the Committee's Report to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Hardesty discussed this report with the Commission and following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to endorse the recommendations presented in this report by Mr. Hardesty and to present these recommendations to the Legislature. Commissioner Bennett abstained from voting on this motion.

C. Proposed Field Trial Regulations: Brock Conrad noted that the proposed Field Trial Regulations were sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Buddy Baker discussed these proposed regulations with the Commission. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the regulations as submitted with the fee in the proposed regulations being deleted and for staff to recommend to the Legislature a fee for their consideration. Commissioner Pendarvis voted in the negative on this motion.

ITEM V - NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed 1989 Spring Gobbler Season - Aiken County and Portion of Lexington County: Brock Conrad noted that the proposed recommendations for opening the Spring Turkey Season in Aiken County and a portion of Lexington County were submitted to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation as submitted.

B. Proposed Billfish Regulations: Paul Sandifer noted that the proposed billfish regulations, which are based upon the federal management plan already in place, were sent to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Sandifer asked for the Commission to approve these regulations subject to final legal review. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the proposed regulations subject to final legal review.

C. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad distributed some waterfowl survey data and a questionnaire to the Commission for their input.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain noted that the Division will be strictly enforcing waterfowl regulations during this waterfowl season.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines distributed a copy of the Wildlife Facilities Atlas to the Commission for their information. Commissioner Pendarvis expressed concerns on distribution problems related to this publication.

5. Marine Resources: There was nothing further to report.

D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner Thomason noted that the Board met recently and he went over various items discussed at the meeting, including a review of the reclassifications of personnel in the Division, support from the Board for additional funds needed in the "HOOKED ON FISHING, NOT ON DRUGS" program, support of reformatting the Department's Rules and Regulations, and support for the CEC Division taking a leadership role in the Department's public relations programs.

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

At this time, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel 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 legal and personnel 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 approve all appointments, reappointments and the proposed radio assignment as recommended by the staff. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission (copy of appointments, reappointments, etc. attached to original Commission Minutes).

Commissioner Pendarvis moved for the Commission to approve a change in the hunting boundaries at the Sampson Island State Sanctuary for areas previously closed to hunting, whereby waterfowl hunting would be permitted in the South Edisto River to the mouth of Sampson Island Creek, adjacent to Sampson Island and in the lower end of Mosquito Creek on the west boundary of Sampson Island with Bull Cut Creek and Sampson Island Creek remaining closed to hunting. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission with Commissioners Compton and Bennett voting negative to the motion.

F. Appointments: This matter was previously acted on by the Commission.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed not to hold a meeting in December unless such is necessary as decided by the Chairman. The Commission agreed to meet again on January 20, 1989 in Columbia.

ITEM V - ADJOURN

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