

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
November 19, 1993
10:00 A. M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., on Friday, November 19, 1993, 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, Miller, Pendarvis, Rasor, Poston, Graham, and Leary. Directors and staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Brock Conrad, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Billy McTeer, Paul Sandifer, John Miglarese, and various other staff members 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 15, 1993 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - 1992-93 DIVISION EMPLOYEE AWARDS

Dr. Timmerman noted that each year each Division selects outstanding employees to be recognized through the Division Employee Awards. Dr. Timmerman and the division directors presented the awards to the various employees in the respective divisions in the department (copy of recipients attached to original commission minutes).

ITEM III - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that he attended the Agency Directors' Meeting this week and the budget picture does not look good. He noted that the state is setting goals to determine each agency's ability to accomplish these goals in order to determine budget allocations.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the personnel head count to the Commission for their information. He noted that we have to keep nineteen (19) law enforcement vacancies open next year to meet the payroll.



Dr. Timmerman distributed a letter from the State Budget and Control Board on vehicle commuting charges in which the letter provides that law enforcement is exempt.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had a recommendation on the reimbursement for meals and he passed out a new proposal to the Commission for their consideration (copy attached to the original Commission minutes). The Commission agreed to discuss this matter later in the meeting.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a Senate Bill that provides for a 25% tax on handguns which would be used to finance the Nation's health program. He noted that this could affect the Pittman-Robertson Program and he has sent a letter to the Congressional Delegation expressing concerns on this legislation which he distributed to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a letter on the pump-back storage project at Lake Russell to the Commission for their information.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he met recently with the focus groups in the Winyah Bay/Santee Area and that they had a very good meeting and discussed future projects and activities.

Dr. Timmerman noted that John Parris of the Land Resources Conservation Commission has announced his intent to retire on December 31, 1993.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that he would be going to Mexico in December for a week in conjunction with a meeting of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the new logo has been approved by the Chairman and this logo has been sent out to all of the Commissioners, and the Commission adopted a motion to approve the new logo for the Department of Natural Resources as presented to them.

ITEM IV - LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dan Dobbins distributed memos to the Commission regarding the legislative coordinating committee and he went over the progress that has been made with this committee and provided this to the Commission for their information.

ITEM V - NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 94/95 Budget Proposal: Benny Reeves noted that the summary of the Department of Natural Resources' 1994-95 Budget Request was sent to the Commission (copy attached to original



Commission minutes). Mr. Reeves noted that the Commission's Finance Committee had met and Commissioner Miller noted that the Finance Committee recommended this budget to the Commission for their approval. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the budget proposal as submitted.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report. Commission Pendarvis asked about vehicle assignments and commuting charges to be implemented by the State. Dr. Timmerman went over the action taken on the vehicle assignments and the commuting charges and the criteria for the assessment of these charges.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Brock Conrad noted that the staff is in the process of holding public hearings on the doe tag proposal. Derrell Shipes presented a summary of the findings from these hearings to date noting that of those in attendance, 93% have supported the proposal. He noted that he will have a detailed report of all the hearings at the next Commission meeting. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to give final approval to the doe tag proposal as was presented and adopted at the previous meeting.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing further to report.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer noted that he recently attended the meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and they presented an award posthumously to Dr. Ed Joseph. He also noted that a meeting was held recently in Hilton Head on the Estuarine Research Federation and John Miglares went over the details of this meeting.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement and Boating: Bill Chastain gave a summary of the items discussed at the recent Board meeting and he noted that a committee has been set up to review the DWCO Program.

2. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the Board as a result of their meeting this month.

D. Other Remarks:

Commissioner Pendarvis distributed a copy of a Bill from Representative Holt that requires a hydraulic lift for deer hunters on areas operated by the Department where we have elevated stands. Buford Mabry noted that we need to review this



Bill in respect to the provisions of the recently enacted American Disabilities Act. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to refer this matter to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board.

Caroline Agardy noted that a survey is being conducted of fifteen southeastern states on salaries for biologists and technicians and that we hope to have replies on this survey by the 30th of November.

There were no further remarks from the Commissioners and at this time, Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session. Commissioner Pendarvis seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Burnside announced that at this time, the Commission would hold an Executive Session.

=====

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Following the Executive Session, the Regular Meeting was resumed and participants were invited into the meeting.

The Commission adopted a motion to accept staff recommendations on DWCO officers.

The Commission adopted a motion to direct staff, following appropriate procedures, to fill as soon as possible the Captain's position in Law Enforcement District I.

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the guidelines for meal reimbursement to begin December 1, 1993, on a trial basis to be reviewed in 90 days for proper compliance.

E. Appointments (Executive Session): This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia at 10:00 a.m. on January 21, 1994.

ITEM VI - ADJOURN

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

