

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
Eautaw Springs, South Carolina

October 16, 1974



The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Eautaw Springs, South Carolina on October 16, 1974 at 10:00 a.m. with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioner present were Boykin, Lumpkin, Harris, Buchanan, Glenn, Rhame, Dennis, and Maret. Others present were Mr. Webb, Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Wash Belangia, Jeff Fuller, John Culler, Dr. Andy Laurent, Pat Ryan, Pat Robertson, Bill Chastain, Bill Cotty, Mac Flood, Charlie Bearden, Ed Latimer, and various other staff members.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as mailed out.

ITEM II. ACTION REPORT: Wash Belangia reported that most everything was taken care of, but if not, it will appear under OLD BUSINESS on the agenda.

College of Charleston: Commissioner Lumpkin reported on a study being done on the College of Charleston wanting Marine Resources land. There is some concern over security there, and it was decided that we would hold off on this until they contact us again.

A. Budget & Control Board Meeting: Dr. Timmerman reported that our presentation was made to the Budget & Control Board on October 8th. The staff of the Auditors office would like to meet with various staffs of all state agencies to discuss the budget.

B. Inventory of Department Properties: Dr. Timmerman gave a progress report on the inventory that is being done and stated that there are actually two separate inventories being done, one being an inventory of properties, and the other of equipment. The list is relatively complete and Mac Flood is visiting each site in all of the counties and verifying that it is ours and compiling all the available information on it. Mr. Flood reported that pictures of all properties are being taken, identifying numbers put on these properties and filed accordingly. Vehicles are also being inventoried and a memo will be sent out to each individual who has more than one piece of property assigned to him asking for justification of the use of these properties. Leases are also being checked out in order to renew any leases before expiration.

C. Legislation-Law Enforcement: Pat Ryan asked Commissioner Harris to report on this. Commissioner Harris stated that he would like to discuss this subject of law enforcement of trespassing at his Advisory Board Meeting tomorrow, and will report to the Commission at a later date.

Commissioner Harris asked Ed Latimer for a legal opinion on the legal responsibilities of the Department of non-pay Conservation Officers. Mr. Latimer stated that these people are not employees of the state and would not be covered by our Workmen's Compensation and it is his feeling that they would not be covered by any responsibility of the Department. Harris feels that they should be informed of this, and asked Mr. Ryan to send out a memo to this effect. It was pointed out that these people attend a class and are notified of this at that time, but Mr. Ryan said that this will be done to ensure that they are knowledgeable of this fact.



D. Bid Procedures: Wash Belangia reported that after meeting with Pat Smith, State Auditor, we agreed on a figure of \$70,000 or less, to get a pool of architects for these small jobs. We have advertised for this and have received four replies to date. Expect answers by the 25th. Dr. Timmerman stated that all this information would be put together and brought before the Commission at the next meeting for a recommendation, and then we will go to the Budget & Control Board for their approval, and hopefully proceed. There was some discussion on funding for planning for these projects for the various state agencies, and Commissioner Dennis does feel that consideration should be given to this and will bring it up to the Board and the Legislature for their consideration. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Budget & Control Board approved our expansion plan for the Dennis Wildlife Center of about \$1,800,000, but the Legislature's approval was only about \$900,000. Should we go ahead and plan for the total project, or for the amount that was approved by the Legislature? Commissioner Dennis suggested planning the project in stages and go ahead with the contracts.

Commissioner Glenn asked about the idea of indexing the Minutes of these meetings. Wash Belangia reported that he would look further into this and come up with a proposal at the next meeting.

ITEM III: NEW BUSINESS

A. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Game and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller reported on the deer hunting for the first two weeks on the Game Management Areas.

2. Boating and Law Enforcement: Pat Ryan reported that the Awards Banquet that was cancelled will now be held in conjunction with the November 15th Commission meeting at the Ramada Inn, Highway 278 & I-26 in Columbia. Details will be mailed out on this. Also, the Advisory Board will meet at Belmont tomorrow.

3. Information & Public Affairs: John Culler reported on the library that is being started and will be used for biologists to do reference work, for people to come in and read about Wildlife, or whatever they want to use it for. We have received our first donation of thirteen (13) years of National Geographics from Sara Allison. Bill Cotty has checked into this and has worked out a procedure for us to give tax write-offs to people who donate. Would like to have any donations that would benefit the department such as any kind of outdoor literature pertaining to hunting, fishing or wildlife, law enforcement, research, books, etc. Also reported that the flyers on the magazine were mailed out in the license tag renewals and so far we have gotten in about 5,000. Commissioner Glenn reported that we have received a life time egg collection of all the birds in the lower portion of the state. They are in a cabinet to be stationed at the Dennis Center, and he suggested that John Culler feature this in a story in the magazine in order to get more contributions. John reported that he plans to do much publicity on this project.

4. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph reported that the two unfavorable letters to the editors that occurred in the Charleston press have been answered at Commissioner Dennis request. He brought the Commission up to date on the hydraulic clam fishery and that it is going well in terms of production. There is still one area open out



of the three we have. In the beginning of this, we had almost no local boats that were capable of using this fishery and have encouraged out of state boats coming in. At this time we have about twelve (12) permits issued and about five (5) or six (6) are locally owned. Local people are encouraging us to get rid of the out of state boats. Joseph agrees that this should be restricted to local residents as we are dealing with a resource that is entirely located in South Carolina waters and does not migrate, such as shrimp. Traditionally shellfish resources are limited to in-state participation. Would like to discuss the possibility of legislation next time putting this under in-state participation only. There was some discussion on whether or not we could put restrictions on this. It was the feeling of the Commission that this season we do not have the right to limit permits to state residents, but along with this the Commission does endorse favorable legislation limiting this to state residents. A motion was made, seconded and passed. The Commission again expressed concern over a close watch being kept on this operation and whether or not it was doing any environmental damage. If it is so, this project will be stopped.

5. Natural Area Acquisition & Resource Planning: Dr. Laurent had nothing to report at this time.

6. Administrative Services: Wash Belangia reported that the Budget & Control Board, through the personnel division, has asked us to add a paragraph to our present grievance procedure. It will read; The total time limit of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resource Department shall not exceed forty-five (45) calendar days. A motion was made by the Commission to adopt this addition and it was seconded and passed. We will not condone discrimination of age, sex, race, color, etc. in this Department. We need to reaffirm our position on this with the exception that age is an occupational hazard as far as we are concerned. A motion was made, seconded and passed to reaffirm and not change our policy. Commissioner Dennis asked Mr. Latimer and Mr. Cotty for a legal opinion on this age problem at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hudson stated that at the present time, our minimum requirement is a high school diploma. We have taken exception to those who have been given accreditation by the Education Board. He felt that the Commission should change its policy from a high school diploma or its equivalent, as opposed to strictly a high school diploma. An equivalent certificate by the S. C. Department of Education should be sufficient. A motion was made, seconded and passed to adopt this policy.

B. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS:

1. Marine Resources: Commissioner Lumpkin reported that there have been two resignations; Marvin Thomas, who has been appointed to another position, and Mr. Charles Ratterree, Jr. was appointed to this Board; also, Dr. Boozer had to resign and Dr. George Fulton has been appointed to this Board by this Commission and the Governor.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Harris reported that the family of Major Cantey has been informed that we would like to honor his memory and establish an awards program in his behalf. There was some discussion on



amending the existing education fund and make this a separate division of that. Some of the Commissioners are not familiar with the existing fund and would like to have an opportunity to look into this. The will be presented with the details and a proposal at a later date.

There was some discussion regarding Mr. Bo Morrison wanting access to the Collins Creek Gun Club. It was suggested that we write Mr. Morrison back and inform him that this property is leased to that Club and consequently, we don't have any authority to allow him the access. He would have to work out an agreement with the Club that would be between them. Chairman Hudson stated that he would call Mr. Morrison and inform him of this and if he still wishes to bring it up further, we will see of what assistance we can be.

It was stated that Chairman Hudson will be Honorary Chairman of National Wildlife Week.

3. Game & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Rhame told the Commission that Mr. McMeekin, Advisory Board member had passed away. This will be a Governor's appointment and we will get in touch with him for a replacement.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

There were four re-appointments and one new appointment recommendations mailed out. These were on Jolley, Shuman, Edmunds, Holcombe, and Crosby, Jr. There were no objections, therefore, these were approved, subject to the Commissioner's approval in those areas. These were salaried appointments.

Not mailed out were, new non-pay appointments of Jack B. Bunch, Summerville; William Boykin, Jr., Kershaw; John Wade Freeman, Hampton, and Charles M. Windham, Charleston. Motion was made and seconded to approve all of these, subject to Commissioner's approval in those areas.

Commissioner Rhame reported that we have a vacancy in Orangeburg County that has not been completely processed, and it looks very favorable. He requests, that if he meets all requirements, that the Commission give him authority to go ahead and employ him, due to the fact that he needs someone now. There was no objection, therefore, a motion was made, seconded and passed that this request be granted.

Commissioner Dennis stated that in Williamsburg County, an investigation has been completed, but that the recommendations have not been typed. There was some discussion on the allocation by county of vacancy to be filled. Dennis stated that he has not seen the list that was compiled and would like to receive this. Commissioner Lumpkin requested that we hold off on this until further information is available.

D. COMMENTS:

BETHEA WILL: Ed Latimer told the Commission that in effect it was illegal for us to accept this offer and carry out the actions required under the will. The Commission asked him to proceed and inform these people of our position on this and see what could be worked out. There were no objections to this.

RESOLUTIONS: The resolutions for Major Cantey and Gene Howell were passed out to the Commission. These were satisfactory and adopted by the Commission with the correction of putting Major Cantey's full name in. It is Mr. Webb's opinion that a similar resolution should be adopted for Mr. McNeill and something for the survivors. A motion was made and passed to approve the resolutions.

Chairman Hudson told the Commission that he feels that something should be done about scholarships for the children of conservation people who are killed in the line of duty. He has talked with Mr. James C. Rikhoff of Winchester and he is



going to propose that a National Fund be set up to be contributed to by various conservation groups. This would be just for Conservation Officers families scholarships for fathers who have been killed in the line of duty. Commissioner Dennis proposed that Chairman Hudson be authorized to negotiate in the behalf of this Commission and proceed with this as quickly as possible. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

Commissioner Dennis made a motion that Mr. Webb and Dr. Timmerman be authorized to continue to request extension of annual leave time until Mr. Benton is able to return to work. This was seconded and passed.

Mr. Culp of the Wildlife Federation requested that a copy of the communication on this fund be sent to him, and Chairman Hudson stated that he would do so as soon as the plan is put together. Commissioner Harris asked Mr. Culler to take note of this possibility since it is a morale factor with the conservation people and that the Commission is in support of this program. Chairman Hudson will work with Culler on this.

Dr. Timmerman passed out information on non-game and endangered species. He asked Bill Cotty to report on this. Bill reported that a Federal Act was passed in December of 1973 for non-game and endangered species. It gives our state the power to enact state legislation. We have done so. Under that statute, our agency, the Commission and the Department, have the jurisdiction to govern all non-game and endangered species, whether it be sale, taking, transportation, etc. This will involve spending some money and we did ask for funding this year, and was included in the Game & Freshwater Fish Budget.

Dr. Joseph reported to the Commission on the Sea Grant Program and that he is to meet with the former Deputy Director of the National Sea Grant Program tomorrow.

Commissioner Dennis stated that since 1966 efforts have been made to establish a boat landing on Lake Moultrie. We have now determined exactly where it will be and the Director should be authorized to coordinate this matter between the county and our Department involving the Highway Department. A motion was made, seconded and passed to proceed on this.

There being no further business, this meeting was adjourned and the Commission went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

(Miss) Chris Stapleton,
Secretary to the Commission

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