

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Table Rock State Park
Pickens, S. C.
October 21, 1983
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in the lodge at Table Rock State Park, Pickens, S. C., at 10:00 A.M. on October 21, 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, Bennett, Dawson, Stubbs, and Owen. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, A. S. Lachicotte, Jim Goller, Jeff Fuller and various other staff. Guests at the meeting included Betty Spence of the S. C. Wildlife Federation, Pat Robertson of the "State" newspaper and Pete Peterlink of the "Greenville News".

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 September 16, 1983 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that the House Ways and Means subcommittee which handles the Department's budget will meet at the Marine Center on October 24th at which time we will present our funding needs.

Dr. Timmerman noted that an individual in Georgetown is donating a tract of land for an office site in that city and we will be pursuing having an office built in Georgetown from bond money.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Senator Waddell has asked that he bring to the attention of the Commission that individuals should not get drawn two years in a row for the Webb Center hunts. Senator Waddell asked that we consider that if a person gets drawn that he not be eligible to be drawn the following year. Dr. Timmerman noted that he did not have any recommendations at this time, but he will ask the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board to



review this matter.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will meet in Asheville from November 6 - 9, 1983 and various members of our staff will attend. At this meeting, the wildlife educational program, PROJECT WILD, will be discussed and this matter will be brought to the Commission at its November meeting.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that we held a press outing at Bonneau Ferry earlier in the week and it was the best meeting we have had to date.

Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the draft 1984 Legislative Proposal for review by the Commission. This will be further discussed for Commission action at the November or December Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that 22 Western Game and Fish Directors will be in South Carolina on November 14th to review our Game Management Area Program.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster announced that an Executive Session will be held following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Procedure to Interviewing Conservation Officers: Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission was polled on September 22, 1983 regarding a new procedure for interviewing for Conservation Officers and this procedure was adopted by the Commission. This action has been put into written form and Dr. Timmerman distributed such to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Bill Chastain discussed this interview procedure with the Commission noting the procedure should include that if there are two vacancies in a county, the top ten scoring applicants without veterans preference and up to the top five applicants with veterans preference will be interviewed for the two vacancies. With this amendment to the policy distributed, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to ratify and approve this interview procedure. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Law Enforcement Rank System and Promotions: Dr. Timmerman distributed a proposed revision in the law enforcement rank system and a recommended change in Commission Policy C-071 regarding promotions to Corporal and Conservation Officer First Class (copy



attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Timmerman noted this item is being presented to the Commission for review and such will be on the agenda for the Commission to further discuss at the November meeting. Bill Chastain discussed the proposal noting that we are getting to the point where we have a lot of Corporals in law enforcement and many officers in the field are at a dead end regarding promotions. It is proposed that the current system of Conservation Officer, Conservation Officer First Class and Corporal be replaced with Conservation Officer I, II and III, respectively. The pay grades would remain the same, but no insignia would be used to designate rank. This matter was further discussed and will be on the agenda for the November Commission meeting.

B. Update on Law Enforcement Vacancies: Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of Conservation Officer vacancies scheduled for interviews and those vacancies where interviews will be scheduled before the end of the year (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Timmerman noted the interviews to be scheduled are not in any priority order. This was accepted as information by the Commission. Commissioner Compton asked the staff to review the law enforcement study and determine if there is a need to transfer positions from one county to another.

C. Proposed Alligator Reclassification: Tom Murphy reported to the Commission that the alligator has recovered throughout most of its range in the state based upon data collected by the Department since 1970. Based upon the findings and the documentation that has occurred, a proposed reclassification to "threatened-similarity of appearance" is recommended (copy of recommendation attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Timmerman noted that he has reviewed this proposal and recommends that such be approved by the Commission. Commissioner Bennett moved for the Commission to approve the recommended alligator reclassification as submitted by the staff. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves informed the Commission that the staff quarters at the Mariculture Center are complete and the pier and dock is nearly complete. Other aspects of the project are progressing well.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller reported to the Commission that the new hatchery at the Rediversion Project is nearly complete and the Corps of Engineers has asked us for a name to place on this facility. Mr. Fuller recommended to the Commission



that the new striped bass hatchery be named after Jack Bayless. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to approve Mr. Fuller's recommendation. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Bill Chastain noted that some requests for Department radios have been made and the staff has reviewed these requests and developed recommendations. Mr. Chastain stated that the staff recommends that the Department issue surplus radios to Agent Fred Price of the National Marine Fisheries Service and to the Lexington County Sheriff's Department for a boat they use on Lake Murray. In addition, the staff recommends that Mr. Raymond B. Morris, Eastover Hunt Club, be given permission to use the Department's frequency with the cost of purchase and maintenance of the radio to be his responsibility. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt the recommendations as presented by Mr. Chastain. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

4. Information and Public Affairs: Jim Goller went over the recent meeting of the Magazine Advisory Council for the Commission's information. Chairman Webster advised the staff to go ahead and schedule another meeting in November.

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

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted the Board met earlier in the week at Bonneau Ferry and he went over the items discussed by the Board. Commissioner Owen informed the Commission that the Board recommends that the Commission immediately develop and implement a land acquisition program. Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to adopt this recommendation. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster asked Dr. Timmerman to get with the staff and implement this action in the most feasible manner. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has asked Jeff Fuller to set up a management program for the Mountain Bridge property.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: There was no report from the Board this month.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted the Board met on October 14th and hearings on sounds and bays, cast nets, seine nets, etc., will be set up along the coast to solicit public input. One hearing will be scheduled in December on one topic and another will be scheduled in January on another topic. Dr. Timmerman noted that he is reviewing the marine program and he asked for the Commission's involvement in this area.



4. Heritage Trust: This Board will meet on October 28, 1983 in Georgetown.

F. 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). The Commission adopted a motion approving all appointments and re-appointments as recommended including the new Conservation Officer appointments pending background investigations and the promotion of Sgt. Earl Driggers to Lieutenant in District #9. Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that the Commission will be polled on the position in Oconee County after the interviews.

Dr. Timmerman noted that in July 1983, the Commission had approved the transfer of Conservation Officer Herman Crosby, Jr. from District #9 to District #4. Dr. Timmerman recommended that Conservation Officer Henry Garbade be transferred from District #4 to District #9 in Jasper County. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation by Dr. Timmerman.

G. Other Remarks: Commissioner Stubbs noted the staff provided a good tour of the Mountain Bridge Project on the previous day. Dr. Timmerman thanked Commissioner Owen and Stubbs for helping set up the tour and the meeting at Table Rock. He asked for names and addresses of the appropriate people with the Greenville County Bear Club to thank for the cookout.

Commissioner Owen informed the Commission that hearings had been held on a proposed black bass size limit in Lake Keowee, but there were not enough requests for this proposal to be recommended.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster announced that the next Commission Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m., November 18, 1983, in Columbia. Larry Cartee informed the Commission that they are invited to a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion at 1:30 p.m. on that date along with the Water Resources Commission.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting, a motion was adopted to recess the regular meeting and go into Executive Session.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Following the Executive Session, the Commission returned to regular session and invited participants into the meeting. Chairman Webster announced that in Executive Session, the Commission adopted motions on the following actions:



1. The Commission adopted a motion to terminate Mr. Holland Mills in accordance with this action being recommended by the Commission's Grievance Committee composed of Commissioners Webster and Compton and approved by a poll of the Commission on September 22, 1983.
2. The Commission adopted a motion to terminate Conservation Officer Terry Fairfax in Chester County.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to ratify and approve these actions. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

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

