

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Bankers Trust Office
Columbia, S. C.
October 4, 1978

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in the Conference Room of the Bankers Trust Office, Columbia, S. C., at 1:00 p.m., October 4, 1978, with Chairman Trask presiding. Notice of the date, time, and place for the meeting was mailed to the state's newspapers, radio and television stations through a news release dated October 2, 1978. Commissioners at the meeting included: Commissioners Trask, Boykin, Stubbs, Dawson, Edens and Shuler. Directors and staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Jane Turner, Bob Campbell, Fred Zeigler, Dan Dobbins, John Culler, Jeff Fuller, John Evans, Pat Ryan, Ed Joseph, Ned Pendarvis, Beeny Reeves, Fred Ramage, Bill Chastain, Ed McTeer, and Tom Kohlsaat. Guests present included: Wayne Beam of the South Carolina Coastal Council and Frank Caggiano of the State Senate.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Trask called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Trask asked if any of the members desired to have an executive session. Commissioner Boykin moved to hold an executive session for the purpose of receiving legal advice. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and such was unanimously approved by the Commission. Chairman Trask announced that the purpose of the executive session would be to receive legal advice.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Edens moved for approval of the Minutes of the September 15, 1978 meeting as submitted. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission. In addition, Commissioner Edens moved for approval of the Minutes of the South Carolina Wildlife Education and Training Fund, Inc. meeting held on September 15, 1978. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Chairman Trask expressed his thanks to Dr. Timmerman, Benny Reeves and the staff for their efforts on the Department's FY 79-80 budget and the presentation of such to the Budget and Control Board.



Chairman Trask and Dr. Timmerman presented a plaque to Frank Caggiano from the Commission in appreciation for his efforts in wildlife conservation while employed with the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Mr. Caggiano expressed his appreciation for the plaque and noted that he looked forward to continuing his work with the Commission in his new job in the State Senate.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission had appointed a By-Laws Committee and that the staff had drafted some by-laws for their consideration. Commissioner Boykin noted that the By-Laws Committee would meet following the Commission meeting to formalize these by-laws and present for consideration at the November Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he will schedule a meeting with Commissioners Edens and Shuler to discuss alternatives to streamline the DWCO procedure.

Relative to the potential use of tires for artificial reefs, Dr. Timmerman noted that Senator Dennis had recommended that such be presented before the Budget and Control Board. Dr. Joseph stated that he would meet with Senator Dennis on how to best handle this matter. Basically, Dr. Joseph said that they would request some funds to study the engineering logistics of this matter in order to get a better handle on the feasibility of such a project.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that various staff members will meet with Dr. Jackie Jacobs to discuss alternative fund sources from non-consumptive users which she had recommended at the September Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman read to the Commission, the contents of a telegram that he had received from Lynn Greenwalt of USFWS concerning the use of steel shot whereby the regulations for such will be in effect, but enforced only upon approval of the appropriate state regulatory agency. Dr. Timmerman stated that he preferred to talk with federal personnel and colleagues in other states in the southeast before making a recommendation to the Commission. Commissioner Shuler moved that Dr. Timmerman follow this course of action regarding this matter. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the GMA rules and regulations were not properly distributed until September due to the extended legislative session this year. A lot of telephone calls have come into the Department regarding the lack of information for GMA hunting. Dr. Timmerman stated that plans are to put hunting and fishing license holders on a computer listing. It is recommended



that a small paper be printed twice a year (free of charge) to inform the license holders and license agents on rules, regulations, changes in the law, etc. This can be implemented within the current budget without having to charge any fee for such. John Culler noted that about 200,000 license holders can be placed on the computer. In general, the Commission felt this was a good idea to be implemented.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission Chairman is to appoint an individual to the Sea Grant Advisory Committee to be endorsed by the Commission. Chairman Trask stated that he recommended the appointment of Mr. Stan Waskiewicz of Port Royal to this Committee. Commissioner Boykin moved for the Commission to endorse this appointment. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Commission appointments of Lawson Hayes on the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board, Dan Marett of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board, and Dr. George Fulton of the Marine Resources Advisory Board have expired (October 1, 1978). Following some discussion, Commissioner Boykin moved that this matter be placed on the agenda for the November meeting in order that the Chairman of each Board can present a recommendation to the Commission. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Alternative Boat Registration Process: Dr. Timmerman stated that we currently have a big rush on renewal and new boat registrations in the spring and he had asked Benny Reeves and his staff to see what alternatives may exist to alleviate this problem. Benny Reeves distributed a list of boat expirations by month noting that March to June is the rush season. Currently, the staff is looking at using the birth date of the original boat owner to be used in assigning an expiration registration date to the boat which would be fixed for the life of the boat. Projections on how this would look through 1982 were passed out to the Commission, revealing that it would provide an even flow of expirations from month to month. Mr. Reeves stated that this system is premature at this time to approve such and that he wants to go back to the files to do further checking on birth dates before making a firm recommendation to the Commission.

B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that the drawings for public hunts is now being handled by computer and a number of duplicate applications for the hunts are being identified.

Commissioner Edens noted that the states had experimented with various limits on dove and we now have a limit of twelve. Commissioner Edens stated that



several publications have indicated that we have the best nationwide population of doves in history. In addition, these publications are consistent in reporting that the hunter takes about ten percent (10%) of the population and there is a seventy percent (70%) mortality rate. About one-half the states do not allow dove hunting. As such, Commissioner Edens requested that some concerted effort be initiated to raise the limit to eighteen (18). It is felt that the sportsmen would comply with the law better if the limit is raised to eighteen (18). Dr. Timmerman noted that it was recommended year before last to the USFWS to raise the limit to fifteen (15); however, they were not too receptive to this idea. Dr. Timmerman stated that this idea could be placed on the agenda for the business meeting of the Southeastern Association in order to get a feel on this from the other state agency directors. Commissioner Edens stated that he wanted someone to aggressively pursue this matter. Commissioner Edens moved that this matter be brought before the Southeastern Association meeting to be backed up with statistics and make an argument to raise the limit on doves to eighteen (18). Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller reported that he has met with the USFWS on the Russell Dam mitigation and it is hoped that their study will be completed in two to three months. Also, he has met with USFWS personnel concerning the red wolf project on Bull Island. They are terminating this project as they have completed what they wanted to do at this location. Mr. Fuller noted that Joe Logan has met with officers in the law enforcement districts on the commercial fishing regulations which will be presented to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board next week.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: There was nothing to add to the written report.

4. Information and Public Affairs: There was nothing to add to the written report.

5. Marine Resources: There was nothing to add to the written report.

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Edens reported that the Board would meet next week.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Shuler noted that the Board had met on October 3, 1978. The Committee studying the wild dog problem is progressing at a good pace and a concrete recommendation will probably be forthcoming at the November Commission meeting.



3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Dawson reported that the Board will meet next week.

4. Heritage Trust: Dr. Timmerman noted that the Board has not met recently. Dr. Timmerman stated that two projects, including Eastatoe Creek, will be brought to the November Commission meeting.

D. Salary Review Committee:

Dr. Timmerman stated that the Committee had met, but there were no outstanding or marginal appraisals to report. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has been meeting with the State Personnel Ad Hoc Committee. It looks as though the number of State employees must level off. We are doing this in the Department and other agency directors are challenged to do the same. Chairman Trask stated that agencies should be awarded for holding down or cutting the number of personnel.

E. Appointments:

Dr. Timmerman distributed the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and the appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and other Department personnel (copy attached to original Commission minutes). The Commission approved all appointments and re-appointments as recommended.

Dr. Timmerman asked for some guidance from the Commission on the appointment of Bobby Ray Hogan (Pickens County) as a Conservation Officer. This was recommended by Law Enforcement, but was not received in time to mail to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission to approve this appointment, subject to their review and his meeting all the other required qualifications. Commissioner Stubbs moved to approve this appointment. Commissioner Shuler seconded the motion and such was approved by the Commission.

F. Other Remarks:

Commissioner Shuler asked if a DWCO has authority to carry a weapon. Fred Zeigler stated that he did. It was noted that a DWCO commission has limited authority to the area for which his commission was issued.

Commissioner Dawson asked Mr. Ryan to clarify for him if a DWCO can carry a gun and pursue a violator off the property for which he has authority.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Law Enforcement Division has been working with a management group from the University of South Carolina in trying to improve the mid-level management and provide supervisory training. A visual aide for new Conservation Officers is being developed to enhance information



dissemination. In addition, a public relations approach is being emphasized in this program.

Also, Dr. Timmerman asked who would attend the upcoming trip to Palmetto Bluff. Commissioners Trask, Dawson, Stubbs, Shuler and Boykin indicated they would attend.

Commissioner Dawson noted that he had received a letter from Graham Reeves and asked if it would be answered. Chairman Trask stated that he planned to discuss this with Dr. Timmerman. Dr. Timmerman also noted that he had received a letter from Tom Rogers and he informed him that if he wants to appear before the Commission, to let us know.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Following some discussion, the Commission agreed to have the next Commission meeting on November 17, 1978, in Columbia.

ITEM IV. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting, a motion was made, seconded and adopted to adjourn the regular meeting and go into Executive Session to receive legal advice.

