

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
September 15, 1989
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., September 15, 1989 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 Drummond. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Bill Chastain, Sonny Baines, Brock Conrad, Paul Sandifer 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 August 18, 1989 regular Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

Chairman Burnside introduced Mr. David M. Cline, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund. Mr. Cline presented a check to the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund for \$5,000 to be used for the *OPERATION GAME THIEF* Program and he also presented a check for \$10,000 to the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund to be used for the "*HOOKED ON FISHING - NOT ON DRUGS*" Program. Commissioner Compton expressed "thanks" to Mr. Cline from the Board of Directors of the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund for these donations.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that we recently had our Budget Hearing before the State Budget & Control Board and he noted that the Governor expressed concern about the cost to our Department for the personnel involved in the drug program and he also expressed concern about the statutory requirement that we hired conservation officers by county of residence. Dr. Timmerman noted that an Attorney General's Opinion concerning the hiring of conservation officers is being sought by the Legislative Black Caucus.

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Larry Cartee provided an update to the Commission concerning various questions raised by Representative Jimmy Bailey regarding the Santee Coastal Reserve.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he recently attended the meeting of the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and we will be required, in the future, for PR and DJ funds to submit an environmental impact statement.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he is also working on law enforcement problems with U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service to provide assistance with some constituents who are having problems with federal law enforcement.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we have frozen the filling of positions with state funds and a position in PROJECT WILD at the Marine Center has been filled with state funds which have come from the operating budget of the Marine Center. Dr. Timmerman noted that he was recommending that we fill, next month, the other PROJECT WILD position as well as the Rifle Range Safety Officer position. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to fill these positions as recommended by Dr. Timmerman.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Larry Cartee has requested to order an office chair that cost \$530 and under current state law, this matter must be approved by the Commission. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the purchase of this chair as requested.

Dr. Timmerman noted that, at the upcoming meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, the question of dove baiting will be discussed. Dr. Timmerman noted that in Florida, any officer that checks a field is required to meet the landowner or the person having the hunt when the field is checked. Dr. Timmerman noted that he would like to pass this matter on to the Law Enforcement Advisory Board for their review.

ITEM III - APPEARANCE - James W. Reese (Spartanburg Water System Regulations)

Chairman Burnside noted that Mr. Reese did not attend the meeting, thus this item would not be taken up at the Commission Meeting.

ITEM IV - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PLAN

Dan Dobbins noted that a proposed Legislative Plan had been sent to the Commissioners for their review (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the plan as presented by Mr. Dobbins.

ITEM V - OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Hunting Program for Sampson Island:

Commissioner Owen noted that this matter involved a legal matter and such should be discussed later in the meeting in Executive Session.

B. Proposed White Perch Legislation: Commissioner Stokes noted that Brock Conrad had sent the Commission some information on this matter and he recommended that the Commission approve a motion to extend the time that white perch may be sold in South Carolina by forty-five (45) days. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Compton and adopted by the Commission (Brock Conrad's information attached to original Commission Minutes).

C. Discussion - WMA Deer Season Options: Brock Conrad noted that the staff had prepared several options concerning the deer season in South Carolina, as well as other issues. Mr. Conrad asked the Commission to review this material and take action on such at the October Commission Meeting. John Frampton discussed the options as presented by staff and the Commission noted that they would review this matter and take action on these items at the October Commission Meeting (copy of Recommendations and Options for South Carolina's Deer Season Framework attached to original Commission Minutes).

D. Proposed Agreement with National Wild Turkey Federation: Chairman Burnside noted that this item would be deferred until the next Commission Meeting.

ITEM VI - NEW BUSINESS:

A. Proposed 1989 Fall Turkey Season: Brock Conrad noted that the proposed fall turkey season for 1989 had been mailed to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). David Baumann discussed the recommendations in this report and the proposed seasons for 1989. Following discussion, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the fall season for 1989 as presented.

B. Buzzard's Roost Trust Easement and Proposed Land Acquisitions: Stuart Greeter discussed a proposal sent to the Commission to approve a Trust Easement for the Buzzard's Roost Heritage Preserve. Following discussion, the Commission approved the easement as presented by Mr. Greeter. The remaining items concerning land acquisitions involve contractual matters and such were deferred for discussion in Executive Session.

C. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves distributed to the Commission, an information sheet on Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Licenses and noted that such would be available for sale on June 1, 1990.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: John Frampton distributed a copy of the ACE Basin Project Plan and Position Statement to the Commission for their information.

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

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

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that John Evans has been promoted to the Executive Office as Departmental Spokesman.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer informed the Commission that the recent educational program at the Marine Center on August 25th was very successful and productive.

Dr. Sandifer further informed the Commission that the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fair would be held September 16-17 and that the shrimp baiting season began on September 15, 1989.

Dr. Sandifer noted that the problems with the sewer system at the Marine Center have recently been handled as a sewer connection will be made for the Marine Center with the James Island Public Service District.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Representative Bennett had expressed concern about the funds being used for shrimp baiting in law enforcement and he noted that we plan to buy equipment with these funds this year and look at adding another law enforcement position with the use of these funds next year.

D. Other Remarks: Commissioner Pendarvis asked about the status of the Conservation Officer Study. Dr. Timmerman noted that Tom Miller is Chairman of a Committee that is reviewing this matter and will report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Commissioner Stokes expressed concern about what constitutes dove baiting and he noted that the problem needs to be defined and such needs to be thoroughly reviewed. Commissioner Stokes asked that this item be placed on the agenda for the January Retreat.

At this time, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss contractual and legal matters. Commissioner Stokes 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 contractual and legal matters.

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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 the trade of property at Woods Bay as presented by the Heritage Trust staff. Commissioner Drummond seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

The Commission discussed a proposal for change in the Sampson Island sanctuary regulations (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion and several motions concerning this matter, the Commission adopted a motion to approve the proposal as presented with the sentence which states "hunters will be permitted to retrieve waterfowl without guns" being deleted from this proposal.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the appointments and reappointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers, as well as the DWCO revocation as presented, approve the appointment of Michael Sabaga as a Conservation Officer, and approve filling the Hunter Safety Coordinator position as soon as possible (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Stokes moved for the Commission to approve the purchase of approximately 6,000 acres of land known as Lewis Ocean Bay in Horry County from International Paper as presented by the Heritage Trust staff. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission.

E. Appointments: This item was previously acted upon by the Commission.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Williamsburg County on October 20, 1989.

ITEM VII - ADJOURN

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

