

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
September 16, 1983
11:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Room 335 of the Dennis Building, Columbia, S. C. at 11:00 A.M., on September 16, 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, Harrelson, Owen, Quackenbush, Dawson, Stubbs, Bennett, and Dennis. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Pat Ryan, Sonny Baines, Jeff Fuller, Dr. Joseph, and various other staff. Guests at the meeting included Sam Crouch of Edgefield, Pat Robertson of "The State" newspaper, William Gay and Frank Fagan of Beaufort, Edward M. Rodgers of Mt. Pleasant, C. A. Magwood, Jr., Allen Webb, L. Bennett, Jr., Tom Perle, Jack Moore, Stephen Shoemaker and Allison Fickling of Hilton Head, Joey Morris, Bill Stevenson, Harold Harmon, Steve Willis and Harold Zellars of the S.C.S.B.A.

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 August 19, 1983 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Department's budget hearing before the Budget and Control Board will be held this afternoon as 2:30 P.M. in Room 209 of the Brown Building. Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of our proposed budget increases which includes additional funds for rent on the Dennis Building.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had just completed his term as President of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and he thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve in this role.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Dan Dobbins is developing the 1984 Legislative Proposal and this will probably be presented to the Commission at its November meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted the Commission had approved the use of \$30,000 of state duck stamp funds for a workshed at the Santee Coastal Reserve. The low bid on this facility was \$34,750 and Dr. Timmerman recommended the Commission approve the use of an additional \$10,000 in state duck stamp funds for this facility and also to



provide some contingency funds for the project. Commissioner Dawson moved for the Commission to adopt the recommendation by Dr. Timmerman. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman noted the Commission had approved two radios last month at the Santee Refuge and such have been loaned to them in the past. Commissioner Compton noted that other agencies are important and we may need to loan other radios. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission may want to reconsider their policy on radios. Pat Ryan noted the Department would retain ownership of these two radios. Following other discussion, Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve loaning these two radios to the Santee Refuge and for the Department to install them at no charge. Commissioner Quackenbush seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Opening of Sounds and Bays for Shrimping: Dr. Joseph advised the Commission that the shrimp sampling by the marine staff had indicated that the shrimp in the lower Winyah and Santee Bays were larger than those sampled in the central and southern part of the state. Pressure started building to open the northern district as early as the first of the month of September. Dr. Joseph noted that difficulties occur when some sounds are opened and others are kept closed. The Commission was polled and advised not to take any immediate action until sampling was completed in the southern part of the state on September 7 - 9. The Commission, through the poll, agreed to this action. Dr. Joseph noted the southern part of the state was sampled and the shrimp were not as advanced in size as there was an average sixty count. The Commission was recontacted and advised that the northern district would have to be held back longer or else go to a split season. The Commission decided to go to a split season with lower Winyah and Santee Bays being opened on September 14th and the remaining bays being opened on September 22nd. Dr. Joseph noted that notices on this decision were sent out last Saturday. Dr. Joseph noted the opening in the northern district on September 14th was satisfactory from information which has been obtained.

Commissioner Harrelson noted that since he was contacted last Friday, he has checked and there are still a lot of small shrimp in St. Helena Sound. He noted that various sport fishermen and some commercial fishermen are not in favor of opening this sound at this time and maybe the opening in this area should be delayed a little longer.

Mr. William Gay of the Beaufort Chapter of the S. C. Shrimpers Association noted that a petition by his members has been developed and a lot of the members want to keep St. Helena Sound closed on a trial basis for a year or, if nothing else, keep the sound closed a couple more weeks. Mr. Gay asked the Commission to consider keeping this sound closed at least a couple more weeks.



Mr. Stephen Shoemaker of the Hilton Head Chapter of the S. C. Shrimpers Association noted that sampling by the Marine Resources staff usually shows a smaller size shrimp than what is actually caught. Mr. Shoemaker noted that if one sound is closed, the resident and non-resident shrimp boats converge on the other sounds which are open. Mr. Shoemaker noted that his chapter is unanimous in wanting to keep all the sounds open.

Mr. Steve Willis of the S. C. Small Boaters Association noted the only place they can catch shrimp is in the sounds and the sounds being open are important to their livelihood.

Mr. Allison Fickling noted that he has been trying to make a living also by shrimping and he noted that he would like to see the sounds open as they are important to shrimpers.

Following other discussion, Chairman Webster noted that Dr. Joseph has presented the action of the Commission and he asked the Commission for comments. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to adopt the staff recommendation and ratify the action taken by the Commission to open the northern district on September 14th and the remaining sounds on September 22nd. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion, but it failed to pass. After other discussion, Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve opening of the northern district on September 14th and delay the opening of the sounds and bays in the rest of the state to September 29th. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Dennis noted the poll of the Commission was to back the staff recommendations, but this action has changed the poll of the Commission. Commissioner Dennis noted this concerns him and in the future, some policy may be needed to stick with such a poll or not have a poll. Dr. Timmerman noted the Commission may consider a special called meeting to handle this matter. Chairman Webster noted that we need to try to develop a sounder policy on this matter for next year.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we will use all of our resources in the Department to circulate this action on the opening date to the public.

Buford Mabry presented a briefing on the recent Attorney General's opinion regarding a statute closing the sounds to Georgia shrimpers and the action taken by the Commission to not close the sounds to these shrimpers.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Advisory Board Appointments: This matter was delayed until later in the meeting.



B. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: There was nothing further to report.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: David Bauman distributed the proposed recommendations for the fall turkey season to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes), noting that a November 28th - December 3rd season is proposed. Following discussion, Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to adopt the season recommendations as presented. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that he has asked the biologists and District Captains to meet and discuss the spring turkey season before any recommendations are made.

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

4. Information and Public Affairs: Sonny Baines distributed a list of the appointees to the Magazine Advisory Council to the Commission for information. He noted that a Chairman needs to be appointed and a meeting needs to be scheduled so as to get work underway. Chairman Webster asked Commissioner Quackenbush to get with Sonny Baines to schedule a meeting.

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

C. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted the Board will meet on October 17th. Commissioner Owen recommended Mr. E. Floyd DuPree of Greenville be appointed by the Governor to the Board and he recommended the Commission approve the appointment of Mike Watts of Greenville to the Board to replace the term expiring of Mr. Jim Roberts. The Commission adopted a motion approving this recommendation.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Quackenbush recommended that Mr. W. D. Morris be re-appointed to the Board by the Commission and that Mr. Terry Ehrlich be recommended to the Governor for re-appointment. The Commission adopted a motion approving this recommendation.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton recommended that Mr. H. H. Von Harten be re-appointed to the Board by the Commission and that Mr. Roy Faulks be recommended to the Governor for re-appointment. The Commission adopted a motion approving this recommendation.

Commissioner Dennis moved for the Chairmen of these Boards be re-elected by the Commission. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Commission.

4. Heritage Trust: There was no report from the Board this month.

D. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed the recommended appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Quackenbush recommended that the new DWCO appointment of Thomas O. Milliken be made with state-wide authority. The Commission adopted a motion to approve all appointments and



re-appointments as recommended including statewide authority for Mr. Thomas O. Milliken.

Dr. Timmerman recommended that DWCO Wayne H. Gregorie of Bonneau be approved for a change of authority to include Lewisfield Plantation and Stoney Landing Plantation. The Commission adopted a motion approving this recommendation.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Sgt. Pearly Britt is being promoted to Lieutenant in District #8 and PFC Tommy Simmons is being promoted to Sergeant in District #9. The Commission adopted a motion to approve these promotions. Commissioner Harrelson noted that promotions usually follow from one rank to the next without skipping a rank.

Commissioner Dennis asked when the Commission could expect the filling of vacancies and promotions in his area. Pat Ryan noted that interviews will be held shortly and we should have some recommendations at the next Commission meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted that we plan to meet with the State Personnel Division to look at our procedure for interviewing for Conservation Officers positions as it relates to the veterans preference. He noted that we have various applicants with scores of 98 or 99 which do not get an interview.

Commissioner Dennis noted that Senator Tom Moore was recommending an applicant for a boating investigator position and this information was passed on to the staff.

E. Other Remarks: Commissioner Stubbs suggested the Commissioners use the new Hampton Fund envelope for sending the brochure to friends and colleagues.

F. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Commissioner Stubbs noted that a tour of the Matthews Road area in Greenville County is scheduled on October 20th and the Commission will meet at Table Rock State Park on October 21st. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this schedule. Chairman Webster asked that an agenda for October 20th and 21st be developed and sent to the Commission.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

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

