

MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION Bonneau Ferry Bonneau, South Carolina

September 19, 1975

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at Bonneau Ferry (WESTVACO), Bonneau, South Carolina at 9:30 am September 19, 1975 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Rname, Buchanan, Glenn, Boykin, Dennis, Lumpkin and Harris. Others present were Advisors Johnston and Ford; Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Dr. Laurent, Belangia, Culler, Fuller, Ryan, Pendarvis, Cotty, Cartee, Chastain, Latimer, Robertson, Conrad, Stansell, Bayless, Evans and various other staff members. Also in attendance was Mr. Webb, Consultant to the Commission, Mr. Bernard Goetee, President of the S. C. Wildlife Federation, Frank Cagianno, Director of Research for the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, Clark Surratt, State Newspaper and Guy Coheleach, noted wildlife artist and guest of Chairman Hudson.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as they were mailed out with no corrections or additions.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION: Since there were no personnel matters to be taken care of, there was no executive session called for.

ITEM II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Recommendation of Game & Fish Task Force: Chairman Hudson stated that each Commissioner had been mailed a copy of the report made by Dr. Edward Kozicky, Director of Conservation for Olin Corporation, Mr. Tom Kimbrall, Executive Vice President of the National Wildlife Federation and Mr. Dan Poole, President of the Wildlife Management Institute. Chairman Hudson went over the report with the Commission. Some of the points noted were: 1) All hunting at the James W. Webb Wildlife Center should be done by public draw only. We are currently doing this. 2) No propagated wildlife, either of native or exotic species should be released to augment populations on either a regular or experimental basis. Dr. Timmerman commented that his understanding of this is that the task force wants our department to get more involved in extension work with preserves and if for some reason we needed to release quail for research purposes, they recommend we do so. Chairman Hudson feels that basically, the force feels that we should get more involved in helping the preserve operator, giving him information as to how he can increase the wildlife on his property. 3) The immediate appointment of a Deputy Executive Director who is qualified to assist the Executive Director and to perform his duties in his absence. Dr. Timmerman noted that this position would have to be reestablished and that he is looking into this and will make some recommendations to the Commission in the near future. Also that a Department Planning Unit be created and the Director made directly responsible to the Executive Director. Dr. Timmerman reported that Larry Cartee, who is now under Dr. Laurent's operation, is putting a planning package together now and will be transferred to Dr. Timmerman's office. 4) Title of the Division of Game & Freshwater Fisheries should be changed to "Wildlife and Freshwater



Fisheries" to more truly reflect the Division's authority and responsibility. Dr. Timmerman stated that generally speaking, the staff agrees with this.

5) Establish liaison with county agents, extension personnel and commission employees for the purpose of promoting wildlife habitat development on private lands. Dr. Timmerman stated that Dr. Kozicky has offered the opportunity for an individual to go through the reserve training school at Olin and he has mailed information down concerning this which has been passed on to Jeff Fuller.

6) A specified number of administrative regions should be established for all functions of the Wildlife & Marine Resources Department. As funds and time permit, all functions should be headquartered within a single building within each specified region. Such an entity would facilitate communications with the public, including cooperation among functions, improved supervision of field employees, pooling of clerical assistance and other economies. Chairman Hudson suggested that Mr. Fuller, Mr. Ryan and others get together and see if a districting plan can be worked out and come back to the Commission with a recommendation. Dr. Timmerman stated that staff should be able to get this recommendation together by the end of the calendar year.

7) The force felt that since conservation officers represent about 40% of department personnel and with ever-rising operation costs, it becomes essential that individuals holding this important position qualify for assignments other than single-mission law enforcement. In order to accomplish this necessary objective, the basic educational requirements for new employees should be a bachelor's degree in fish or wildlife management from an accredited college. Current employees not meeting these educational requirements should be offered the opportunity to qualify through in-service training at accredited colleges or universities at department expense. All new employees meeting this qualification and current personnel successfully passing in-service training should be paid the equivalent of other positions in state government possessing these qualifications. The practice of hiring conservation officers on the basis of county residence should be discontinued. As a minimum, the department should select applications on a statewide basis. Chairman Hudson stated that this is something that other law enforcement agencies in this state are already doing. However, after discussion, it was not the feeling of the Commission that the college degree be required, although it is desirable and that individuals having a degree should have priority in positions. Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion that staff proceed to come up with some procedure to make sure that when they make a recommendation to the Commission, that that individual is the best qualified applicant and report back as soon as possible with recommendations for this procedure. The motion was seconded and passed.

There was some discussion as to whether or not the Department should pay moving expenses for an officer that has to relocate after coming to work for the Department. Bill Cotty stated that under the change in the Budget last year, we do have disgression authority to pay for a move when we think it is merited and could do it on a case by case basis. Chairman Hudson asked that staff check with other agencies and see what they are doing in these cases. The Commission also agreed with Commissioner Buchanan that persons living in the county that the position is open in be given first consideration, as this would be an asset in knowing the people and the surroundings. Dr. Timmerman will report back to the Commission with information on these items. Commissioner Rhame suggested that we show some type of appreciate for the individuals that work on the task force for their time. Chairman Hudson told the Commission that he had written letters to each of the individuals expressing the Department and the Commission's appreciation.

8) The Commission should request counsel to review the Fish and Wildlife Code for updating. There was some discussion on this. The two main problems here are legislation of seasons and the County Fund situation.

9) Hunting and Fishing by



Department personnel. Dr. Timmerman, Pat Ryan and Bill Chastain have come up with a definite program on this matter that is in line with what the task force recommended. Dr. Timmerman stated that he plans to bring this recommendation before the Commission at the next meeting.

B. Capital Improvement Bonding Freeze: Dr. Timmerman reported that we asked for additional bonding money for a building which was approved at the Marine Center in the neighborhood of \$600,000 to place equipment in the building. This project has been under construction for some time and is well on its way to completion. Lake Long project was assigned to us to complete in Union County. The Budget and Control Board approved in excess of \$500,000 and a portion of this was used for the purchase of the land. The contract has been awarded to the engineers and this project is ready to go. On the Federal Facility, we are waiting for a contract from the Federal Government saying that this is the way the legislation was passed and that the money would be payed back within a given period of time. We refer to that as a revenue bond rather than a capital improvement bond. At this time, we are not sure whether or not the Budget & Control Board considers this as an obligation. The other project is Phase II of the Dennis Center expansion. We are hopeful of getting together with the College of Charleston on the sewage treatment facility. Ed Latimer reported that the contract from the Federal Government is being held up by the historical and environmental study. Presumably, the lawyers from Washington and GSA are now discussing the first draft. Dr. Timmerman will bring this before the Budget & Control Board when he has a contract in hand showing that this is a revenue bond and not a capital improvement bond. Commissioner Dennis gave the Commission some background on the technicalities of the freeze. He stated that the Budget & Control Board will meet on Monday and Thursday and Friday to give further consideration to some of these projects and asked Dr. Timmerman to have all of the information for them available at that time. He stated that the bonding situation does not look bright for any sizeable amount to be issued either for the rest of this fiscal year or one more fiscal year.

C. Permanent Facilities for Wildlife Department Offices: Dr. Timmerman reported that at the present time, we have office space at Dutch Plaza and Bankers Trust office leased at a cost of approximately \$180,000 annually. This figure includes maintenance and utilities. At the Commissions request, staff has looked into the possibilities of building their own building. Several sites have been looked at including department property, property owned by the State Forestry Commission on Broad River Road, and also the Highway Department which will be vacated when their new building is completed. After discussion on the subject, it was the feeling of the Commission that staff should do a review on the possibility of purchasing the Highway Department facility and the possibility of purchasing land and building our own facility and come back with a recommendation. It was decided that leases on the present space should be renewed for at least two more years if it would be a savings to the department on a longer lease and Dr. Timmerman and staff will come back with some facts and figures on this project by the first of the year.

D. Management Plan - Santee Gun Club: Dr. Laurent reported that a few minor changes are being made in the plan and staff is in the process of completing these. The final plan will be out by the next meeting.

E. Budget Report: Commissioner Boykin reported to the Commission that the



initial budget request this year for the department is approximately \$16½ million compared to our current \$12 million. In his opinion, this is a realistic budget to continue operating as we now are without new programs etc. Dr. Timmerman reported that this year we are starting out with a zero budget since all outstanding bills up until the 15th of August had to be paid. Since these surplus funds no longer exist, Timmerman would like to meet with the Commission or Finance Committee and discuss the capital improvement projects that were to be paid for out of these funds, as approved by the Commission. These projects include renovation of the Webb Center, Direlton House and others. Also, a projection of where we have been and what we plan to do has been prepared for the Budget & Control Board. Commissioner Boykin feels that it is not too early to make some planning as to what we will do and what areas will be cut to adjust to the Budget as approved by the Budget & Control Board. Commissioner Dennis stated that he feels that we will not be cut below what we have this year. Commissioner Harris requested the Budget Committee to let the Commission know what items will be eliminated first and be prepared to make recommendations to the Commission immediately. Dr. Timmerman stated that approximately \$1 million of the requested budget was for temporary personnel, along with salary increases. Commissioner Buchanan also suggested staff looking into using Public Service Employee Program for maintenance, etc. which is a Federal funded program and Dr. Timmerman stated that they do plan to do this. Commissioner Dennis questioned the revenue figure and asked if staff predicted a decrease in this area. Wash Belangia reported that overall this is a decrease and a lot of this is primarily because of the lack of anticipated Federal Funds coming in, such as in the boating area where last year we received approximately \$100,000 and we are anticipating none of this this year. Commissioner Dennis pointed out that this year we are asking for considerably more than we did for two straight years and Wash Belangia reported that the largest portion of this is in personnel reclassification. Dr. Timmerman stated that we are going to have to generate more revenue within the Boating Division or get state appropriations for it. Commissioner Dennis asked for more explanation on the revenue figure and Wash Belangia will get back with Commissioner Dennis for more detail discussion. A motion was made by Commissioner Lumpkin to approve this budget request for submission to the Budget & Control Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buchanan and passed. Commissioner Boykin made a motion that at the end of each year, any Director of any Division of this Department that has not succeeded in staying within his budget should come before this Commission and give an explanation of that discrepancy, along with Dr. Timmerman as a matter of policy. This motion was seconded and passed.

F. Rank Identification for Law Enforcement: Bill Chastain presented recommendations to the Commission for the new rank designation for Conservation Officers. He does not plan any change in the patches except that where we have Supervisor and Unit Leader we plan to put Law Enforcement on the tab. Ranks will be designated by gold insignia on the shirt collar. He showed samples of those pins he plan to use and Commissioner Rhame made a motion to adopt this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed.

ITEM III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Budget and Control Board Directives Concerning Auto Policy: Dr. Timmerman reported to the Commission that the Budget & Control Board has approved a policy concerning the purchase of state vehicles. A copy of this was passed out to the



Commission. Basically, this policy states that vehicles will be assigned to personnel who drive at least 18,000 miles a year on official state business. It has also downgraded the types of cars that individuals will receive, based on salary and we are in a class II. The specifics of this operation have not yet been established by the Office of Vehicle Management, however, we are trying to improvise a program by the end of this calendar year and will establish a motor pool at the Columbia office, Banker Trust office, and at the Marine Center. A person will be designated to handle this operation for the Department. The cars now held by persons not meeting the new criteria will be placed in a motor pool or assigned to a person meeting the criteria and who is now driving an older car. Each Division Director is checking the mileage of their personnel to determine what total mileage is being put on that vehicle from July to July, also determining where that individual lives and subtracting the to and from work mileage from the total mileage. Terry Huey is also going back to the computer to see how many miles that person drove last year and if there are any discrepancies, they will be worked out. Commissioner Dennis stated that the intention of this directive is not to hurt the efficiency of the department, but that in South Carolina there is too much laxity in the program for vehicles for state personnel and this must be tightened up. This did not come about by the action of this department as we had already taken steps to cut back in this area.

B. Progress on Dubose Development and St. Phillips - Appearance: Stan Smith: Chairman Hudson stated that he has talked with Mr. Smith and Mr. Smith decided that he would write a letter to the Commission setting down some things he is disturbed about and outlining his whole grievance.

C. Non-Game and Endangered Species: Ken Stansell reported that at the June Commission the Game & Freshwater Fisheries Division presented a list of names of state endangered species pursuant to the 1974 Endangered Species Act and following that we solicited and received public comment. A copy of the final copy was presented to the Commission with the additions, these being the Kirtland's Warbler (Dendroica kirtlandii) and the Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis). Stansell stated that a regulation is needed stating that this is the official list. Commissioner Dennis asked about the alligator situation and if the Commission should give consideration to it being harvested. Stansell stated that the biological data that we have right now would not support a cropping program. Commissioner Rhame asked about the loggerhead turtle. Stansell reported that the loggerhead turtle was never involved in this endangered species list. There are two types of species in the United States - endangered and threatened. The Loggerhead sea turtle came into the picture in that it was a Federal proposal to list the loggerhead, among other sea turtles including the green sea turtle as a threatened species. Technically, the way our act is written, it just lists the threatened species. If we get our cooperative agreement approved that would not interfere with South Carolina. The Commission would have to pass regulations so stating that it was a threatened species in South Carolina. The turtle is presently under consideration. It is at the Federal level, but the way our program is being established the Commission would have to rule one way or another. Dr. Joseph stated that there were proposed regulations in the Federal Register which contains rulings that could have potentially been very damaging if they were enforced strictly. He has written the Director of Fish & Wildlife Service and commented on those regulations and to date have heard nothing. Commissioner Buchanan asked whether or not the harvesting of whales is going to create a



problem in the future. Stansell replies that technically since S. C. coastal waters adjoin several whale species in their navigable water there are seven species on our state list. These species are oceanic whales, although we have a few beached occasionally. There shouldn't be any contradiction with our program with the whales and there is very little we can do for them. The United States does not have any act of whaling going on presently and it is up to the International channels to stop the harvesting of those species. A motion was made and seconded to adopt this regulation. It was passed.

LAKE WARREN: Commissioner Glenn asked Jeff Fuller about the status of Lake Warren. Fuller reported that the agreement that we had with Representative Tison was that we would look at it and give him our suggestion. We have looked into it and worked with the State Highway Department and using the contract approach it would cost \$14,500. At that time the Highway Department representative said that he felt sure that the Highway Department could do this less expensively and to date we have not received that information. This report has been given to Representative Tison. Tison said that he had opposition from some of his constituents for using County Funds for this type of work, so he was undecided as to what to do. We will continue to work with him.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICERS: Chairman Hudson reported this Foundation Board will be meeting here in South Carolina in a few weeks. Gifts have been received from Audubon, numerous clubs and individuals. Chairman Hudson introduced Mr. Guy Coheleach, a well known wildlife artist who has made a contribution to the Foundation of 500 prints of a painting of wild turkey. These prints will sell for \$100 each and will be carried in our magazine, as well as other state magazines and will amount to about \$50,000 for the Foundation when they are sold. These prints will be approximately 23" x 30" in size and is one of Mr. Coheleach's limited editions. Hudson reported that the Foundation has found over 120 eligible families of Conservation Officers killed in the line of duty in the United States. Twelve applications for financial help to send their children to school have been received to date. Contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible and anyone making a gift of \$100 or more will receive one of these prints.

D. Division Reports:

1. Game & Freshwater Fisheries Division: Jeff Fuller asked Jack Bayless to give a report on the eel study. Bayless reported that in the last few years, the american eel has become a very economically important species and we have had various requests to permit taking of this fish on a commercial basis. We have looked into this and put certain restrictions on the methods by which eels may be harvested, such as days of the week, the area, mesh size of basket in order to allow the catfish to escape, etc. A one year study was initiated and funded by Coastal Plains to determine some of the answers we did not have on eel. We now have three months of data collected on this study and if we determine that the game fish population is going to be affected by this, we will have a chance to revise the regulations before they go into effect, as this is a one year regulation. There was some discussion as to whether or not this should be a freshwater or marine project. Bill Cotty stated that the present regulation concerns both divisions as it involves the lakes as well as the Tailrace and the Cooper River. This is given as information only to the Commission at this time.



Commissioner Rhame asked about the herring population and Bayless reported that there has been a steady decline since 1969 and he has no information as to whether or not our studies have affected this.

Commissioner Lumpkin stated that it is his feeling that the Commission should take a stand and join in with the other Commissions across the country and make a statement concerning the recent broadcast by CBS of "THE GUNS OF AUTUMN". Chairman Hudson gave some background information on this program and proposed to take the lead and ask the Federal Communications Commission and all of the Game Commissions across the country to investigate this matter and if necessary fine CBS for saying that this is a news program. The program was totally anti-hunting and was billed as a news program. Mr. Goetee, President of the S. C. Wildlife Federation stated that the Federation agrees 100 per cent with the Commission and fully endorses this concern and intend to mail letters to all Congressional representatives and go as far as they can to exercise any influence they have. A motion was made by Commissioner Lumpkin that Chairman Hudson pursue this matter as quickly as possible. The motion was seconded and passed. Chairman Hudson will proceed.

2. Natural Area Acquisition & Resource Planning: Dr. Laurent passed out to the Commission a copy of the Congaree Swamp Study. This study was initiated at the request of Senator Thurmond. Laurent went over the study with the Commission stating that the outline goes into Primaries Studies and Supplemental Studies. The Primaries Studies are what we can do and what we need, but we don't have the money to do this. The Supplemental Studies are things we should have on particular related facets, but we hope we can get them done somewhere else, but can't promise that. Dr. Timmerman stated that he wrote a few letters to some of the College Presidents and asked them if they could assist at a no charge basis. To date he has not received replies on this.

The other Divisions had nothing to report in addition to their written reports which was mailed out prior to this meeting.

E. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that the Committee has reviewed all salaries and there was nothing out of order. He passed this report on to the Chairman.

F. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Marine Resources: Commissioner Lumpkin reported that his Advisory Board met and they now have four subjects under consideration and will be getting a report back later. The Fuel Tax matter, placing markers in various places, increasing boating revenue, and the 200 mile limit were some of the items discussed. Dr. Timmerman reported that it was the consensus of the Board that they endorsed the 200 mile limit with the recommendation of staff because it involved some shrimping problems and will come back with a definite recommendation.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Harris reported that at the next meeting his Board will take up boating safety. He also requested permission to hold the next Advisory Board meeting in conjunction with the upcoming Commission meeting on October 23rd and 24th. This was agreeable with the Commission.



3. Game & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Rhame reported that the minutes of the last Board meeting were mailed out and that they had a very fine, informative meeting. Jeff Fuller reported that a report from Dr. Josephs staff was presented on the results of the questionnaire sent to the other 49 states on the use of electric shockers. The Advisory Board, after hearing the reports, recommended that the position reflected within the reports be recommended to the Commission as being the Advisory Board's opinion. Dr. Joseph stated that the study was not conclusive in an absolute sense, but found the studies rather convincing that there was no significant harm to the populations to any of the fish looked at. Commissioner Rhame made a motion that the Commission adopt this policy as a result of the investigation by his Advisory Board. The motion was seconded and passed. Also discussed at the Advisory Board meeting was the Bass Tournaments, and the Board is not in a position to make a recommendation on this at this time. It was also suggested by this Board that the use of CB radios by the Law Enforcement Division be allowed as a preventive measure. Commissioner Harris' Board will look into this further. Jeff Fuller reported to the Commission that his Division received 25 Florida Ducks from the State of Florida. These are non-migrating birds. Out of these, 19 of them have been released in the wild in the Santee Delta area and 6 are being contained in a pen on the Direlton Management Area. The information received was that these ducks would not take feed very readily in a pen situation, however, they are taking feed at this time. A number of the ducks have been seen in the released area. Will try to get more birds next year and Chairman Hudson agreed to get in touch with the top people in those states.

G. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman made recommendations on several appointments and re-appointments of salaried and non-salaried personnel. Commissioner Rhame made a motion to approve these recommendations as submitted by the Executive Director. The motion was seconded and passed. All Commissioners were notified prior to this meeting of these recommendations, therefore, a list of these appointments will be attached to the original of these Minutes and will be available on request to the Commission office.

Ed Latimer reported that he had mailed out information concerning a case in Beaufort County and the 3 mile limit on the shrimp trawler. He showed a map and described the different boundaries and asked for a clarification of the Commissions intention on the present Rule and Regulation on this. There was discussion regarding this and Commissioner Rhame made a motion that we abide by the previous decision as far as policy which provided that the shrimpers could come into the sounds and bays 3 miles from the nearest high and dry land. The motion was seconded and passed.

There being no further business at this time, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Stapleton

(Miss) Chris Stapleton,
Commission Secretary

