

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
September 20, 1991
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at 10:00 A.M., on Friday, September 20, 1991, 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, Poston, Graham and Snow. Staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves, Brock Conrad, Bill Chastain, Sonny Baines, Paul Sandifer and various other staff members and guests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone 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 9, 1991 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman discussed the Department's budget, noting that if we continue like we have been, it looks like we can get through the year without any reduction in force in personnel. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have made major cuts in our equipment budget and this concern is being expressed to everyone involved. He also noted that he is currently concerned over the revenue being down at this time, but this will be watched very closely to see whether or not this trend continues.

Dr. Timmerman discussed the Governor's Reorganization Committee Report, noting that the draft report had placed the Law Enforcement Program under the Department of Public Safety. Dr. Timmerman noted that with the help of Senator Drummond, Law Enforcement has been placed back into the Department in the final report and a copy of the final report was distributed to the Commission for their information. Dr. Timmerman noted that he recently was in Washington for a meeting with the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and \$2.2-million has been approved for the Cheehaw-Combahee Project.



Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that at 6:00 p.m. on October 10, 1991, there would be a dedication of the educational facility at the Webb Wildlife Center and he invited the Commissioners to attend this event.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the General Assembly has been called back by the Governor next week and the Department is seeking passage of the bond bill and he went over the various items which are being sought by the Department in the Bond Bill.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he had some contractual and personnel matters which need to be discussed in Executive Session.

ITEM III - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins went over the material that has been sent to the Commission on the bond bill and noted that some major efforts are under way to seek the passage of this legislation. Mr. Dobbins noted that the Draft 1991 Legislative Proposal has been sent to the Commission and that he would ask the Commission for their action on this proposal at the October Commission Meeting.

ITEM VI - APPEARANCE - Bob Bailey (S. C. Sportsmen's Coalition):

Mr. Bob Bailey of the S. C. Sportsmen's Coalition was introduced and he went over the organization of this group and its purpose. Mr. Bailey noted the goals of the group have been sent out and he gave a detailed status report of their efforts in getting organized to date. He noted that there are forty (40) corporate sponsors and over 300 members that have joined as of this time. Mr. Bailey discussed the various activities of their organization and noted the various plans they will undertake as it relates to the anti-hunting movement in this state. Dr. Timmerman noted that we need to look at ways to tie the efforts of this organization into the Sportsmen's Alliance which is a national organization with similar purposes and goals. John Frampton and Tim Ivey went over the dove protest held recently at the Columbia Office and at one of the adult-child dove hunts. Tapes were shown of these protests and newspaper articles relating to these protests were distributed to the Commission for their information.

ITEM V - NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of 1991 Fall Turkey Season: John Frampton noted that a proposal was sent to the Commission with the background data regarding the 1991 Fall Turkey Season. He noted that based on the data, that a Fall Turkey Season is not recommended in South Carolina during 1991 (copy of data attached to original



Commission Minutes). This matter was discussed with the Commission and following discussion, the Commission approved a motion to adopt the staff recommendation that a Fall Turkey Season not be held in South Carolina during 1991.

B. Fish Kill Reports - Fishing Creek & Coneross Creek: Joe Logan noted that these fish kill reports are being prepared and reported to the Commission in accordance with our Memorandum of Agreement with the S. C. Department of Health & Environmental Control. The Commission deferred action on these fish kill reports until Executive Session.

C. Proposed Property Acquisitions: Since these involve contractual matters, the Commission deferred action on these proposed property acquisitions until Executive Session.

D. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that the final audit report has been completed and sent to the Commissioners.

2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.

3. Law Enforcement & Boating: Bill Chastain reminded the Commissioners of the Awards Luncheon at 1:00 p.m. this afternoon. Bill Chastain noted that officers have assisted on illegal importation cases in Montana and Ohio and an article was recently in National Geographic concerning Operation Fox Trot.

4. Conservation Education & Communications: Commissioner George Graham noted that the Board which he chairs, is working with the staff on the Education Committee and Publications Committee Reports which are being headed up by Larry Cartee.

5. Marine Resources: Paul Sandifer introduced Fred Holland to the Commission as the new Director of the Marine Resources Research Institute.

Dr. Sandifer also informed the Commission of a recent problem with phosphorous in the Ashley River as it related to shrimp baiting.

E. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Law Enforcement & Boating: Commissioner Miller noted that the Board met on September 13, 1991 and went on a tour to get a firsthand view of shrimp baiting activities. Commissioner Miller went over the various items discussed at the Board Meeting.

Commissioner Miller noted that the officers in District 9 had done a commendable job with shrimp baiting and the Commission adopted a motion to commend the District 9 officers for their efforts on shrimp baiting.



2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the federal government has changed the regulations on TEDs and the state has followed to make the same changes as previously approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Pendarvis noted that the Board approved a motion to recommend that the Commission send a letter to the Corps of Engineers that asked for the discontinued use of hopper dredges until winter time. The Commission adopted a motion to approve this recommendation as submitted.

3. Conservation Education & Communications: This report was previously given during the meeting.

F. Other Remarks: There were no further remarks from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Commissioner Graham 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 personnel and contractual 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.

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the report and appraisal for the loss of fisheries in Wildcat Creek and Fishing Creek in York County (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the eight (8) tracts as presented by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board for purchase (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

The Commission adopted a motion to approve the new position of Major in Law Enforcement at Grade Level 46.



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The Commission adopted a motion to approve the Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer appointments to include Douglas Bracken with DWCO authority in Districts 1 and 2 and Van B. Yonce for statewide authority which is a change.

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

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Columbia at 10:00 a.m., on October 18, 1991.

ITEM VI - ADJOURN

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

