

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

James W. Webb Wildlife Center

March 25, 1977

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at the James W. Webb Wildlife Center near Garnett, South Carolina at 10:00 am on March 25, 1977, with Chairman Hudson presiding over the meeting. Other Commissioners present were Boykin, Buchanan, Lumpkin, Edens, Shuler, Trask, and Dennis. Guests present were Senator Waddell, Representative Tison, Frank Caggiano, Gaines Smith (Advisory Board Member), and Ms. Phyllis Mays (formerly with State Personnel). Staff present were Dr. Timmerman, John Culler, John Reeves, Wayne Beam, Jeff Fuller, Al Courie, Larry Cartee, Lewis Rogers, Tommy Welch, Ned Pendarvis, Tommy Strange, Bill Chastain, A. S. Lachicotte and various others.

CALL TO ORDER

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was no call for Executive Session.

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Commissioner Edens made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 1977 Commission Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed.

ITEM II. COMMENTS:

Dr. Timmerman introduced guests present in the meeting. They were Senator James Waddell, Chairman of the Senate Game Fish and Forestry Committee; Representative Wilson Tison, Member of the Sub-Committee of the Ways and Means Committee; Mr. Gaines Smith, Member of the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board; and Ms. Phyllis Mays, formerly with State Personnel Division; and Mr. Frank Caggiano, Research Assistant for Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee. Chairman Hudson welcomed the guests and expressed appreciation for their presence.

Dr. Timmerman reported that approximately \$250,000 has been approved by the Senate Finance Committee to fill some Conservation Officer positions.

Dr. Timmerman also reported that the Laurens County Delegation has made a formal request that Laurens County be transferred from Law Enforcement District One into Law Enforcement District Two. There was some discussion by the Commission regarding this request and it was felt that a meeting should be held between the Laurens County Delegation and the Wildlife Commission to discuss the request. Chairman Hudson instructed Dr. Timmerman to arrange a date, time and place for the meeting and to advise the Commission of the details. Also Law Enforcement Division was requested to look into the matter and get further information on the subject.

Larry Cartee, at the request of Dr. Timmerman, went over briefly the S. C. Administrative Procedures Act in regard to the State Register, particularly on Rules and Regulations. Dr. Timmerman stated that staff has gone back and reviewed all Rules and Regulations issued and any duplications have been eliminated and our agency is up-to-date on this now. Senator Waddell commented that some changes are being made in regard to this procedure. These are that newspaper advertising will no longer be required since this information will be listed in

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the State Register. Tentative agreement from Senator Gressette has been received on taking a positive approach rather than a negative approach and if a Rule and Regulation is found that is not acceptable, then the General Assembly would act on it. This would prevent the Senator from having to review all Rules and Regulations. Also, all Rules and Regulations have been compiled and put on computer.

A list of Departmental Needs and Background Requirements for an Assistant Attorney General was passed out to the Commission and asked for comments within a week or so from the Commission. After receiving comments from the Commission, Dr. Timmerman stated that he would then go before Attorney General McLeod and present the request for someone to fill the vacancy.

Dr. Timmerman presented a copy of the draft of a proposed dedication agreement relating to the Yawkey property at North and South Island near Georgetown, South Carolina, along with a draft copy of his letter back to Mr. Sullivan (Attorney for the Yawkey Estate). Plans are for the property to be transferred to the Wildlife Department June 30, 1977, however, the Trustees of the Yawkey Estate want the Department to go ahead and take over the administrative duties at this time, with expenses being paid by the Trust.

Dr. Timmerman pointed out the need to establish a position for a Small Game Biologist to upgrade the Small Game Program. This is being considered by the Advisory Board. In addition, there is a need to establish a position for an individual to carry out the Department's Fur Bearing Animal Program. Revenue is not available at this time to establish these two programs and to meet the Department's liability of \$175,000 for the fringe benefits program. Commissioner Dennis stated that apparently there is some misunderstanding in regard to the fringe benefit program. He noted that the money needed for the fringe benefit program was to be appropriated to each agency and then paid back and in effect would be a wash out. Commissioner Dennis also stated that he and Senator Waddell would take this matter up with Mr. Putnam.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS:

A. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1977-78 GOOSE SEASON: Tommy Strange reported to the Commission that the Canada Goose population this year was the lowest it has been in several years (12,100). In addition, this was the coldest year on record in a number of years. Waterfowl staff recommended that the option for the duck hunter to take geese be left as it is and to keep the season open. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Waterfowl Symposium held jointly by the Wildlife Department and Ducks Unlimited is scheduled for March 30, 1977 at 10:00 am at the Carolina Inn in Columbia and urged everyone to attend. Chairman Hudson suggested that action on this matter be delayed until after the symposium and the results of that meeting are obtained. Following that meeting, the information obtained can be brought back to the Commission for action at that time. The Commission was in agreement with this.

B. CONSERVATION OFFICER SELECTION PROCEDURE: Al Courie introduced Ms. Phyllis Mays, formerly with State Personnel Division, who developed a

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selection procedure for hiring Conservation Officers. Ms. Mays gave the background information on the Validation Study that was done, pointing out that the Equal Opportunity Employers Commission in Washington has very strict guidelines for personnel selection. The selection procedure was designed by doing a job analysis which included task analysis and a statistical analysis, and each of these analysis were done on a statewide sample. The procedure designed is called Multiple Hurdle Selection Procedure and some of the steps in this procedure are self selection, making application, written tests, and physical tests. These steps are followed by a panel interview with the same questions being asked to each applicant. Applicants are then ranked according to their overall performance and then when a position comes open, the name of the person most qualified is chosen and offered the position. If he cannot take it for some reason, then the next most qualified applicant is offered the position, and so forth. There was lengthy discussion on the subject and Senator Waddell expressed concern about hiring on a statewide basis and feels that it will cause severe problems. Chairman Hudson instructed Dr. Timmerman to see that everyone present in the meeting was mailed a copy of the Conservation Officer Selection Procedure data and that the matter will be held in abeyance until the Commission has had an opportunity to review the material. Commissioner Trask made a motion that Dr. Timmerman be empowered to recommend individuals to fill emergency positions until this new procedure can be studied and acted on by the Commission. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion. Commissioner Dennis clarified the motion to mean where positions are needed to be filled and not necessarily emergencies. The motion was passed.

Chairman Hudson stated that a request has been received from the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to visit Fort Johnson. He suggested setting up the April Commission Meeting at Fort Johnson on April 15th and the House Committee could meet with the Commission at that time. In addition, he stated that if Senator Waddell's Committee wants to join them, it would be fine.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. REQUEST FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND SPECIAL HUNTING AREAS BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: Jeff Fuller reported that a letter had been received in January from Mr. Fernandez requesting special seasons and special areas for primitive weapon hunts near Chester and Fairfield Counties. He was replied to and copies of the letter were sent to the Commission. At that time, Dr. Timmerman asked staff to put information together on this matter and bring it to the Commission. This information was sent to the Commission. Fuller stated that each year the Department is approached by some special interest groups, usually archery or primitive weapon and each time each case is handled individually. He suggested that the Commission appoint a Committee or either go through the Advisory Board to come up with a solution or practice to go by when these matters come up. Lumpkin stated that he was in agreement with this. Chairman Hudson suggested to Fuller that his Division come up with some alternatives on the matter and present it to the Advisory Boards and let them adopt some definite plan on it and present it to the Commission for consideration within the next few months.

B. DIVISION REPORTS:

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1. Administrative Services Division: Reeves stated that he had nothing to add to the written report.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division: Fuller stated that his staff was continuing to work on the preliminary report on the bi-color lespedeza nursery and should have it ready by the next Commission Meeting.

3. Information and Public Affairs Division: Culler stated that he had nothing to add to the written report.

4. Law Enforcement & Boating Division: Chastain stated that he had nothing to add to the written report.

5. Marine Resources Division: Dr. Timmerman reported that he met with Marine Resources staff and the shrimpermen with the Governor in the Governor's office to discuss the white shrimp. The shrimpermen wanted the Department to bring up white roe shrimp from Florida and reseed the coastal area. Shrimp have been killed in most areas all the way down the coast to Florida and the shrimpers are in danger of losing their rigs because they can't meet the payments on them. The possibilities of getting their loans extended is being looked into. Dr. Timmerman stated that he was able to get the Governor of Florida to declare a moratorium on shrimping in Florida. They also asked us to look into the white roe shrimp over on the Gulf Coast where a source is available, however, Dr. Joseph is against this move, since the water temperature is different than ours, they wouldn't survive a normal winter. Dr. Timmerman has instructed Law Enforcement to put a moratorium on shrimping here to allow seed shrimp to get back to us. We are working with the State of Georgia on this also.

6. Natural Area Acquisition and Resources Planning: Beam stated that he had nothing to add to the written report.

C. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS: Nothing to report at this time.

D. SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Dr. Timmerman reported that reviews for the month are in line with two individuals who rated outstanding. A copy of the report was handed to the Chairman for his file.

E. APPOINTMENTS: All appointments have been mailed out prior to the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Timmerman's recommendations for appointments and re-appointments. The motion was passed. Commissioner Edens requested that in the future the names of those being voted on are read alphabetically prior to voting so that everyone will be sure who is being considered.

F. OTHER REMARKS: Chairman Hudson stated that a film will be presented following this meeting on the progress at the Webb Center, along with a tour of the property and lunch. Chairman Hudson also stated that the Commission has a policy not to take up any items at a Commission Meeting unless they were submitted ten (10) days prior to the meeting and reiterated again that these items will not be taken up unless unanimous consent is given.

Commissioner Shuler expressed concern over whether or not our Department

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has properly informed the public on the possible effects of the Rediversion Canal. Commissioner Edens was in agreement with this and stated that he feels a News Release should be put out expressing our concerns. The matter was discussed and it was reported that an article had been published previously, however, it was felt that an up-to-date article should be published to make the citizens of the State aware of the matter. Dr. Timmerman stated that he would meet with the Corp and find out if our requests have been approved or not and work with that. John Culler stated that he would put out an article outlining the fears of this Commission on this project and include what provisions have been made to try to take care of these concerns. The Commission was in agreement with this.

ITEM V. SLIDE PRESENTATION OF STATUS OF WEBB CENTER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: Lewis Rogers gave a report on the status of Webb Center Management Program, which was followed by a slide presentation. Dr. Timmerman suggested that Rogers get with Bob Campbell and get out a News Release on this report, as well as get it to the local paper.

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris S. Murray
Mrs. Chris S. Murray,
Commission Secretary

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