

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza, Columbia, S. C.
May 16, 1980

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at the Dutch Plaza Office, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a. m., May 16, 1980, with Chairman Edens presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Edens, Boykin, Harrelson, Shuler, Dawson, Stubbs, and Pendarvis. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, John Evans, Brock Conrad, Jeff Fuller, Tom Kohlsaas, Dan Dobbins, Duncan Grant, Sonny Baines, Benny Reeves, Mike Creel, Joe Logan, Julie Lumpkin, Stu Greeter, Pat Ryan, Jim Sorrow, Bobby Gifford, Mac Flood and Dr. Joseph. Guests at the meeting included Dr. Jackie Jacobs of the S. C. Wildlife Federation, Pat Robertson of the "Columbia Record", and Whit Gibbons of the Savannah River Ecology Lab.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edens called the meeting to order at 10:00 a. m.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Boykin moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the April 22, 1980 meeting and approve them as submitted. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman brought the Commission up-to-date on several items from the last Commission Meeting and things that have occurred since the last meeting. Dr. Timmerman noted that Mr. Charles Compton, a newly appointed Commissioner effective in July, came to the recent Directors' Staff Meeting and was briefed on the Department's operations. Dr. Timmerman stated that wood for the conference tables in the new building has been donated and funds have been secured for two of the three tables. This leaves \$700 needed for the remaining table and the Commissioners were asked to seek funds from their friends, either individually or collectively, for the remaining table. Dr. Timmerman reported that the Department and PRT are continuing to work on the Mountain Bridge Project. Dr. Timmerman noted that he had received a letter from Governor Riley which stated his support on securing federal funds for the Watson Tract. Dr. Timmerman passed out a copy of this letter and read over it (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Tom Kohlsaas reported that we are in the process of seeking an extension on the option to purchase this tract due to the freeze on federal funding. Dr. Timmerman noted that he



will ask the Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office to endorse this option before he signs it. Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that a news reporter visited with him recently to discuss the selection of an architect for work at the Dennis Center around 1975. Dr. Timmerman went over the details that he could recall of the selection of the architect for this project noting that it was all handled legally. Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that there will probably be an article in the newspaper regarding this matter. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission had discussed the licensing of fishing guides at the last meeting and a draft proposal is being developed. Chairman Edens stated that this will involve a voluntary type listing of guides if they meet certain qualifications. Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the first meeting of the Study Committee on Program Funding was held yesterday and another meeting will be held in about six weeks. Sub-committees have been set up to analyze funding alternatives in different areas. Chairman Edens noted that the group was excellent and took a real interest in what the Department is doing. Laniel Chapman is serving as Chairman of the Study Committee and he is very supportive of the Department. At the next meeting, the sub-committees will meet in the morning and the whole group will meet in the afternoon. By the third meeting later in the summer, we hope to pull together a report from the Study Committee to present to the Governor and legislative committees in the fall and later in the year. Chairman Edens stated that the Commission will be advised when the meeting will be held. Chairman Edens also noted that the Study Committee looked at the broad spectrum of funding in the Department and not just license fees. Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that he had met with Bob Hutton who will serve as Chairman of the Marine Study Committee. The first meeting is scheduled at the Marine Center on June 9-10. Dr. Timmerman noted that a legislative resolution is being proposed to look at the shellfish industry which provides that the Chairman of the Commission shall appoint three (3) members. Chairman Edens stated that Commissioner Dawson will be involved in this and he asked the Commission for their approval for him to appoint Commissioner Dawson and two (2) other members to serve on this committee. Without any objections from the Commission, Chairman Edens noted that he will go ahead with these appointments at the appropriate time. Dr. Timmerman noted that he and some of the staff met with the S. C. Shrimpers Association. They have some concerns in the research area in that they are not benefitting from some of the research being done. Most of the research funds are from federal funds which is not a continuous source of funds for research. This problem is being discussed by the Study Committees. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Shrimpers



Association is going to send out a letter stating that we should be doing more. This will fit into the upcoming Marine Study Committee and an individual will serve on this committee representing the shrimping industry. Dr. Timmerman noted that the South Island ferry has been discussed at several Commission Meetings and other access options are being studied, but nothing has been pinpointed as yet. Services at the ferry have not been what we would like them to be. As such, Dr. Timmerman ask the Commission to appoint a committee to work with the staff to come up with some alternatives for access. Chairman Edens asked Commissioners Dawson and Pendarvis to work with the staff on this matter. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have been criticized in the past for not getting the GMA brochure and Rules and Regulations at the same time the licenses go on sale before July 1st. Dr. Timmerman stated that we are at the point where we have to decide whether to hold up on the brochure until all our rules and regulations are approved or to go ahead with the brochure including the proposed regulations that have not yet been approved by the General Assembly. Jeff Fuller discussed this matter in detail and there was extensive discussion of this by the Commission. Commissioner Pendarvis moved that we hold up on printing the GMA brochure and do not print it until we know actually what the rules and regulations will be and then expedite printing of the brochure as soon as we can. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins reported that Legislative Report #11 has been mailed out to the Commission and there is nothing further to report.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Proposed Regulations on the Sale of Native Reptiles and Amphibians: Tom Kohlsaas noted that a proposed regulation which would prohibit the sale of native reptiles and amphibians for commercial purposes was discussed at the last Commission meeting. Mr. Kohlsaas noted that some people claimed they would be hurt by this regulation and the Commission suggested that this regulation be looked at some more to take care of various problems. This is still being worked on and different alternatives are being evaluated. Mr. Kohlsaas noted that he felt it would be good to present some more background information to aid in making a decision on this matter. Mr. Kohlsaas introduced Dr. Whit Gibbons of the Savannah Ecology Lab of the University of Georgia who is a professional herpetologist. Dr. Gibbons noted that there are more species of reptiles and amphibians in South Carolina than any other state in the nation.



A number of other states are ahead of South Carolina in regulating and protecting reptiles and amphibians. Dr. Gibbons noted that reptiles and amphibians fit into our complex environment and a lot of animals depend on them. Dr. Gibbons stated that South Carolina is being exploited by collectors and means are needed to protect reptiles and amphibians. Dr. Gibbons showed various reptiles and amphibians to the Commission, including an Indigo snake which is now endangered. Following his presentation, Commissioner Pendarvis asked Dr. Gibbons about the proposed regulation which has been discussed. Dr. Gibbons noted that these are renewable resources and he agreed with the proposal to prohibit commercial collecting. Tom Kohlsaas noted that the proposed regulation will be further developed and brought back to the Commission at a later date.

B. Progress Report on Proposed Commercial Fishing Legislation: Jeff Fuller reported that Freddy Zeigler has been working on this proposal and it was received this past Tuesday. This is being reviewed by staff and should be completed by May 30th. At this time, it will have to be put into a form that will amend and/or repeal various laws as needed. Dr. Timmerman suggested that we try to get this proposal in a form for review by the Commission by July. In addition, Dr. Timmerman noted that this proposal will have to be sold to legislators and other individuals and he requested that Mr. Fuller work closely with Dan Dobbins on this matter.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Space Reassignment at Cooperative Research Facility: Dr. Joseph noted that an agreement exists between the Commission and the Commission on Higher Education regarding space assignments at the building at the Marine Center for use by the colleges and universities. The Medical University has requested a change in the relative assignment of space between themselves and the College of Charleston whereby they would use some of the rooms and space currently assigned to the College of Charleston. The College of Charleston has agreed to give up some of their space to the Medical University. Dr. Joseph stated that this would not be any expense to the Department and would not take away from our space. As such, Dr. Joseph asked the Commission for approval to negotiate this change in space assignments with the Medical University and the College of Charleston. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve this recommendation as long as it is mutually agreeable to all parties concerned. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.



Commissioner Harrelson noted that the Fort Johnson radio station was being manned on a 24-hour basis by law enforcement personnel. Commissioner Harrelson stated that he has trouble hearing the Fort Johnson station, but the Parler Station can be heard in different parts of the state. Commissioner Harrelson asked about the effectiveness of the Fort Johnson station and noted that he thought that personnel from other divisions would help man this station at night. Dr. Joseph stated that law enforcement was going to man this station through May and that he has twelve (12) of his staff to start helping man the station in June. Pat Ryan stated that the Parler station is a strong station, but it is not able to cover the coast as does the Fort Johnson station. Mr. Ryan noted that the existing system is on a trial basis and is being monitored to recommend necessary changes which are identified. Commissioner Shuler stated that a joint Law Enforcement & Boating and Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board meeting is scheduled this month at which time this matter can be discussed and brought back to the Commission in June. Commissioner Harrelson also noted that he had been informed that only one brand name of boat can be purchased by the Department. Mr. Ryan stated that this is not the case as specifications are written and General Services gets bids for the boats which are purchased. Any boat manufacturer that makes a boat to meet the specifications can bid.

B. Proposed Use of Property at Victoria Bluff by the Beaufort County Board of Education: Chairman Edens noted that correspondence with the Beaufort County School Board has been mailed out and they are requesting fifty (50) acres of land at the Victoria Bluff site for a future school. Chairman Edens asked if this property had been placed in the Heritage Trust. Tom Kohlsaas stated that the Commission has approved regulations on the property, but it has not been officially dedicated under the Heritage Trust. The Heritage Trust Advisory Board meets in June and will consider a proposal to dedicate the property. The next step will be to come to the Commission with a dedication agreement. Chairman Edens stated that he had contacted Senator Waddell to get his reaction to their request and he recommended that if the Commission could give it favorable consideration, then they should be given six (6) months to one (1) year to decide if they want our site or another site. There were also several conditions which were discussed which included: 1) give the Board an option of six months to one year on the property; 2) use the standards from the State Department of Education to determine the acreage needed for the school; 3) the Department would have the final say so on the particular site on our property for location of the



school; 4) if the property is given to the School Board, they would be responsible for putting up a six-foot cyclone fence at their expense to make sure there is no ingress and egress to our remaining property; and 5) if at any time, before or after construction of a building, the property ever ceased to be used as a school, the property would revert to the Heritage Trust. Commissioner Harrelson asked how this would affect the proposed use of the property. It was noted that rifle hunting had been proposed on this tract, but this could not be done if a school is located there due to the safety factor. There was some discussions on this proposal and Commissioner Harrelson suggested that the Chairman respond to the School Board noting that the Commission has great reluctance to break into this property due to its unique characteristics and location and to exhaust all other efforts for other sites before they come back to the Commission for a further request. Following other discussion, Chairman Edens stated that he would respond to the School Board that their request was presented to the Commission and no decision was reached, but there was a negative reaction and the question is still open with the conditions mentioned earlier. As such, Chairman Edens noted that we will delay action on this and he would write a letter regarding the feelings of the Commission.

C. Division Reports:

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

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

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

4. Information & Public Affairs: Sonny Baines asked Mike Creel to make a brief presentation on "The Resource". Mike Creel noted that this paper is now being mailed out to 178,000 people in the state. Printing and mailing costs for this paper runs less than .15¢ per issue. This paper contains the same amount of information as about twenty pamphlets. Mr. Creel asked the Commission to consider the role of this publication in the Department as it is quite valuable to the Department. Mr. Creel noted that we need some direction on financial support to continue this paper. About \$5,000 will be needed to work new people into the mailing list and about \$2,000 a year will be needed to maintain the mailing list. Dr. Timmerman noted that within a couple of years, we will have a fairly accurate list for this worthwhile publication. Benny Reeves informed the Commission that publication of this paper puts the IPA budget in a bind. It costs



about \$26,000 per issue, or \$52,000 per year. It is recommended that this cost for printing and postage be spread to all Divisions as IPA is not budgeted for this publication. Commissioner Harrelson asked about advertising in this paper. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Budget and Control Board has frowned on this in regard to it competing with the private sector. Chairman Edens stated that we need to continue the paper and work out the financial details in our budgeting in the Department. Dr. Timmerman noted that at the next staff meeting, we will look at each division to see what can be done to finance this paper and come back to the Commission with a recommendation. Commissioner Harrelson moved that the Commission approve the semi-annual publication of "The Resource" and for the staff to recommend the financing or how to find the money to support the publication to the Commission. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

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

D. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Pendarvis stated that the Minutes of the last meeting have been mailed out where the catfish farming was discussed at length. The next meeting will be a joint meeting on May 29th with the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was no report from the Board this month.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Dawson asked Dr. Joseph to present a formal action made by the Marine Advisory Board. Dr. Joseph noted that in the oyster lease system, there is a practice of leaseholders frequently assigning their lease to another party, either in part or entirely. The law provides that this can be done, but only with the permission of the leaseholder. After the Board began its study of the lease system, Mr. Pritchard (who hold a lease just north of Charleston) indicated that he wanted to assign his lease to another party, Mr. Danny Windham. Dr. Joseph noted that he was reluctant to recommend this transfer initially while this study is going on. However, the joint resolution now being considered by the General Assembly would freeze the entire system for about two (2) years. The Marine Advisory Board felt that since this application for a transfer had already come in, that it recommended the Commission go ahead and act on this transfer. Dr. Joseph noted that, if this transfer is approved, the new leaseholder would only have it for the remaining term of the original lease which is about two (2) years.



As such, Dr. Joseph stated that the Marine Advisory Board recommends that this transfer be approved by the Commission. Commissioner Harrelson moved that this lease be approved by the Commission for transferring from Mr. Pritchard to Mr. Windham subject to the legality of the action as determined by the Assistant Attorney General. Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

4. Heritage Trust: Dr. Timmerman noted that this Board will meet in June and there will be a report at the next meeting.

E. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman reported that the Committee has met and one Division has five (5) "Outstandings". The Division Director with these has been talked to and it is understood that only a limited amount of funds are available for all personnel in the Division for the fiscal year. Dr. Timmerman noted that he recommended this report be approved as submitted. Commissioner Boykin recommended approval of this report as submitted and this was seconded by Commissioner Dawson. There was some discussion of the manner in which the performance evaluation system is handled and how funds are allocated for merit raises in the Department. Chairman Edens stated that he would like to start receiving the Salary Review Committee report each month.

F. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). It was noted that Grayson Easterlin, Jr. should be stricken from this list since he has terminated his employment with the Department. Pursuant to this being stricken, the Commission adopted motions to approve all DWCO and Conservation Officer appointments and re-appointments as recommended. Chairman Edens asked about the status of the DWCO appointment of an individual at Westvaco which was discussed at the last meeting. Pat Ryan noted that Captain Dennis is supposed to contact Commissioner Harrelson to discuss this, but Commissioner Harrelson stated that he has not heard from him. Chairman Edens asked that this be handled and have for action at the next meeting.

G. Other Remarks: Commissioner Pendarvis noted that we have negotiated with Smith and Wesson for a commemorative pistol which will be available to qualified individuals. Bobby Gifford went over the details of this matter noting



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that the qualified individuals would include Conservation Officers, retired Conservation Officers, game and fish personnel with a commission, Dr. Timmerman, Commissioners and maybe past members of the Commission. Following other discussion, Commissioner Harrelson moved that if there is no financial obligation on the Department, that Department personnel be authorized to handle the deposits and paperwork individually and to go ahead with this proposal. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Edens noted that we will proceed with this project and for the staff to bring back a list to the Commission on who is eligible.

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Edens stated that the next meeting will be held in Columbia on June 13, 1980.

ITEM VI. ADJOURN

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

