

## MINUTES

### SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING Bankers Trust Tower Columbia, South Carolina

May 21, 1976

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Bankers Trust Tower Conference Room in Columbia, South Carolina at 10:00 am, May 21, 1976 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were: Rhame, Boykin, Buchanan and Glenn. Directors and staff members present were: Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Mr. Culler, Mr. Reeves, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Latimer, Dr. Laurent, Mr. Pendarvis, Mr. Fields, Mr. Chastain, Mr. Kohlsatt, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Cartee, and others. Guests present at the meeting were: Mr. James Webb, Advisor to the Commission, Mr. Frank Caggiano, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Mr. Coy Johnston, WESTVACO - Member of the Game and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board, Mr. Woodrow Green of Southern Railroad - Member of the Turkey Advisory Board, Mr. Clark Surratt, State Newspaper and various others.

#### CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION: No motion was made to hold an Executive Session at this time.

READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Commissioner Boykin made a motion to accept the Minutes of the April 1976 meeting as written. Commissioner Rhame seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved.

#### COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman reported that he had received a letter from Dr. Knisely, President of the Medical University requesting the Department's permission to continue to landscape a portion of Department property which adjoins the property where their President's residence is located at Fort Johnson in conjunction with a renovation of the house. Timmerman stated that he could foresee no problems in this matter and with the approval of the Commission he would work up an agreement with them. There was no objection by the Commission and Dr. Timmerman will proceed and notify Dr. Knisely.

A chart was passed out to the Commission regarding the "Percentage Allocations of Revenues Concerning Administration and Information-Education Activities of Fish and Game Departments Showing nationwide averages, South Carolina and three other states. A copy of this will be mailed to the Commissioners not present at this meeting. The 1970 Survey by the WMI showed that nationwide averages for game and fish agencies allocated 11% of budgets to Administration and 4% to informational services. Currently, we allocate 10.3% of our budget for administration and 5.1% for Information and Public Affairs, excluding the magazine. Our department is well within line in this matter.

In regard to the plaques for display at the Marine Center, Dr. Timmerman stated that the Committee has met and has instructed him to go ahead with the project. Proofs will be available following this meeting for inspection by the Commission. The plaques can be ready by the next meeting.

Dr. Timmerman reported that starting July 1, 1976, any item on the agenda for the Commission Meeting will be supplemented by any related Commission actions back to 1970. These will be identified by the existing index of the Commission Minutes. Benny Reeves noted that Commission action on any matter can usually be identified in the previous Minutes within 15 minutes by utilizing the existing index.



Relative to General Harris' inquiry concerning publication of small game brochures, Dr. Timmerman noted that such will cost about \$8,000. Due to the tight money situation, the Department has not been able to expend funds for these brochures. However, this is being given high priority in our new fiscal year starting July 1, 1976, and will be line-itemed internally to assure that funds are available. John Culler has the material for the brochures and will go out for bids shortly.

A Tabulation of Bids for the reconstruction of the Dennis Wildlife Center (Laboratory-Administration Building) was passed out to the Commission. The low bid was received from Powers Construction Company from Florence. Upon approval from the engineers and architects that the company is properly bonded, Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission's approval to award the contract to this company and go ahead with construction. Commissioner Rhame made a motion to proceed, subject to the approval of this contractor by the architect. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buchanan and passed.

Dr. Timmerman stated that he and Jeff Fuller recently met with Clemson University Extension personnel. They have undertaken an expansion of their education, research and extension activities related to wildlife and seek to cooperate with the Department on this matter. They have invited the Commission to hold its July meeting in Clemson so they can explain their program. Chairman Hudson noted that he has met with personnel at Clemson and they are undertaking an earnest effort to work with the Department on this extension service. There being no objections, the Commission agreed to meet in Clemson in July and Dr. Timmerman will proceed with making the arrangements.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the personnel section is developing a formalized procedure for hiring law enforcement officers. This should be presented by the Law Enforcement staff at the July or August Commission Meeting.

In addition, Dr. Timmerman stated that the staff is beginning work on reconstructing Title 28. Talks with Senator Waddell and Representative Bennett indicate they feel that it is time to modernize this section of the statutes. Each Division Director with Title 28 responsibility will begin analyzing and developing proposals. Bill Cotty will coordinate this matter by developing a procedure and time-table for this. When the specific needs are identified, they will be brought to the Commission for their endorsement. Chairman Hudson noted that the laws need to be standardized for the State and talks with Senator Waddell revealed that he wants to closely analyze the laws so as to allow more discretion for the Department to set seasons, regulations, etc.

Dr. Timmerman stated that he has requested each Division Director to develop a policy statement to more clearly define the role of the Department. When this is compiled, it will be submitted to the Commission for endorsement. He also noted that he has asked John Culler to take a close look at the magazine and the role it plays in the Department.

There are several employees that have served twenty (20) or thirty (30) years that are to receive service pins. This met with the approval of the Commission therefore, these employees will be invited to attend the next Commission Meeting to receive these pins which will be presented to them by the Commission.

## ITEM II: OLD BUSINESS

A. TURTLE ISLAND USE PLAN: Jeff Fuller reported that the Game and Freshwater Fish Advisory Board met and endorsed the Plan as developed with the inclusion that



marsh hen hunting be allowed. Therefore, Mr. Fuller made a recommendation to the Commission that they accept this Plan with that change for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Rhame, seconded by Commissioner Boykin and passed to approve this recommendation.

B. COST OF OPERATING DEPARTMENT VEHICLES: Benny Reeves passed out the Minutes of the Game and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board which will be included in the Commission package in the future. In addition, he distributed a package on vehicle operation cost for the Commission to review. Reeves noted that the primary problem with the existing vehicle operation cost system is that equipment numbers are not properly recorded on bills, gas tickets, etc. Thus, the data for the system is not accurate. However, upon review of vehicles whereby reliable data has been obtained, it is costing 7 - 9¢/ mile for operation. Within the next six (6) months, there will be a random sampling of twenty-four (24) vehicles in six (6) different classes to see what it costs to operate various classes of vehicles. Dr. Timmermann noted that corrective measures will be taken with the computer system and an annual printout will be used to identify any excessive operating costs. Reeves reported that the reason for the random sampling is to attain operating costs for various classes of vehicles. Presently, General Services who handles vehicle acquisition, takes the low bid on vehicle needs. Operating costs are not taken into consideration. Chairman Hudson noted that this procedure will produce a median for various classes for comparison purposes and as a basis of argument to not necessarily acquire vehicles on a low bid basis. Commissioner Glenn stated that we should use data on all vehicles for this matter.

C. PROPOSED PLAQUES FOR DISPLAY AT MARINE CENTER: This item has been covered on page one (1), under Comments, paragraph number three (3) of these Minutes.

ITEM III: NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROPOSED FISH STOCKING POLICY: Jeff Fuller introduced a proposed fish stocking policy for the Commission's endorsement. There are two (2) major changes in this policy. First, it sets a deadline of September 1st each year for applying for bluegill and largemouth bass. The applications will be sent to District Biologists to determine if fish are needed or not. If an application is received after September 1st, it will be honored if fish are available. However, there will have to be some arrangements developed for the individual to acquire the fish. Second, Mr. Fuller noted that various requests are received of which the staff is unsure how to best handle. This refers to requests from politicians and influential people, but there is no biological need for the fish and in some cases may be detrimental to an existing fishery. Such cases should be presented to the Commission for its decision on whether or not to stock. Chairman Hudson noted that this refers to requests for additional fish to be stocked on public or private waters. A motion was made by Commissioner Boykin and seconded by Commissioner Rhame to approve Fuller's recommendation on this matter. The motion was passed. Chairman Hudson brought up the matter of how we could better inform the public that fish are available. He suggested possibly some news releases containing all of this information would be good.

Chairman Hudson took a moment to recognize all guests in the meeting and introduced Dr. Jay Hair, President of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation who came over from Clemson to attend the meeting.



B. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES: Benny Reeves stated that the legislature had approved bonds for Phase II of Dennis Center and the Federal Food Technology Lab at Fort Johnson. The 1976-77 Budget approved by the House was distributed to the Commission. The Senate Finance Committee has review this budget and submitted it to the Senate for their review, adding \$125,000 for law enforcement vehicles and \$13,000 for NARP salaried personnel. In regard to provisos, Reeves noted that the staff has objected to such on travel as it is redundant and the Executive Director cannot sign all travel vouchers. The Senate Finance Committee has stricken this proviso. The carryover of the freshwater fishery funds for Dennis Center is included. In addition, a proviso that would enable no charge for Department owned housing in remote areas is included in the budget. In regard to page 347 of the General Appropriations Bill that has passed the House, Section 39 it states that any and all aircraft and watercraft owned by agencies of the State Government should be used only for official business or lifesaving emergency and any violations of restricted use shall be subject to immediate dismissal. Also that a log on the use of planes will be filed with the Aeronautics Commission and the passengers legal name will be used in the logs. Our office will retain a copy. Reeves also noted that there is a Bill introduced stating that license agents do not have to be bonded. In 1970, the Commission adopted a policy that all license agents will be bonded. Reeves was checking to see if this remains the the policy of the Commission. Chairman Hudson stated that this policy remains in effect. Cotty noted that there is a Bill in the House that would raise the non-resident hunting and fishing license fees. As such, the license agents fee would also be raised substantially to provide them more incentive to check identification for non-residents. Cotty also noted that one matter that will be addressed next year is uniform fines throughout the state. Cotty also noted that there was a Bill to change the name of the Water Resources Commission to the Water and Natural Resources Commission which had been tabled. Commissioner Buchanan noted that the staff should analyze the need to increase boat and motor registration and titling fees. Cotty stated that such an increase is planned for introduction next year. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Administrative Services staff is analyzing this matter. Such will be discussed at the upcoming Law Enforcement Advisory Board meeting. Cotty stated that the on-line computer terminal should help alleviate the existing registration and titling back-log. In addition, better transaction cost data should be attained. Commissioner Rhame noted that he has received numerous complaints on the time required to process titles and and registrations and asked what is wrong with the existing system. Reeves noted that the problem is the law in that forms are not properly filled out or notarized. Thus, a back-log is created due to the legal requirements. Chastain noted that he has instructed his Officers not to enforce the law if a boater states that he has filed for his registration and/or titles. Reeves noted that all purchases have been stopped as of May 15th and his Division will be in line at the end of the fiscal year. Dr. Timmerman noted that no Divisions would over-run their budgets this fiscal year. Chairman Hudson asked about the status of a proposal in the budget for use of county funds. Cotty and Latimer discussed a proviso in the budget concerning this matter. Latimer stated that with the last sentence in the proviso as worded, County Delegations can expend these funds as they please within the realm of existing statues. As such, efforts will be undertaken to have this last sentence stricken from the budget.



Dr. Timmerman noted that we have several employees paid from county funds and if such were not approved by existing County Delegations, they could not be absorbed by the Department.

2. GAME & FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION: Fuller reported that his staff has planned a quail and dove symposium on June 16th in Columbia at the Carolina Inn. This seminar will be co-sponsored by Clemson University. In addition, Fuller noted that the Task Force recommended that the Division's name be changed to the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries as it better describes their realm of responsibility. As such, he recommended that such be adopted by the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that this is the trend as the International Association has changed their name and the Southeastern plans to change its name. Commissioner Rhame moved that such be adopted, Commissioner Boykin seconded the motion and the Commission approved the motion. Chairman Hudson noted that the recent duck symposium was very successful.

3. INFORMATION & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION: Culler noted that his staff will put out a sportsmen calendar that will run from September to September so that hunting seasons can be included. Seasons will be identified, significant dates will be recognized, and color pictures will be printed for each month that can be framed. The calendar will be advertised and orders taken before such is printed. Cost will be about \$3.00 or \$4.00. In regard to the I & PA budget, Culler noted that they will spend \$370-380,000 on the magazine this fiscal year. By June 1st \$300,000 in revenue should have been received. There are a number of existing promotions and they may take in \$65-70,000 in June. Therefore, the budget for the magazine will only over-run by \$10-15,000, but the Division as a whole will not over-run. In regard to the newspaper subscriptions, Culler noted that these are being received at the rate of 100 per day.

4. LAW ENFORCEMENT & BOATING DIVISION: Chastain reported that the problem of bass boats speeding in the Diverson Canal has been checked out and can be handled by routine patrol. Also, extra patrol will be provided during bass tournaments. Commissioner Buchanan asked about the status of statewide hiring of Conservation Officers which was adopted by the Commission. Chastain reported that the Personnel Division is working with the law enforcement staff to develop criteria, testing, panel review, etc., so as to assure that the most qualified individual is hired. The personnel staff has been very cooperative in this matter and is doing an outstanding job. Dr. Timmerman noted that a package will be developed for presentation by the law enforcement staff at the July or August Commission Meeting. If the package is adopted by the Commission, it will be the policy that the staff follows to implement statewide hiring. Chastain suggested that the Personnel Section report at the next Commission Meeting on the status of this matter.

5. MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION: Dr. Joseph reported that the shrimp season opened on May 14, 1976. Due to unfavorable weather, initial catches were not very good. These catches are bringing \$3.60-3.80 per pound ex-vessel, but the price should drop as the season progresses. He also noted that Coy Johnston and WESTVACO personnel have been very cooperative with the problem of a sunken barge in an area that the Corps is trying to dredge. In addition, Dr. Joseph stated that next year's budget for the Division looks very slim. However, it is anticipated that this can be



overcome with new grants and contracts. Most of these relate to BLM offshore studies. Another possibility is a contract with DOI on an ecological characterization of the South Carolina and Georgia coast. The Division will try to secure this contract, but will be competing with a number of private business such as Texas Instruments, etc.

6. NATURAL AREA ACQUISITION & RESOURCE PLANNING: Dr. Laurent noted that the Heritage Trust Bill has been ratified and awaits the Governor's signature. The Coastal Zone Bill will be before the House when they reconvene on June 9th. There are hopes that it will pass the House, but are fairly certain that the Governor will veto the Bill.

C. SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Dr. Timmerman reported that all increment increases have been reviewed and they all are in order. This report will be turned over to the Chairman of the Commission as usual.

D. ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS:

1. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph reported that the Marine Advisory Board has not met since the last Commission Meeting.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating - Game & Freshwater Fisheries: These groups recently held a joint meeting with the Turkey Advisory Group. They discussed and endorsed the Turtle Island Use Plan to include marsh hen hunting. In addition, the Board discussed whether or not additional wildlife foods may be available for use in the State. This will be further discussed and Mr. Fuller's staff will analyze the matter. WESTVACO and the U.S. Forest Service have an interest in exploring and cooperating on this matter. Commissioner Rhame noted that the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board had no agenda and sat in on their meeting.

3. Heritage Trust: Chairman Hudson reported that there has been a great deal of activity with individuals talking with Dr. Laurent about inclusion of property into the Heritage Trust Program.

E. APPOINTMENTS: Dr. Timmerman reported that all appointments have been mailed to the Commission for their action. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to approve the recommendations subject to the approval of the resident Commissioners. 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,

*Christine Stapleton*

(Miss) Christine Stapleton,  
Commission Secretary

