

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Room 335, Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, S. C.
November 20, 1992
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, November 20, 1992, 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, Miller, Haynesworth, Rasor, Poston, Graham, and Leary. Directors and staff members present included: Dr. Timmerman, Dan Dobbins, Paul Sandifer, Brock Conrad, Benny Reeves, Sonny Baines, Buford Mabry 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 October 16, 1992 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II - COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman reported that he and Benny Reeves had recently attended a meeting of the Budget and Control Board where the state's financial picture for the fiscal year 1993-94 was discussed. He handed out a document showing the anticipated income for the state for the fiscal year, as well as the anticipated additional expenses, pointing out these expenses greatly exceeded anticipated income.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that he, Dan Dobbins, Larry Cartee, Benny Reeves and the Division Directors had been working to develop a game plan to make the General Assembly aware of the Department's budgetary needs for the next fiscal year. He stated that Conservation, Education and Communication Division had prepared a video that outlines very succinctly the financial position that the Department finds itself in at this time; the Commission then viewed the video. Dan Dobbins then gave the Commission a brief outline of the types of activities that would be undertaken in the next few months to make the General Assembly aware of the Department's budgetary needs and the problems that have been caused by the budget cuts over the last several years.



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Dr. Timmerman then distributed to each Commissioner a copy of the Department's organizational chart for their information, pointing out some of the recent changes which have been made in the Department's organization.

Dr. Timmerman stated that at the last Commission meeting, there was some discussion of the impact of the widening of Highway 17 on the ACE Basin. He stated that staff was monitoring this situation, and pointed out that Andrew Phillips could answer any question that individual Commissioners might have after the meeting, and asked that this be placed on the Commission agenda for the next meeting.

Dr. Timmerman stated that at the last Director's staff meeting, a list of items had been prepared delineating ideas that the Department might institute to save money during the coming months. He stated that staff will refine these ideas, and that at the next Commission meeting, he would like to present the refined list to the Commission to seek their input.

Dr. Timmerman then briefed the Commission on an Administrative Policy that had been put into place dealing with "frequent flyer" points accrued during airline travel. He stated that steps were being taken to insure that any frequent flyer points that are accrued for Department business are then applied to future trips for Department business so that these savings could be recouped by the agency.

Dr. Timmerman then called on Bill Chastain who introduced Mr. Bill Garrett, retired Chief of Security for Southern Bell, who was then awarded the Commission's Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and Aide-de-Camp Award for service to the Department.

ITEM III - 1991-92 DIVISION EMPLOYEE AWARDS

Dr. Timmerman and Chairman Burnside then officiated at the awarding of the 1991-92 Division Employee Awards.

ITEM IV - OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion - Feral Hogs: Commissioner Miller stated that the recommendations that will be made were a result of the work done by a joint committee from the Law Enforcement & Boating Advisory Board and the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board, and asked Brock Conrad to present the joint committee's recommendations. It was pointed out that a copy of the Feral Hog Committee Report dated November 12, 1992 had been forwarded to



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the Commission and contained four specific recommendations for the Commission to consider. There ensued a lengthy discussion of the Committee's deliberations and their recommendations. Mr. Conrad stated that he would take each recommendation in order and asked the Commission to vote on each one.

Mr. Conrad then discussed recommendation "(A) The release of hogs into the wild be prohibited statewide". After a brief discussion, Mr. Miller made the motion that the recommendation be adopted, Mr. Haynsworth seconded, and it was adopted.

Mr. Conrad then discussed recommendation "(B) That existing law 50-11-380 be amended to include Game Zones 2 and 4." Mr. Conrad then discussed this recommendation and informed the Commission that the joint advisory boards' meeting on this issue had tabled this recommendation and, therefore, have no recommendation at this time. After a brief discussion of this recommendation, the Commission took no action.

Mr. Conrad then discussed recommendation "(C) That hunting of hogs with dogs be prohibited in Game Zones 1, 2, and 4, except in Game Zone 1 during bear season". After a brief discussion, Commissioner Graham made the motion that recommendation be adopted, Commission Leary seconded; the motion failed.

Mr. Conrad then proceeded to explain recommendation "(D) That hunting of hogs and deer inside a fenced enclosure be prohibited". After a brief discussion, Commissioner Graham made a motion that the Commission approve recommendation (D) in concept, but that all the recommendations approved by the Commission be put into a piece of draft legislation to be submitted to them for final approval at the next Commission meeting, Commissioner Leary seconded the motion, and the motion passed, with Commissioner Haynsworth asking that his opposition to recommendation (D) be noted in the minutes.

B. Transco Project: Commissioner Miller stated that he had discussed the Transco Project at the last Commission meeting, and his understanding at that time was that there may be fairly serious environmental concerns with the project as it had been originally proposed. He stated that since that time, the Company had applied for a permit which did not include many of the objectionable environmental aspects which had been originally proposed. After a brief discussion, Dr. Timmerman instructed Ed Duncan and Andrew Phillips, the Department's Environmental Coordinators, to continue to monitor this project and to report to the Commission at subsequent meetings.



C. HIV/Hepatitis Report: Chairman Burnside then called on Robert McCullough, the Department's Training Officer, to provide an extensive briefing on the recent federal law and regulation requiring that the Department's employees be protected through an exposure control plan for HIV and Hepatitis infection. Lt. McCullough stated that the Department had put a plan into effect and should be in compliance before the next Commission meeting and he would continue to make reports as necessary to keep the Commission advised on this matter.

ITEM V - NEW BUSINESS

A. 1993 Legislative Proposal: Dan Dobbins reported that the draft proposal had been mailed to the Commission and asked Dr. Sandifer to briefly review a new proposal being made by the Marine Advisory Board. Dr. Sandifer briefly discussed the proposal concerning the changes in the red drum legislation recommended by the Marine Advisory Board. Commissioner Miller made a motion that it be adopted as part of the proposal; Commissioner Haynsworth seconded, and the motion passed. After a brief further discussion of the proposal, Commissioner Miller made the motion that the Draft Commission Proposal be adopted and sent to the General Assembly; Commissioner Poston seconded, and the motion passed. Mr. Dobbins stated that the Commission would be provided draft copies of bills as soon as they were prepared.

B. 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. Conservation Education & Communications: Sonny Baines distributed information to the Commission concerning Mr. Don Winslow's involvement in providing a Project WILD Workshop and Program to the National Commission for Wildlife and Conservation and Development in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Baines commended Mr. Winslow for the effort and stated that it reflects well for the Department's Project WILD Program that our staff was involved in this project.

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

C. Advisory Board Reports:

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



2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Miller stated that the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board had met following the joint advisory board meeting and gave a briefing of what was discussed at that meeting. He stated that the Advisory Board had discussed extensively the possibility of allowing our Law Enforcement and Boating Division personnel to make special exceptions for handicapped individuals relating to the hunting and fishing regulations adopted by the Department. After a brief discussion, staff was requested to explore this matter thoroughly and recommend any action to the Commission at a later meeting.

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

4. Heritage Trust: Stuart Greeter reported on the Heritage Trust Advisory Board meeting and thanked Chairman Burnside for hosting a joint Heritage Trust Advisory Board and Nature Conservancy Board meeting at Millaree. Mr. Greeter reminded the Commission of the dedication for the Pacolet River Heritage Preserve at the Spartanburg County Administration Building at 10:00 a.m. on December 4, and stated that a tour would take place subsequent to that dedication.

There were no further remarks from the Commissioners and at this time, Commissioner Miller moved for the Commission to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal 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 legal and personnel 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.

D. Turkey Season: At this time, Brock Conrad presented a recommendation to the Commission to expand the turkey season into Lee, Chesterfield, Sumter and part of Lexington Counties, with a two bird limit. Commissioner Poston made a motion that the recommendation be adopted, Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

E. Conservation, Education and Communication Advisory Board Vacancy: Commissioner Graham made a motion that the existing vacancy on the Conservation, Education and Communication Advisory Board from the Commission be filled by Robert E. Livingston, III; Commission Leary seconded the motion, and the motion passed.



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F. Appointments (Executive Session): Commissioner Miller made the motion that the Commission accept the recommendation from staff on DWCO appointments, including the disapproval of David T. Market, the change of authority for Charles D. Godley, Jr., the statewide authority for Leonard Mishoe, and the pilot position of Chris McIntosh. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

G. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Burnside thanked everyone for coming, stating that the Commission would not hold a meeting in December and that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be the third Friday in January, 1993 in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building.

ITEM VI - ADJOURN

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

