

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA AUGUST 11, 1967
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Present were Commissioners Eltzroth, Cantey, Glenn, Mishoe, Eppes and Jones, Directors Webb and Lunz, Pat Ryan, Lockwood Brown, Frank Nelson, Jeff Fuller, Ed Latimer, Alex Willis, J. O. Sullivan, W. S. Baldwin and Gilbert Maggioni.

The first part of the meeting was taken up with certain oyster lease matters. (These were taken down by Court Stenographer T. Hardin Jewett and will be available at a later date.)

Following the hearing on the Commercial Fisheries matter, at which Mr. Maggioni was heard, the Commission adopted a motion of Mr. Cantey that decision on the matter be deferred until the afternoon.

After an executive session, Mr. Eltzroth said the following actions were taken:

"The Commission studied the proposal of Clemson University regarding the provision of a Master's program in Marine Biology and unanimously voted its approval and support of the Clemson program dated August 1967; and has authorized the Chairman of the Commission to act as a committee of one to meet with the Governor and the President of Clemson University on behalf of the Commission and to negotiate in the name of the Commission."

"The Commission also voted unanimously that it is the policy of the Commission that all of its biologists shall be commissioned as Conservation Officers with the approval of the Director of the Division of Game in so far as the Division of Game is concerned and with the approval of the Director of Commercial Fisheries in so far as the biologists of the Fisheries Division are concerned."

Mr. Eltzroth said he had just talked with Rep. Leamond of Charleston on the telephone regarding the disposition of spoil material in Charleston harbor. He told of a meeting held with the Governor where Department officials and other agency officials were present; and also said a meeting would be held in Washington next Tuesday, August 15, at which the question of depositing spoil material on marshlands would be brought up. He said he hoped something could be worked out and that it was

primarily a question of the value of the port vs. the value of the marshlands.

Dr. Lunz pointed out that there were several oyster leases in the area.

Reports on the cost operation of vehicles were presented by Dr. Lunz and Director Webb.

The question of fishing reefs then came up, Mr. Eltzroth relating discussions he had had with Rep. Hartnett, chairman of the legislative committee, which has now expired. He said that the committee had favored the erection of reefs in Georgetown, Charleston and Beaufort counties; and that as close as possible to \$10,00 of the \$30,000 appropriated be allotted each county, after administrative costs had been subtracted.

Mr. Eltzroth said it was up to the Commission to determine how to go about allocating the money and said the Commission also had a responsibility as to the location of the reefs.

Mr. Latimer said that three applications from the Beaufort Outdoorama had been received by the U. S. Engineers.

Mr. Eltzroth stated that he had an appointment with the Governor and it was voted to recess the meeting until 2 o'clock.

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After the recess, Mr. Eltzroth reported on his conference with the Governor and said the Governor supported the proposal of a marine biology program for Clemson and hoped that a marine laboratory and other facilities on the coast owned by the Department and staffed by Clemson and operated as a branch of Clemson be established as soon as possible. He also said it would be a long-range program that would involve millions of dollars; and should not be considered as a takeover of the Commission or its responsibilities by Clemson.

Dr. Lunz said there were some complications regarding transfer of lands which are vested in Bears Bluff Laboratories and for which approval of the trustees would have to be secured; but Mr. Eltzroth said that these were among the details that would

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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have to be worked out and he did not consider them unsurmountable. It was agreed that there should be no publicity at present.

In answer to a question from Dr. Jones, Mr. Eltzroth said the Department was under no financial obligation to furnish anything.

The discussion then returned to the fishing reefs, Mr. Eltzroth saying that Beaufort wanted three; and Georgetown and Charleston at least one each, and all wanted money. He mentioned a letter he had received from a Greenville man containing a clipping telling of the Garcia corporation aiding in building reefs in New Jersey and suggested something similar might be done in South Carolina.

Dr. Lunz said there were two areas in Charleston county where sportsmen wished reefs and neither was objectionable from the standpoint of location. He said that the use of concrete blocks was rather expensive. Beaufort is considering cabling old autos together, which is also expensive.

Mr. Glenn said the Beaufort reef interests say they have a man who says he is willing and able to do the work and it was suggested that he make a contract with the Beaufort interests.

Dr. Lunz said that in some areas the reefs would have to be 45 feet under water to meet safety standards of the Coast Guard.

After some further discussion, it was agreed that Dr. Lunz should report back on the wishes of the governing authority of the three counties, including the desired design, location and estimates of cost.

Mr. Mishoe said that it would be false economy not to do a good job and if the counties would not put up enough money the \$30,000 should not be wasted on inadequate reefs. He said he favored letting the delegation decide where the reef should be put; then getting an estimate of the cost; and then telling the delegation "we have \$9,000 for the reef and it's up to you to get the rest."

Mr. Eltzroth appointed Commissioners Glenn, chairman, Cantey and Jones to serve



on a committee to consider budget requests of the two Divisions.

Dr. Lunz brought up several matters affecting his Division and Bears Bluff, particularly the difficulty of securing a qualified man to head up the crab program.

Mr. Webb stated the problem was national and it was becoming increasingly difficult to find qualified biologists.

Dr. Lunz said a man with a Masters, at least, was needed and that the approximately \$7,500 being offered was in line with salaries of other southeastern states, but no one was available.

Mr. Eltzroth suggested going higher to find a qualified man and also asked Dr. Lunz to contact some persons who might be able to help in locating a man.

Dr. Lunz asked about paying Charlie Bearden from the sport fishing fund and Mr. Eltzroth said to work it out with the State Auditor Pat Smith.

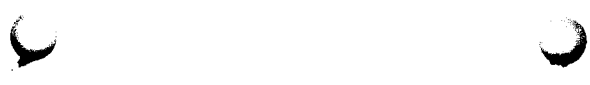
Dr. Lunz's figures on boat and car operations were accepted as information.

Mr. Eltzroth said he received many requests as to the percentage of Bears Bluff's operations paid for by the State.

Dr. Lunz explained that a financial statement of Bears Bluff's operation was carried in the annual report and discussed the operation briefly.

Mr. Cantey asked whether anything was being done on the outer shelf fishing study and Dr. Lunz said that the Bureau of Sports Fishing and Wildlife was doing a little work.

Mr. Glenn brought up that in the policy statement of the Commission agreed upon at the July 14 meeting there was an error in Paragraph Six of Page Two where reference was made to "the Director of Boating" when it should be "Chief of Boating." He also said that the chain of command would not be followed if supervisors were not notified when Conservation Officers assigned to the Chief of Boating were sent into their districts. He said some trouble had already arisen over this. He said it was not good practice to have men appear in other districts on an undercover basis.



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Mr. Mishoe said there was the problem of resentment between supervisors which must be eliminated.

Mr. Webb said there was some flexibility in the present setup and use of conservation officers. He said he did not particularly care for having conservation officers assigned to Mr. Welch and responsible to him; and he would prefer assigning officers as they were needed for any particular operation.

Mr. Glenn moved that the Chief of Law Enforcement or Mr. Webb be informed of where conservation officers were being sent but a substitute motion was made by Mr. Mishoe to strike out the entire paragraph from the minutes.

His motion was adopted without opposition and states that "The minutes of the July 14 meeting be corrected by deleting on Page 2, Paragraph Six which contains in the first line the words 'Five Conservation Officers' and ending with the word 'them'."

Mr. Webb said that he has prepared a letter to the supervisors warning them of their increased responsibilities, and each Commissioner was getting a copy of the letter.

Mr. Fuller reported on the need of draining, poisoning, treating and restocking Lake Wallace, Mr. Webb recommending that this be done in such a way that boating could be continued through Labor Day. He said the fishing part of the lake should be drawn partially down and the entire drawdown be done after Labor Day. The Commission approved.

Mr. Webb then said he had just received a call from Washington giving a framework on the duck season and the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife would have to be notified within 10 days. The final day of the season could be no later than January 7 but since this is a Sunday on which hunting is prohibited under state law the last day would be January 6. The first day of the framework is October 7 but South Carolina hunters desire as late a season as possible.

The choice will be 50 days with three ducks in the bag and six in possession or 40 days with four in the bag and eight in possession.



The Secretary was instructed to get out a release notifying the public of a public hearing in the State House Thursday, August 17, at 11 o'clock at which the Commission will consider requests for the season most suitable to most state hunters. (This story was gotten out Saturday morning to all dailies and weeklies and to the TV and radio through the Associated Press and UPI).

A number of appointments were approved, that of Warden Burch being approved subject to approval by Mr. Oliphant.

A recommendation of Dr. Jones was adopted that all biologists who have been employed at least six months be given commissions as Conservation Officers.

The hunt schedule for management areas was discussed and it was agreed that there should be no small game seasons prior to the deer and turkey seasons.

It was decided to hold the September meeting at Palmetto Bluff on September 11 and 12.

Mr. Webb was requested to have the reports of the Supervisors on the Conservation Officers in their districts ready for this meeting.

After an executive session, the Commission stated that it had "unanimously voted to revoke the lease of the Ashe Island Seafood Company for which a rule to show cause had been issued returnable on this date" and "by a divided vote had voted to revoke the lease of the Maggioni company for which a rule to show cause was issued returnable on this date."

Mr. Webb brought up the question of damages sustained by equipment issued to personnel, saying that two cars had been damaged since the last meeting but that the letter outlining the new policy regarding damage to vehicles had not been received by the wardens. (The policy adopted at the July 14 meeting stated: "That when damage is done to such equipment through negligence, that the person to whom it is assigned shall be responsible for the damage and shall pay for it.")

Mr. Eltzroth said that in the event of accidents a responsible person should investigate and make a report to the Director and the Director should make a report



and recommendation to the Commission. He said a written report on the two accidents should be ready by the next meeting.

Mr. Glenn made a proposal that in these two instances a warning be issued and all personnel be notified that in the future the policy adopted by the Commission will go into effect. This proposal was approved.

On suggestion of Mr. Mishoe it was agreed that the policy of the Commission be that "Any equipment be reported to the Commission in writing by the Director with a recommendation as to what steps should be taken."

The Federation Awards program was mentioned but no action was taken, after it was reported the special committee had made some nominations.

Eddie Finlay



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