

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT BEARS BLUFF AUGUST 13, 1964

All Commissioners were present except Mr. Oliphant and Mr. Tison. Also present were Bob Lunz, Jim Webb, Pat Ryan, Tommy Welch, Frank Nelson and Jeff Fuller.

Mr. Johnson expressed appreciation for the hospitality offered by the Laboratories and also thanked Dr. Lunz for his letter of July 23 regarding the Andersen report. He suggested that Messrs. Buchanan, Wolling, and Ramage of the Columbia office go over the letter and the Andersen report and see which suggestions might be adopted.

Mr. Johnson discussed briefly the federal bonding system and Dr. Lunz brought up the matter of bond uniformity. Mr. Webb said that bonds were unequal because of the differences in the amounts of money handled and said he would study the situation. Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Wolling and Mr. Ramage will also study this, as well as recommendations of the Andersen report.

Mr. Johnson said the Governor was not interested in sending anyone to the Conservation Hall of Fame meeting.

Mr. Cox said that he was unable to devote the necessary time to getting up a Manual of Procedures, although he might be able to do more within a comparatively short time. He said it was up to the Commission as to what it thought should be done, and it was decided that Mr. Cantey should look over the work that Mr. Cox has done.

Mr. Johnson said the Legislative Committee wanted to wait until it had had a meeting before taking up any reports from the Department, but that reports, charts etc. should be ready.

Mr. Johnson discussed the will of the late Miss Belle Baruch and read a letter he had written to one of the lawyers for the estate--Mr. A. V. Curto, Jr. He said that Mr. Curton and Mr. Nelson Buhler, another of Miss Baruch's lawyers, were coming to South Carolina some time in the future and that nothing should be neglected in taking care of them.

Mr. Johnson also said that he had written Jimmy Moore at Georgetown regarding the Yawkey property, and would write again when Mr. Yawkey was down at the plantation.



Mr. Webb said he had heard from Mr. Yawkey, who said there was an over-population of deer on his place. Mr. Webb said he had written Mr. Yawkey saying that some surplus deer could be trapped and released in other areas and that Mr. Yawkey was interested and wished to discuss the matter when he returns to South Carolina in the fall.

Mr. Webb reported that all forms requested regarding automobile use had been filled out and sent in but that nothing had been heard from the Budget and Control Board.

Mr. Johnson said he had talked with the Governor about certain raises for Department personnel but that nothing definite had been decided.

Mr. Webb said that he had not received the insurance policy on the plane.

Mr. Webb also reported that Oak Grove Lake was being put in good condition before being offered for sale.

The possibility of a gasoline tax refund for money charged boaters was discussed and Mr. Webb said that he and Mr. Cox had had a conference with Highway Commissioner Pearman and would have another one. He said that there was no apparent opposition to the refund, provided that it was done in such a way as not to lay the Highway Department open to other claims.

Mr. Johnson then asked about the progress report for the legislative committee.

Mr. Ryan said that a chart had been prepared showing the number of wardens by counties when the Commission took over in 1952 and the present.

Mr. Webb said he believed it would be better to show the average salaries in 1952 and the present rather than have the salaries paid county by county, and Mr. Johnson said this could be done by a legend at the side.

Mr. Nelson handed out sheets giving the expenditures of the various game management projects from 1952 to the present. He said information was available on all projects and could be put together quickly if desired.



Mr. Cox stated that the benefits to all counties from specific projects should be pointed out.

Mr. Johnson said Mr. Fuller should have charts and maps dealing with all stockings from hatcheries and from Santee-Cooper.

Mr. Cantey suggested that maps should show license sales in each county for both hunting and fishing.

Mr. Johnson said that the Department needed a man devoted to full time publicity, since the Department was not getting enough newspaper publicity.

A number of appointments and reappointments were approved, those in Mr. Oliphant's district being subject to his approval.

Mr. Hopkins asked about the procedure in giving commissions to non-pay wardens and Mr. Webb explained it, saying they are sent identification cards and commissions.

Mr. Johnson read a letter from Harold Steele regarding federal service personnel getting state commissions and Mr. Webb said it was a good thing and recommended that it be approved. The Commission then authorized Mr. Webb to grant these commissions without Commission approval.

Mr. Ryan said that Mr. Steele had suggested that some state wardens be issued federal commissions and this was approved on motion of Mr. Cox. The possibility of working out something similar with Georgia along the Savannah river was also discussed.

Mr. Webb read a letter from Senator Brabham of Bamberg asking that Warden Utsey be granted a raise from county funds. The Commission decided that Mr. Webb should write Senator Brabham turning down the suggested raise in view of raises given July 1.

Mr. Cox mentioned the amount of South Carolina outdoor news that had been carried in the Augusta Chronicle when Bodie McDowell had been outdoor editor, and suggested that Mr. McDowell might be interested in a position with the I&E Division getting publicity in papers of the State. Mr. Ryan also praised Mr. McDowell's ability and Mr. Cox, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Webb were asked to investigate the possibility of employing him.



The question of a chief of law enforcement was discussed briefly but the matter was carried over. It was agreed that the matter of assistant supervisors be taken up at the next meeting and Mr. Johnson said that it would be set as the first order of business. The next meeting was tentatively set for September 15 in Columbia.

Mr. Webb reported that he had been to the waterfowl meeting in Washington and there would be little change in the shooting regulations for the coming season. The season would be between October 3 and January 3 with a choice of 40 days and four ducks or 50 days and three ducks. After some discussion it was agreed that Mr. Webb contact the Commissioners within five days after receiving notice from Washington and that the Commissioners would then decide which season they wished.

Mr. Webb announced that while in Washington he had been named chairman of the National Waterfowl Council.

The proposal of the Balfour company for providing service pins was then taken up and a motion providing for adoption of a system of awarding pins was approved. Mr. Heyward moved that at the next annual meeting retired wardens who had not received service pins be awarded them and that they be invited to future meetings.

Dr. Lunz said that in preparing his 1965-66 budget request he was asking raises for some personnel at the Laboratories and that also money was needed for uniforms. Mr. Heyward suggesting that more money be asked for in his request to the Budget and Control Board.

Mr. Nelson then presented the schedule of public management area hunts and also the public dove hunts.

Mr. Johnson mentioned the offer of a Mr. Hanna for land for dove shooting and Mr. Nelson said it had been received too late for this year.

Mr. Johnson suggested that fields be marked with appropriate signs and also said that it might be possible to get deputies to check the field. He also inquired about



a man who he said had offered a field but had not received instructions on how to plant it, or a contract.

*Eddie Finlay*

