

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AUGUST 15, 1963

Present were all Commissioners except Mr. Oliphant, Directors Webb and Lunz, Frank Nelson, Jeff Fuller, Tommy Welch, Ed Latimer, Pat Ryan and three representatives of the Anderson company: Mr. Moore, Mr. Dixon and Mr. Johnson.

Dr. Lunz reported on a visit to the Mobile Bay Public Health laboratory, which he said should be of great value when it became established and operating at full capacity, particularly in pollution work.

He brought up the matter of former Inspector Campbell and Mr. Johnson said he had received a letter from the Attorney General ruling that Mr. Campbell was entitled to some pay. He said that he would write Dr. Lunz a letter to this effect. The payment was ordered on motion of Mr. Cox.

Dr. Lunz presented a budget capitulation for the Division of Commercial Fisheries.

Mr. Nelson said that some deer should be ready for delivery to the Lake Johnson pen in November.

Mr. Latimer reported that he had received a requested release from Mr. Samworth.

Mr. Johnson brought up the matter of the insurance policy on the plane, Mr. Cox stating that he favored having the Commission write the company what it wanted and tell the company to comply or else. Mr. Johnson said that it might be good to look over other policies.

There was a general discussion of pilot coverage under the policy, and Mr. Webb was requested to write for clarification on this, as well as to correct a clerical error in the policy.

Car coverage under the policy of the Yonce company was brought up and it was agreed that medical coverage should be left out, since this would be covered by workman's compensation, and the company asked for a refund of around \$180.

The matter of car use procedure by wardens came up and Dr. Lunz said that he had not had time to study the outlined procedure but that only two of his inspectors would come under it.



Mr. Webb said that he was working on the matter of additional space nearby but that details of renting it had not yet been worked out. He said that if the additional space were secured it would be used by the Boating Division. Mr. Cox said that any contract worked out should have a time cancellation provision.

Frank Nelson said that he was considering Biologist John Quillen as an assistant and Robert Gooding would succeed him. There was some discussion of salary and a motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that he be paid \$7,200.

Mr. Ryan was asked about assistants for the supervisors and said that he was working out a plan and would have it ready for the next meeting.

Mr. Cox suggested that each supervisor should have at least two assistants with a slight pay differential and let them compete. There was a general discussion of this question.

Mr. Johnson brought up the possibility of giving warning tickets in some borderline cases instead of making cases and cited this as a potential for building up good will.

The question of Mr. Webb's authority and responsibility, which he had asked to be defined, was brought up and it was agreed that it would be difficult to set hard and fast rules.

Mr. Johnson said a list should be kept of all persons visiting Belmont and also of those on the Department boat.

Mr. Cantey suggested keeping a log of all game killed at Belmont. He also asked about the possibility of entertaining legislators and whether there were funds that could be used for this.

Mr. Heyward inquired about money for fixing up the Belmont house and moved that \$25,000 of APW funds, or as much as needed, be spent on this and this was adopted.

Mr. Tison suggested that the September meeting be held at Belmont but after some discussion it was decided to hold the matter open.



Mr. Johnson suggested that in the future three months before any project ended and six months before any project were started that it be taken up for consideration by the Commission. Mr. Tison made a motion to this effect and Mr. Heyward seconded, the motion being adopted.

Mr. Webb, in answer to a question from Mr. Cantey, said no shooting was planned for this season at Dirleton plantation proper.

Mr. Johnson said the need for a trailer to be used as portable headquarters for management hunts and related work might be considered and Mr. Nelson was asked to look into the matter and make recommendations.

The three members of the Charlotte office of the Anderson company were then invited to outline their plan of work. Mr. Moore introduced Mr. Dixon who explained the work planned by the company and its objectives and methods.

Mr. Heyward and Mr. Hopkins said they understood the sole purpose of the study was to determine whether the Department's accounting system was up-to-date. Mr. Dixon and Mr. Johnson then went into more detail.

A general discussion followed, Mr. Heyward saying that the Commission wished to be able to answer all questions about its operation and to justify its actions. Mr. Johnson mentioned the need for the Commission to be informed and said unless it were it could be accused of negligence, carelessness and stupidity.

Mr. Tison said that the annual report was hard to understand, particularly as what money could be spent for.

Mr. Webb explained the system and how certain funds were earmarked for certain purposes.

The audit asked by the Governor, which may or may not tie in with the present audit, was discussed and Mr. Johnson added that if anyone wished specific information they should take it up with the auditors. He added that if the auditors wished another meeting with the Commission it could be arranged.



Mr. Johnson reported on the recent study of the budget by the three-man committee.

Mr. Heyward said he had been approached by the West Ashley Boat Club for more landings in Charleston county.

Mr. Webb said that the need was recognized but that State Auditor Jim Smith had said that boat money could not be used for launching ramps and he said he did not see how Game and Fish Fund money could be spent for salt water landings. Federal funds were not available he said since Charleston is not eligible for APW. Funds credited to a county could be spent with the approval of the county delegation but few counties had enough money for this.

Mr. Heyward inquired about the six cents per gallon gasoline tax on boatowners which was going to the Highway Department and Mr. Cox said he had talked with the Highway Department and thought some progress was being made.

Mr. Johnson said that much revenue was being lost which should be going for the benefit of boaters.

A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that minutes of all meetings since the formation of the Commission be bound and indexed by months. (We have at present bound copies by years of the minutes of all meetings but they are not indexed).

Mr. Johnson mentioned efforts he had made to have the landlocked striped bass recognized as a separate species by Field and Stream for record purposes, and Mr. Cox said all possible publicity should be secured on the State's striped bass.

The minutes of the staff meetings were praised as a good idea.

Mr. Heyward said he had received a call from Senator Bowers of Hampton about a game warden to work the Savannah river with a Georgia warden.

Mr. Webb mentioned a meeting held some time back with South Carolina and Georgia representatives at which this joint patrol was asked and said Georgia had a man assigned to the river. He said if the Commission approved he would assign



one of the two Hampton wardens to the river and let the new man work with the old warden.

There was a general discussion of the feasibility of moving wardens, Mr. Johnson saying that manpower was being wasted up-state.

Mr. Heyward moved and Mr. Cantey seconded the motion that W. B. Johnson be put on as a Hampton county warden to take over the work of Warden Rushing who would go on the river.

Mr. Webb said that Georgia has a boat and equipment available but if necessary a boat could be purchased, or a Hampton county boat be used. Mr. Heyward asked Mr. Webb to write Senator Bowers informing him that the Hampton warden was being put on.

Mr. Ryan said the plane was proving very useful in law enforcement work and now was being used both night and day.

A list of appointments was approved.

Mr. Heyward said an increasing number of complaints were being received from fishermen, particularly on the Foster Creek area of Bushy Park and Mr. Welch presented a set of suggested rules and regulations.

Mr. Tison moved adoption of the rules and regulations which was done and he also made a motion for future cases that: "The geography of each area of complaint be considered and that such decisions should be approved by a majority of the delegation including the senator of the county involved, along with the Commissioner from the District." This was adopted and it was agreed that hereafter this procedure be followed.

Mr. Welch was authorized to expand whatever funds were necessary to erect signs on Foster Creek stating that it was reserved for fishermen and skiing was prohibited.

Mr. Welch said that he had attended a meeting of the Savannah River Valley Water Safety Council at Clark Hill and that three more meetings were to be held. He said that the Engineers planned to seek legislation asking minimum age for motor boat operators.



Mr. Webb then presented the duck seasons authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Service asking whether the Commission favored a 50-day, three-duck or 40-day, four-duck season, the last day of which would be January 4.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Commissioners should contact sportsmen of their districts as to their preference and report to Mr. Webb within five days.

An increase of \$300 for the salary of his secretary for Mr. Cox was adopted by motion of Mr. Cantey, Mr. Hopkins seconding.

Certain raises for personnel were discussed and Mr. Tison moved approval of the recommendations of the sub-committee.

The Commission then went into executive session.

Eddie Finlay

