

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA AUGUST 15, 1969

The South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission held its regular monthly meeting in Columbia at 10 a. m. on August 15. Present were Commissioners Eltzroth, Thompson, Eppes, Williams, Mishoe, Glenn and Rhame, Major Cantey, Jim Webb, Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Charlie Bearden, Ed Latimer, Tom Welch, Fred Rammage and Harold Steele. Roger Seamans acted as secretary for this meeting, attempting to carry on for Eddie Finlay who is out of the office due to illness.

Following the executive session, Chairman Eltzroth opened the discussion by calling on Mr. Welch to present several proposed regulations concerning boating on waters in the state. The first of these dealt with a certain portion of Saluda Lake in Greenville County and more specifically known as Jerry's Landing Cove or Saluda Lake Motorboat Club Cove. It was recommended that appropriate signs and markers be placed at this location to reduce the speed so that no wake would occur. It was moved by Mr. Eppes, seconded by Mr. Mishoe and passed unanimously.

The second proposed regulation concerns Cantey Bay, Lake Marion, Clarendon County. It was recommended that water craft be restricted in approximately 318 acres of water on the westside of Cantey Bay from November 1 through March 15 of each year. This restriction would have little affect upon normal use by fishermen or boaters, but would remove the disturbance that may occur while waterfowl are using the Santee National Wildlife Refuge. This acceptance was moved by Mr. Glenn, seconded by Mr. Rhame and approved unanimously. The third regulation concerned with a portion of the Ashepoo River on Route 17 at Joe's Fish Camp. The area to be affected would be between the railroad trestle and the fork of the Ashepoo with Horseshoe Creek. This is a distance of approximately one-half



a mile and the regulation recommends reduced speeds so that no wake would be produced. This was moved by Mr. Glenn, seconded by Mr. Rhame and unanimously carried.

Mr. Eltzroth read a letter from Captain Carl Fairey of the Highway Patrol, thanking the Department and its personnel for the assistance given during the National Campers and Hikers Convention at Rocks Pond in both traffic and water control. Captain Fairey also expressed his sincere thanks for the fine supper that was provided at Eutaw Springs. It was emphasized that this was another example of co-operative action and understanding between state agencies.

Mr. Webb said that due to the partial disability of Conservation Officer C. H. Sanders and his impending retirement that he requested approval of an unnamed Conservation Officer in Allendale County selected by the Director and Executive Director. This would be done with the approval of the resident Commissioner and Chairman Eltzroth. This was approved by the Commission.

Paul G. Hammond, Jr., of Modoc, was approved as a new salaried Conservation Officer.

The following Conservation Officer re-appointments were approved:
John C. Hodge, Bluffton; K. H. Howell, St. George; Fred M. Tuten, Burton;
J. O. Sullivan, Mt. Pleasant; Will D. Wheeler, Georgetown; Walter D. Fogle,
Elloree; Charles D. Burch, Chesterfield; and T. T. Langston, Manning.

The Commission then approved commissions for the following biologists:
Robert L. Joyner, Jack D. Bayless, Donald L. Archer, Hampton Williams and
Otho D. May, Jr.

These non-pay officers were approved: Dr. E. A. Bumgardener-of Columbia;
Floyd Beach of Walterboro, A. K. Lain of Aiken, Oscar Daley or Ridgeland,



Ralph Fields of Estill and George Tumbleston of Ravenel.

Mr. Thompson requested the appointment of an unnamed non-pay warden, subject to the approval of the Executive Director.

Executive Director Webb recommended the appointment of Walter Schrader as Chief of Game and Joe Logan as Chief of Fisheries under the new reorganization plan. Also recommended was a salary adjustment so that the pay plan, related to responsibilities of positions, could be maintained. These were unanimously approved.

Mr. Webb recommended, that after serious consideration of several qualified personnel in District One, that Bobby Gifford be designated as the Supervisor to replace the retiring Mr. Ross. This was moved by Mr. Eppes, seconded by Mr. Thompson and unanimously approved.

Mr. Webb reported on the waterfowl seasons that were offered by the Fish and Wildlife Service for the 1969-70 season. He recommended that South Carolina accept a forty-seven day season with a daily bag limit of four ducks and eight in possession after the first day, with black ducks limited to one per day and two in possession. The season would commence on December 1 and end on January 15, 1970. The Goose season would consist of fifty days with a daily bag limit of one goose and a possession limit of two birds. Mr. Webb was requested to take advantage of the bonus scaup season and utilize Highway 17 as the line of delineation. Acceptance of the waterfowl season was moved by Mr. Mishoe, seconded by Mr. Glenn and the scaup season was moved by Mr. Rhame and seconded by Mr. Glenn and both were accepted unanimously.

Mr. Webb distributed the latest draft of the reorganizational chart and noted that a new position would be added which was a Safety Training Officer, to be filled by Wallace Hipps.



Mr. Eltzroth reported that the Director of Bears Bluff Laboratory had designated an acting assistant director and they had requested that Charles Bearden have absolute control over any studies which are being done for this Department by the laboratory. He also requested that any questions relative to Bears Bluff Laboratory be referred to Mr. Webb for action.

Mr. Glenn requested that a program be instituted which would set up suitable records for the keeping of costs of operation of boats, automobiles and all other equipment. This he felt was absolutely necessary so that the equipment could be maintained, and the personnel to who it is assigned to be judged on their use of this equipment and then a better inventory would always be available. Mr. Eppes moved that this be done and included that personnel be provided to accomplish this if necessary.

Mr. Mishoe raised a question of Conservation Officer days off, whether there was a procedure for this and if monthly schedules were prepared. Mr. Eltzroth felt that this was a Supervisor's problem and agreed that there should be a uniformity of procedures for all districts.

Mr. Eltzroth expressed a desire to have a review of the present merit system of Conservation Officers based upon the number of arrests made each month. He felt that greater recognition should be given to contacts made in the field and for the other duties performed by these officers during the month. He requested that a study be made to devise a new approach and that would give the most effective way of grading Officer performance and that eventually it would be possible to base an individual's salary on merit rather than seniority or cases made. Mr. Cantey remarked that a number of states require a substantial number of contacts in the field which in itself gets the men away from the centers of population. Mr. Rhame moved and Mr. Thompson seconded that a report be made at the earliest possible time on this study. This motion was passed unanimously.



Mr. Mishoe felt that one way to reach an improvement in merit and performance was to strengthen the supervision in the field. Mr. Webb explained the present use of the point system and how it is only a partial means of determining the officer's effectiveness.

Mr. Tom McBroom, a member of the Florida Commission was present as a part of "an exchange program". Earlier, Mr. Rhame had met with the Florida Commission. Mr. McBroom reported that the evaluation of employees is one of the most difficult administrative functions that there is. He stated that Florida hasn't found a way as yet to eliminate human emotion from evaluating an individual's performance. They do want to remove the premium on arrests and have requested the University of Florida to provide a suitable system for evaluating. When this has been devised, Mr. McBroom stated Florida would be glad to share the report with South Carolina. This is an example of where the Southeastern Fish and Game Commissioners Committee can be of use, especially in the exchange of administrative ideas and ways of solving problems. He also stated that upon his return to Florida he would forward to us the equipment forms that they use.

In Florida the Commission has a two-day meeting each month. The first part of the first day is a staff meeting with no Commission members present. Later in the day, the staff meets with the Commission to discuss current projects, programs and to learn what the various Commissioners may desire. From this meeting an agenda is prepared for the second day which is the monthly Commission meeting. In this way the Commission is kept advised, on a monthly basis, of what all members of the Department are doing and the members of the Department have an opportunity to learn the wishes of the Commission.



Mr. Eltzroth emphasized the need to follow the chain of command. This would provide better operation and that possibly some form of staff meetings would provide for better communications within the Department. It was pointed out that in Florida the Commissioners make a real attempt to keep from contacting individuals and had instructed their director to have staff meetings every Monday so that the Director may be fully informed as to what was transpiring.

Mr. Bearden asked advice on whether the new fee schedule for shrimpers should be retroactive. A number of these boats had already paid their license fees based on the old rate. He wanted to know if we should go back now and collect the additional fees on the new rates license structure. This was referred to the Attorney General for an opinion.

Mr. Bearden also requested authority to issue permits to move old oyster shells from the bank to beds for increased production. This request for this had been made to Mr. Bearden by several oyster bed operators and upon presenting the question to Mr. Latimer, he suggested that a statute now exists for such experimental work. Mr. Glenn moved with a second by Mr. Mishoe that Mr. Bearden be permitted to take such action under the director of Mr. Webb.

Mr. Glenn requested of Mr. Eltzroth on the current status of the Marine Laboratory. Mr. Eltzroth reported that certain lands had been informally made available at Fort Johnson and that the acceptance of the site was conditioned by making sufficient acreage available for our purposes. He stated that he had learned informally that a formal request for the land was desired. Mr. Eltzroth then read a letter which he had prepared, formally requesting such lands, from both the ~~State~~ ^{Medical Univ of S.C.} and College of Charleston. Inasmuch as this was just done in the last few days, no reply has



been received as yet. He also mentioned that an offer for one hundred acres north of Georgetown and owned by the Vanderbilts had been received. This is an addition to the previously offered one hundred acre plot at Port Royal. As to the selection of a Director of the Marine Laboratory, no additional steps have been taken. The prospective candidate from Massachusetts partially stated that he was not interested, but did not completely close the door. It seemed advisable to wait until at least September 1 to make certain that this desirable candidate could not be obtained.

Mr. Glenn, in behalf of all members of the Commission, presented an appropriately printed and framed resolution to Mr. Eltzroth expressing recognition for the tremendous amount of work which was done by Mr. Eltzroth during the past session of the General Assembly.

Mr. McBroom expressed thanks for the opportunity of attending the meeting of the Commission. Mr. Rhame reported that he had gained much from his trip to Florida to meet with the Florida Commission and will report on this at a later date. He also asked what steps were being taken for the improvement of the Moncks Corner facilities and was informed that plans were being refined and that something soon would be underway relative to development. He also asked if any projects had been considered or could be considered for opening up one or more channels through the trees in the Santee-Cooper Reservoirs. It was reported that this had been considered several years ago and that it seemed best to work through the county delegations to obtain an appropriation for this work. Mr. Eltzroth requested that Mr. Mishoe and Mr. Rhame look into this and discuss it with the delegation.

A report was made on the present status of the proposed recodification of the Game Laws. It was noted that Mr. Arnold of the Michie Company had met in Columbia with Mr. Ryan and Seamans and that from this meeting it seemed impossible to complete a recodification and submit it to the General Assembly by the previously designated date of December 1. After con-



siderable discussion, it was discussed that a suitable index was all that was required at the present time and Mr. Ryan and Mr. Seamans were instructed to pursue this request.

On the motion of Mr. Eppes, the meeting was adjourned.

Roger Seamans

