

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA DECEMBER 15, 1960

Present were Commissioners Warren, Tison, Cox, Gantey and Johnson, Directors Webb and Lunz, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Welch and Mr. Schley.

Mr. Johnson said that he had received material for study regarding rebate on the gasoline tax payment by boat owners and would have a report and possible recommendations by the next meeting.

Mr. Warren discussed the public fishing lake planned for Hampton County and said that a meeting was being held. (Later he received a phone call from the meeting regarding acreage of the lake, which would be 296 acres at summer elevation, 576 acres at winter elevation and 940 acres if a five foot elevation strip were included.)

Department finances were reported in good shape and Mr. Webb said he hoped some merit raises for field personnel could be arranged. He said there was little possibility for changing hunting license fees but something might be passed on fishing licenses, possibly a state-wide license exempting cane-pole fishermen in their county of residence, exclusive of reservoirs.

The Commission approved the action of Mr. Webb in dismissing Warden Vaughan of Barnwell county.

State Parks Chief West Jacocks of the Forestry Commission appeared before the Commission in regard to advertising for an oyster lease on land which he believed might be part of the new Huntington State Park. Dr. Lunz stated that the Division had been granting leases in the area for some time and that there was some question as to ownership.

After some discussion it was agreed to refer the matter to Mr. Cox, Dr. Lunz and Mr. Jacocks for conference with the Attorney General.

Mr. Cox presented his recommendation for the granting of oyster leases in Thevenot vs. Flowers and Flowers vs. Thevenot and on motion of Mr. Tison these were adopted as the will of the Commission.



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The question of marsh land-oyster land ownership was discussed and it was agreed that Mr. Cox and Directors Webb and Lunz would look into this.

Mr. Webb said that he had talked with Dr. Farrar of Clemson regarding the use of pesticides for pest control, and that Dr. Farrar had told him they were carrying on a pilot project on boll weevil control. It had been discovered that the cotton plant is the only host for boll weevils and that application of poison or destruction of stalks immediately after harvest would reduce the carry over population. Mr. Webb added that there is nothing that can be done at present, although he is very much concerned over wildlife damage by toxic insecticides.

The Commission went on record as opposing the proposed Air Force bombing range on the Pee Dee and the Secretary was instructed to draw up a suitable resolution.

Mr. Cox said that a proposal that a National Guard range be set up on part of the Key Bridge game management area had been changed and he believed the range would be established elsewhere.

The Commission approved the payment of transportation expenses for Pat Ryan, who will succeed Paul Shrauder as biologist for the Sumter National Wildlife Management project.

Mr. Webb recommended some warden appointments and reappointments and on motion of Mr. Cantey it was agreed that all new wardens must submit a complete medical report before they are commissioned. All recommendations were approved, two of them conditionally for further checking.

An easement on Oak Grove lake property in Greenville county for access was granted to the Daniel Construction Company.

Mr. Webb said that the program of stocking reservoirs with Santee-Cooper striped bass has failed to achieve reproduction and he favored the establishment of a hatchery on Santee-Cooper, where roe could be secured and the fry transplanted to other waters.



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He said that Mr. Fuller had visited the North Carolina hatchery that has been in operation for many years and believed that one could be built for between \$6,000 and \$8,000 dollars. The intent would be to not only create a sport fishery but to cut down on the gizzard shad population.

It was pointed out that Santee-Cooper authorities were ready to donate the site. The Commission moved approval of the hatchery establishment.

Mr. Johnson asked whether there was anything that could be done to open the two Santee-Cooper sanctuaries to public fishing and it was suggested that Mr. Webb discuss the possibilities with Mr. Jefferies.

Mr. Welch reported that total boat registrations were 31,027.

Mr. Johnson said that he was pleased to notice on the Law Enforcement Division report that supervisors and wardens were doing more along public relations lines.

Eddie Finlay

