

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA DECEMBER 15, 1967
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Present were all Commissioners, as well as Directors Webb and Lunz and Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Fred Ramage, Gene Howell and Ed Latimer.

Following an executive session, Dr. Lunz reported briefly on matters affecting his Division. He said that Henry W. Koelling, Jr., wished to transfer Lease No. 167 of nine acres to R. B. Leland and said that no lease could be transferred without the endorsement of the Commission. He was requested to make the necessary checks and allow the transfer if, in his opinion, it should be made.

He said that the shrimp season would close as of midnight but that he had received a request asking that it remain open, since many marketable shrimp were just off shore. He said that a check will be made of the situation to see if such action is justified, including an upriver population.

He also mentioned the arrest records for fisheries violations through November as compared with last year, stating that they were much less.

Mr. Glenn asked for clarification on what is "a 10 per cent or 15 per cent" oyster lease and Dr. Lunz explained that it was used on large, flat areas where there might be scattered oyster beds.

A general discussion of the oyster problem, including leasing, law enforcement and possible licensing of workers followed, and Mr. Eltzroth asked Dr. Lunz to draw up a "concrete and enforceable plan" of licensing oyster workers for consideration at the January meeting.

Mr. Glenn brought up some of the problems involved.

Mr. Ryan presented a proposal of Mr. Welch, who was ill and unable to attend the meeting, regarding a rule and regulation providing that when a certificate of number is renewed for a boat that the decals must be attached to each side of that boat, and that the decals furnished on registration or renewal become a part of the boat number. On motion of Mr. Glenn the proposal was adopted.

Mr. Eltzroth read a letter from Attorney Calhoun Thomas asking for a rehearing

in the matter involving L. P. Maggioni and the Commission. On motion of Mr. Glenn the Commission refused the request for a rehearing and Mr. Latimer was asked to prepare the necessary papers.

The Commission approved a request of Mr. Webb for the employment of Joe Whitlock, outdoor writer for the Columbia State, as of January 1 at a salary of \$7,500. He would assist with publications, news releases, etc.

A report of a wreck involving a car driven by Conservation Officer Mitchum was taken up and a recommendation of the investigating committee that no punitive action be taken against Officer Mitchum was adopted on motion of Dr. Jones.

Mr. Glenn brought up the question of the demarcation line between fresh and salt water on the Combahee, which leads to some confusion in law observance and law enforcement. Mr. Webb said that this line was fixed by statute and could be changed only by the General Assembly. Mr. Latimer was asked to work out something that could be presented to the General Assembly.

Mr. Eltzroth was called away and Mr. Cantey presided in his absence.

A number of appointments and reappointments were approved, one for a Mr. Fleming being approved subject to further investigation.

The finding of the committee in regard to Conservation Officer Murphy's car was approved on motion of Commissioner Jones, after Mr. Eltzroth said an affidavit from the Burnside Company bore out previous findings and later the

A motion of Mr. Eppes was adopted thanking Mr. Fuller for representing the Department at a meeting in Greenville, as was a motion of Mr. Glenn thanking Division chiefs for their reports to the Commission.

Mr. Webb reported that the unexpended balance of the Division of Game, including Boating, as of November 30 was \$1,283,882.07.

Mr. Webb then gave a report on the salary adjustments for certain personnel that had been approved by the Commission at the Palmetto Bluff meeting. He said no action had been taken on recommended raises by the Budget and Control Board,

and that the Governor had asked him to complete a personnel classification system for his Divisions.

Dr. Jones asked whether the proposed raises could be made retroactive to the earlier meeting and Mr. Webb said trouble was expected in even getting the current raises approved.

Mr. Webb was asked to have a revised salary schedule and classification system ready for presentation at the next meeting, and also to provide Dr. Lunz with information on the plan that was to be followed, so that Dr. Lunz could also get up a classification schedule.

The committee composed of Commissioners Cantey, Jones and Glenn will meet and consider the job classification proposals with salary limits and will have authority to approve or to disapprove the classifications for the Division of Game and the Division of Commercial Fisheries. Mr. Webb said the merit system should be ready by next week.

Mr. Eltzroth returned and said that J. B. Moore, chairman of the committee studying the spoils disposal problem of Charleston Harbor, had informed him that his committee will file with the Secretary of State papers taking Morris Island for the spoil area, rather than another area near Mount Pleasant. He said that from the standpoint of losing oyster bottoms there would probably be less loss on the decided upon site. A motion of Mr. Eppes that the matter be accepted as information was adopted.

The Secretary brought up a proposal for a one-day mountains-to-sea fishing promotion some time in the early spring, reading a letter regarding it. The suggestion was approved and a committee composed of Commissioners Glenn, Jones and Mishoe was named to work on the proposal, along with any Department personnel that would be needed.

The dismissal of two employes in Berkeley county was discussed briefly after Mr. Webb said he had just received the complete report from SLED.

Eddie Finlay

