

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
AT BELMONT
DECEMBER 16, 1964

Present were Commissioners Johnson, Cox, Cantey, Heyward, Tison and Hopkins, as well as Director Webb, Assistant Director Ryan, Frank Nelson, Jeff Fuller, Gene Howell, John Quillen, Joe Logan and Fred Ramage.

The Secretary presented a letter from Art Buehler asking that he be allowed to accept \$60 for teaching Civil Defense classes to several groups, the money coming from federal sources. The suggestion was approved and Director Webb was authorized to write a letter approving the payments.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that Mr. Webb be authorized to purchase a tractor for approximately \$16,500, with 75 per cent federal funds, for badly needed work, particularly in plowing fire lines. It will be stored at Belmont.

Mr. Johnson presented a letter from Director Lunz asking what should be done about an outboard motor and pair of binoculars lost by Fisheries Inspector Cooler, who had offered his resignation. A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that the matter be left up to Director Lunz to settle.

Mr. Johnson brought up the possibility of charging fees for the management area hunts and also suggested a better address on the cards that are to be returned by participants. He also mentioned the danger of hunters shooting each other and suggested as a possibility red caps or blazers, as are used on the Pisgah hunts.

Mr. Webb said that if there is a doe season next year consideration should be given to have it for does only, so hunters would have to see the deer clearly before shooting. Mr. Cox agreed that there should be a bucks only and does only season.

Mr. Cantey suggested a red hat or red hat band furnished by the Department. A motion of Mr. Cantey was then adopted that the matter be turned over to Mr. Webb for study and recommendations, and that he also study the possibility of a fee system for the hunts.



Mr. Webb explained that all the game biologists had been consulted as to the need for a doe season.

Mr. Johnson said a man had told him the wardens had worked hard without adequate accommodations the previous year.

Mr. Johnson brought up the possibility of the Department having some trained retrievers to cut down on the crippling loss of ducks at Bear Island, and also said they were used in some states in locating illegally killed game.

The death of Dr. Havilah Babcock was mentioned and the Secretary was instructed to prepare and send a memorial message to Mrs. Babcock.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that the commissions of certain non-pay wardens at Longlands Plantation in Williamsburg county be revoked, Mr. Webb stating that these men were actually breaking the game laws and aiding others in doing likewise.

Mr. Johnson mentioned the possibility of posting baited dove fields and Mr. Ryan and Mr. Howell both said this would not be practical; Mr. Ryan adding that if the Commission wished it could establish this as a policy.

A motion of Mr. Cantey was adopted that Mr. Webb contact other states and find out their policy, and possibly work out a solution for next season.

The possibility of the Department getting some of the gasoline tax money spent by boaters came up, Mr. Johnson saying that he had had contact with a Mr. Cannon of the outboard industry and that he would go along with what the Department was seeking.

Mr. Webb then explained work with a legislative committee and talks he had had with Mr. Pearman, who said that only two and a half per cent of boat owners apply for the tax refund. Mr. Webb also said that one-half per cent return on the gasoline tax would mean \$250,000 annually, but that whether the fund could be used for boating facilities would depend upon the attitude of the Highway Department.



Mr. Johnson said the Department was not getting enough publicity.

The Commission then took up Mr. Webb's proposal for eight law enforcement districts with the additional supervisors to be: Frank Weeks, K. M. Caskey, Freddie Walters and J. W. Cheatham. He said the additional cost would probably be between \$20,000 and \$25,000, as one or two replacement might be needed.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the cost be studied before acting and Mr. Tison said he would like the amounts to be broken down and presented in detail at the next meeting, as well as a complete explanation of where the money was coming from. Mr. Cantey seconded Mr. Tison's motion but before a vote was taken Mr. Cox offered a substitute motion that the matter be settled immediately, or after Mr. Webb had been given 30 minutes to see what could be worked out. He said that by not waiting until January, political squabbles could be avoided. Mr. Tison and Mr. Cantey withdrew their motion. A motion of Mr. Hayward was adopted that the districts be established and the personnel recommended by Webb in a letter to the Commission members be adopted and put into effect as soon as possible.

Mr. Fuller then presented a detailed recommendation for enlargement of the Fisheries Division, which he said was badly needed.

Mr. Webb said that he had gone over the recommendations and favored over-all plan but that the proposals could not be put in effect overnight due primarily to the scarcity of fisheries biologists.

At the request of Mr. Tison, Mr. Fuller explained the recommendations in more detail. Mr. Hopkins moved that the recommendations be adopted but Mr. Cantey and Mr. Tison opposed approving the whole matter at this time.

Mr. Webb suggested that the recommendations be approved in principle and that Mr. Fuller proceed with the over-all plan, submitting specific parts to the Commission as they arise.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that the report be adopted in principle, as Mr. Webb had suggested, with directions from the Commission to Webb and Fuller to work out the details as soon as practical.

The matter of supervisors was brought back by Mr. Cox and Mr. Webb said they would take office as soon as possible.

In regard to the possibility of a field trail area, Mr. Johnson said he had checked with State Forester Tiller and with the Fish and Wildlife Service and asked what the Commission thought of inviting them to a meeting with the Commission. A motion of Mr. Cox was then adopted that Mr. Johnson proceed with working out the details as soon as possible.

Mr. Cantey reported on progress of the employee's manual and Mr. Ryan was asked to give a draft of the manual to each of the Commissioners for consideration at the next meeting.

The appointment and reappointment of a number of wardens was approved.

A 10 per cent raise for Carl Wilkes was approved, subject to approval by the Budget and Control Board.

A proposal that \$500 of funds credited to Colleton county be made available for a shed on a warden's property was approved.

The question of an Allendale warden was discussed at some length, Mr. Webb being told to tell the delegation that any man appointed would have to meet minimum standards established by the Commission.

The question of appointing Ex-Rep. Bates Harvey of York as supervisor of the county quail hatchery and lake owned by county and public landings at a salary of \$1,000 from county funds was deferred until Commissioner Oliphant could be present.

Cotton damage done to Lee county cotton by weed poison drifting from a lake being treated by the Department was discussed, and a suggestion of Mr. Cantey that Mr. Webb



be authorized to settle the claim with advice and approval with the Attorney General was adopted.

The construction of a house at Eutaw Springs to replace one destroyed by storm was approved after Mr. Webb said around \$2,500 was coming in from insurance on the old building one half from federal funds. The estimated total cost to be \$16,000.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Commission would be held in Columbia on the first Thursday in January, which would be the 7th.

Mr. Ryan said that copies of proposed bills would be mailed to Commissioners for study before the next meeting.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that a headquarters house, boat landing and boat house be built on Santee-Cooper in Clarendon county at a cost of \$24,000, with county putting up \$5,000 and the federal government one half.

Eddie Finley

