

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA FEBRUARY 12, 1965

Present were Commissioners Johnson, Cox, Cantey, Heyward and Hopkins; Directors Webb and Lunz; Assistant Director Ryan; Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Gene Howell and Gordon Brown.

Mr. Johnson mentioned a truck-sleeper combination he had seen and inquired about and Mr. Ryan said the matter of getting such equipment had been studied but nothing had been done. He also said it had been found that a regular trailer would be cheaper.

Mr. Johnson also said nothing had been heard from Walt Gresh regarding the availability of land for a field trial area.

The pollution problem then came up, Mr. Johnson reading a newspaper article dealing with President Johnson's message to Congress. Mr. Cantey said that Dr. Lunz had told him the possibility of wardens enforcing the laws against pollution had been brought up in Charleston--although there was some question as to whether the law was still in effect.

Mr. Webb said that he had an opinion from the Attorney General that the Pollution Control Authority has the responsibility for correcting pollution but that the law still prohibits anyone from killing fish through pollution and cases could be prosecuted, but that it was extremely difficult to get evidence.

Mr. Johnson then mentioned a pollution case he had been handling in Spartanburg and there was general discussion of the problem.

Mr. Ryan reported that work was about completed on the Manual of Operations and suggested that proofs be given to all Commissioners for checking. He said bids on printing it had been received. Dr. Lunz said it should be listed as applying to the Division of Game and not the Department.

Mr. Heyward brought up the matter of several wardens he had seen at McClellanville wearing partial uniforms and Mr. Ryan said all wardens had been instructed to wear complete uniform or none.



Mr. Johnson inquired as to the status of various oyster hearings.

Dr. Lunz said the settlement of several of these hearings was vital, and said 12 protests and hearings were pending.

Mr. Cox said that the attorney general was convinced that some lands belonging to the State were being claimed illegally by individuals. He said there were two courses the Commission could take: either hire an outside lawyer to conduct the hearings or wait until he would be ready to resume holding hearings, which he said would be 15 to 20 days.

After further discussion a motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that: "Mr. Cantey be authorized to act for the Commission for the purpose of holding such hearings as may be necessary in regard to oyster lease hearings."

Dr. Lunz also discussed the pending Marshlands bill which he said has some most objectionable features. Mr. Johnson said he had been invited to attend a Charleston meeting on this matter and suggested that Mr. Heyward attend the meeting.

Dr. Lunz also brought up the question of shad sets in the Savannah river, the question of who was entitled to a certain set posing a real problem. He said that he would probably rule on this particularly involved case and let the losers protest to the Commission.

Mr. Nelson reported that he thought he could get two deer for Lake Johnson.

Mr. Webb said that he had been talking with members of the Agriculture and Conservation committee regarding a license handling bill.

Mr. Johnson said that he had not heard from Willis Cantey regarding a man to handle publicity for the Division of Game.

Mr. Johnson said that if and when notice was received of a meeting of the Legislative Committee studying possible changes in the Commission makeup, that a Commission meeting should be scheduled for that morning.

Mr. Ryan said he has maps and charts giving the salaries of wardens, which will



be available when needed.

Mr. Johnson inquired what had been learned about the possibility of securing Bodie McDowell as publicity man for the Department. Mr. Cox said that he had talked with Mr. McDowell and would like to see the matter deferred for a few days until he could hear more from him.

A number of warden reappointments were approved, subject to objections from individual Commissioners.

Among new wardens approved for appointment were: L. L. Debruhl to succeed Joe Barfield in Kershaw county.

Ed Mitchum to succeed the late Edward H. Wrenn as a Berkeley warden, Mr. Mitchum at present being employed with the Fisheries project.

Guy Williams as an Edgefield warden to replace Jake Cheatham, now a supervisor.

John M. Langley for McCormick county.

J. W. Sanders was appointed for Oconee subject to Mr. Cox's approval.

Mr. Johnson asked how many wardens there were in Berkeley and was told there were 11.

Mr. Johnson said that Hartwell and the new game management area created new problems for the northwest corner and more wardens were needed.

Mr. Webb said he would like a clarification of what constitutes a "high school education or the equivalent." A motion was later adopted that: "As of July 1 all applicants for the position of game warden must have a high school diploma."

Mr. Webb read a letter from the Dillon delegation requesting another warden, to be paid from county funds. He was approved subject to Mr. Tison's approval.

Mr. Heyward inquired about starting salaries for wardens and later made a motion which was adopted stating that: "The Commission be furnished information concerning amounts and where the funds come from for payment of wardens in all counties."

Mr. Webb was asked to get this up. Mr. Webb said that a fisheries biologist was being



considered for Zone Seven but Mr. Lunz said that he had had the bill killed, since it would be interpreted as also dealing with salt water.

Mr. Webb recommended Seago Solomon for the position of area superintendent for Belmont, which would allow Warren Blanding to take over as District biologist. His recommendation was approved on motion of Mr. Heyward.

The Belmont house and the game situation were discussed, and it was agreed we should endeavor to make the place a showplace. Mr. Cantey said some furnishings were needed and Mr. Cox suggested that some type of refrigeration be installed.

The question of using decals on wardens' cars was discussed but no action taken, although it was agreed they should be used on trucks used in stocking fish.

Mr. Webb discussed office space to be furnished after July 1. It appears that the office space available for the Department may not be desirable or adequate for the Commission, Division of Game and the Division of Boating. He said he would like the Commission to allow him to study further the possibility of acquiring a building for the Department. A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted approving this.

Mr. Howell reported on work done on Santee-Cooper recently, saying several cases had been made and much netting confiscated.

Mr. Ryan then exhibited a proposed heavy duty uniform and he was authorized to go ahead with plans for the uniforms.

The Commission went into executive session, after which it announced that the following resolution had been adopted: "Insofar as possible the services of Mr. Wolling be continued in an advisory capacity." The motion was made by Mr. Cantey and seconded by Mr. Cox.

*Eddie Finlay*

