

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JANUARY 11, 1961

Present were Commissioners Warren, Tison, Johnson, Cantey, Hopkins and Cox, Director Webb, Mr. Welch and Mr. Schley. Commissioner Johnson presided until the arrival of Chairman Warren.

Several appointments and reappointments recommended by Director Webb were approved.

A motion of Mr. Cantey was adopted that after a period of from six months to a year the Director could, at his discretion, give raises for new wardens up to \$3,000.

The question of artificial offshore reefs to improve salt water fishing was discussed and it was agreed that the matter should be looked into further.

Mr. Johnson said that information from the Outboard Boating Club of America was that the most practical method of getting back part of the gasoline tax paid by boaters was through a direct payment from the Tax Commission, or Highway Department. This payment would be based on an estimate of the amount of gasoline used by boaters and would do away with the present system of rebates to individuals. Mr. Johnson said that after he had received additional material he would report at the next meeting of the Commission, and the Secretary was instructed to get this material. It was suggested that Director Webb confer with Tax Commission and Highway Department officials in the matter.

Director Webb was also asked to get recommendations as to the wording on the sign to be erected at the new Spartanburg lake.

Director Webb said there was hope of enacting a new fishing license bill that would require a \$3.10 license of all, except persons fishing with canepole in their county of residence. However, these canepole fishermen would have to have a license if fishing in a lake where a permit is now required, even if they lived in the county. He added that if the bill were enacted it might be possible to eliminate the daily fishing fees on the Department's public lakes.



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He reported that revenue from July 1 to date on the various lakes was: Lake Johnson, \$2,164; Lake Wallace, \$3,330; and Lake Oliphant, \$876. Mr. Johnson noted the difference in daily fees on the lakes and said they should be uniform.

Director Webb that an SCS report on the planned Hampton county lake had not been received.

No reports were ready on the matter of oyster leases on Huntington State Park property and on the marshland survey, and Director Webb said no action had been taken on the proposal to open the Santee-Cooper sanctuary to public fishing.

Mr. Warren asked whether it would be possible for wardens to enforce the shad laws up river and Director Webb said this had been going on for several years, although he would like a clarification from Director Lunz on the laws and regulations to be enforced.

The need for a demarcation line between salt and fresh water was discussed but no decision reached.

Also discussed was the possibility of fisheries inspectors helping wardens with coastal law enforcement, but it was pointed out that under the law the inspectors have no authority to do this. The Commission agreed to ask for additional powers for inspectors.

Mr. Warren said Mr. Cox, Director Lunz and Mr. Schley had worked up about 15 commercial fisheries bills and it was agreed that they should be discussed with delegations from the coastal counties. Mr. Schley said that Director Lunz was meeting with the Beaufort delegation in Columbia January 17 and Mr. Cox said that he would also attend the meeting.



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The Commission confirmed the action of the Chairman in granting an extension of time for filing compliance or appeal in the matter of Thevenot vs. Flowers.

Mr. Welch reported on boat registration and that some changes were planned in the boating laws.

Director Webb said that some changes were absolutely necessary to make the State laws conform with Coast Guard regulations, this being particularly true in regard to lights and equipment.

Other possible changes included requiring all boats to carry life preservers, registration of motor numbers, having manufacturers place serial numbers on boats and requiring all boats to have sufficient flotation if offered for sale in the State, the OBC flotation formula to be used.

Mr. Johnson said that there was not sufficient publicity on Department activities and also said he would like to see boat safety demonstrations put on upstate.

Eddie Finlay

