

MINUTES OF SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA JANUARY 6, 1960

Present were Commissioners Warren, Johnson, Canteley, Cox, Hopkins and Huggins, Chief Richardson, Director Webb, Director Lunz, Admiral Polatty, Mr. Billings, Mr. Thrower, Mr. McKeithan, Mr. Welch, Mr. Schley, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Brown.

Mr. C. D. Nixon and his attorney, Watson Dawes, appeared before the Commission regarding the renewal of an oyster lease to N. S. Dixon on land owned by the Cherry Grove Beach Development Corporation. They said that they would like the lease to be renewed but would not want it to go through the regular channels, including advertising, since that might have some effect on the company title. They said that formal granting of leases might interfere with development of the area.

Mr. Warren stated that the Commission had already declined to grant other leases in the area and there was also some question whether the Commission had the authority to grant leases on this land.

A motion of Mr. Johnson was adopted that the Attorney General be asked whether the Commission had the right to grant or renew leases on the property and after a ruling was received the Commission could take action. He also said that there should be a ruling on whether the Commission could renew the lease subject to the rights and with the consent of the corporation.

Mr. Warren then suggested that Mr. Dawes write Director Lunz outlining the whole matter and then it could be taken up with the Attorney General, and this was agreed to.

Mr. Warren then mentioned the convening of the General Assembly and said that after talks with Mr. Cox and Director Lunz it had been agreed no unusual changes should be asked in the Commercial Fisheries laws, although some curative amendments might be offered in the event major changes were offered by members of the General Assembly.



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He added that there would probably be efforts to do away with some taxes but that on the whole the commercial fishermen were pretty well satisfied.

Director Lunz said the increasing penalties for violations should have a time limit and not carry over from year to year, the present law being too severe in this regard.

Mr. Huggins suggested that the fisheries inspectors should be given authority to enforce the boating and the game and fish laws, rights which they do not have at present, and which would have to be secured through legislative action.

The question of a full-time law enforcement chief for the Commercial Fisheries Division was brought up by Mr. Johnson and Director Lunz said that no funds were available, although such a man was badly needed.

Director Lunz brought up the question of renewing a lease to which there was protest and the Commission adopted an opinion of Mr. Cox that the objection was not valid. However, since the lessee had been using much more acreage than his lease called for the lease would be renewed on a basis of the acreage being used.

Director Webb said he was concerned over inadequate compensation for wardens, and that there was need for improvement in qualifications and performance of some wardens. He said that he had received rather favorable response from members of the Ways and Means Committee to a suggestion for deletion of the provision that funds of the Administrative Division and the Commercial Fisheries Division come from the general game fund.

Mr. Warren suggested that this might lead to too much legislative control and that after the Division of Commercial Fisheries became entirely self-supporting more money would be available for wardens' salaries.



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The question of appointing a 56-year-old Orangeburg man as warden came up for discussion, Director Webb stating that he was not recommending the man but presenting the recommendations of the Orangeburg county delegation and others. After a general discussion of the question in age in warden appointments, Mr. Canteley said he could not vote for a man that age. After more discussion, Mr. Canteley said that he would talk with Senator Williams. No action was taken on the appointment.

Mr. Warren said that he had written the Planning and Development Board regarding possible pollution by a wool-scouring plant locating in Allendale county and that Director Harper of the Board had assured him the company had agreed to take the necessary steps to comply with standards for the stream. Mr. Warren added that the Commission should give thought to the pollution problem in view of increasing industrial development.

The appointment of several non-pay wardens was approved.

Mr. Nelson gave a report on the Bear Island duck hunts, stating that the average of over two ducks per gun was very satisfactory.

Mr. Huggins brought up the possibility of acquiring Sandy Island in Georgetown county and said that it had wonderful possibilities and would mean much to the sportsmen of the State. It was brought out that the asking price was \$400,000 but \$200,000 worth of timber could be cut.

Mr. Welch reported briefly on progress of the Division of Boating and said that since State requirements were less stringent than those of the Coast Guard there would have to be a lifting of the minimum requirements for boats operating on waters under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard. The minimum requirements were approved as regulations to be filed with the Secretary of State.

Director Webb then read a letter from the Fish and Wildlife Service stating that the provision against discrimination would have to be in all federal aid project



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contracts.

Chief of Law Enforcement Bundrick then gave a report and there was a general discussion of reporting and checking systems for the wardens.

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