

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JULY 14, 1967
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All Commissioners were present, along with Directors Webb and Lunn, Pat Ryan, Fred Penage, John Fuller, Frank Nelson, Gene Howell and the Secretary.

Following an executive session, Chairman Elmeroth called the meeting to order and read the following regarding policies of the Commission:

"The Commission in its executive session a few minutes ago has arrived at certain decisions in regard to the policy of the Commission.

"It is the policy of our Commission, that in regard to Supervisors of law enforcement, that they shall have more authority and more responsibility. That a chain of command should be established that is binding upon the Director of the Game Division, as well as upon the Commission members themselves, so that this chain of command will be followed. It is suggested that the Director of the Game Division draft a letter to be sent to all Conservation Officers advising them of the chain of command, and of the additional authority and responsibilities of the Supervisors.

"That Supervisors report more fully to the Chief of Law Enforcement in the future than they have reported in the past. By this I mean simply that most of the reports that we have seen indicate that all things are going along nicely. This is not usually completely true, and unless the Chief of Law Enforcement can have this information before him, it's very difficult for him to take steps to remedy situations about which he doesn't know. We suggest that perhaps better records can be kept in regard to this sort of thing; and we recommend that the Director, Assistant Director, and Chief of Law Enforcement might well get certain information from Chief Strom of SLED as to a different type of records to be kept in regard to Law enforcement officers, or Conservation Officer; and that evaluation of each can be made at least once a year. That such records be brought up to date and kept up to date.

"It is the policy of the Commission that automobiles and other equipment, as signed to personnel shall be the responsibility of the person to whom they are assigned, whether they be Conservation Officers or Commissioners or anyone else. That when damage is done to such



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equipment through negligence, that the person to whom it is assigned shall be responsible for its damage and shall pay for it.

It is recommended that cost per mile of each automobile be kept up to date on operation and maintenance and that evaluation be made as to the use of this equipment based upon such studies.

It is requested that the Directors of the Divisions report to the Commission on steps taken in regard to this automobile responsibility and cost at the next meeting of the Commission.

We would like to have a condensation of this and know what is being done in regard to one automobile that is costing 19 cents a mile to operate and another one that is costing 3 cents a mile to operate. We would like to know what corrective steps are being taken as a result of the data that we have.

It is the policy of the Commission that the boating laws of South Carolina shall be enforced.

It is the policy of the Commission that five Conservation Officers be assigned to the Director of Boating from May through August, inclusive, for the purpose of using these people in various sections of the state where there may be a greater concentration of pleasure boating from time to time, so that the public will become more cognizant of the boating laws and our ability to enforce them.

It is the policy of the Commission that the Commission and the Wildlife Resources Department will work for the establishment of education and practical use of the marine area of this state, and work towards the establishment of marine biological laboratories and a chair in marine biology at some educational institution. That our present personnel in the marine field be increased so that we can expect to have a tripling of the marine scientists within our personnel."

There was some discussion about the use of conservation officers assigned to boating duties and how Tommy Welch should notify the supervisors but Mr. Elzerouh said that was an



administrative manner than could be worked out. He mentioned how well the radio hookup was working and said there should be no communication problem.

Mr. Eitzroth then brought up the matter of setting the Federal waterfowl seasons, saying there should be some way of letting the public express its opinion of what season it preferred, this including sportsmen, outdoor writers and the Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Eitzroth then read a letter Mr. Webb had received from the Fish and Wildlife Service regarding plans for receiving state recommendations and the setting of the seasons and limits within certain frameworks. The meetings will be held in Washington August 8 and 9.

There was a general discussion with it being brought out that the latest possible season favored by all South Carolina hunters but that there was some difference of opinion on 50 days and three ducks or 45 days and four ducks.

Mr. Cantey suggested it might be good for the supervisors to hold meetings over the state but Mr. Webb said it would be difficult to get information to them in time.

It was finally agreed that publicity should be given to the fact that a public hearing would be held in Columbia, the actual date to be announced as soon as possible.

Dr. Lund mentioned some help he was getting in studying the crab mortality along the coast and in the study of oxygen requirements of shrimp. He said that a report had been received from a Maryland laboratory but that the report did not pinpoint the reason for the crab mortality.

In regard to the location of offshore fishing reefs, which had been authorized by the last General Assembly, Dr. Lund said that he would prefer the location of the reefs be decided by the Commission. He pointed out that all the coastal counties wished reefs established off their shores and some of them were about ready to start, with a good deal of local help.

Mr. Eitzroth said it would probably be a good idea for a committee of the Commission to meet with Rep. Harshbarger's committee to discuss the matter.

The inventory and preliminary survey of salt water sports fishery was discussed briefly,



as was the recent fish kill in the Ashley river. Dr. Luns said he had not yet received a copy of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly urging investigation of the kill and possibility of a Commission ruling some action. (A copy of this resolution is contained in the legislative reports by John Spivey for the period ending July 5.)

Dr. Luns also mentioned the disposition of moneys collected for Commercial Fisheries violations but said this had been taken care of.

The matter of the Atlantic Shellfish Company leases, now cancelled, and what applicants should be given the leases was brought up. Dr. Luns said the Blue Channel Corporation had applied first and apparently planned to sublease, the other application being from Walter Lubin, Jr. Dr. Luns also mentioned three leases which he said should be cancelled by the Commission, although hearings would probably be necessary. These are Nos. 171 and 180 held by the Ashe Inland Seafood Company and No. 27 held by the Carolina Sea Food, Inc.

Mr. Elturock said hearings on these matters could be held at the next meeting of the Commission, tentatively set for August 14.

A general discussion followed in the matter of leasing and subleasing, Mr. Elturock wondering whether some transferring could be stopped and also whether it would be a good idea to stop the practice.

Mr. Hatcher mentioned enforcement problems.

Mr. Olson and Dr. Luns explained the block and single systems of harvesting oysters and why two individuals might work the same lease under the different systems of harvesting.

Mr. Elturock then asked whether it should be the policy of the Commission not to lease oyster bottoms to people not actually in the oyster business and who had no intention of being in the business. All the Commissioners agreed with this and it was also suggested that this be incorporated in all contracts.

The question of opening the shrimp season was then brought up, Dr. Luns saying that he would recommend an immediate opening but there would have to be a slight delay in announcement as he did not have the definitive nor endorsing operators of the opening date.



Mr. Webb then said that he could get the nonpass run off during the afternoon and could get them down to Charleston. The opening was then set for 12 a. m. of the 19th.

A number of non-pay and regular conservation officers were approved for commissioning, that of an Orangeburg man being approved subject to further investigation.

Mr. Webb said that plans for outdoor recreation would be included in the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation plan that was being redrafted, including Dr. Lunn's plan for sport fishing along the coast.

The personnel evaluation system was then brought up, with the suggestion that there be recommendations at the next meeting regarding action against some wardens who were not doing satisfactory work.

Mr. Ryan said the systems in a number of states had been studied and that finally the FBI plan, as presented at the recent SLED school, appeared to be about the best for the Department.

On the question of whether wardens should be present when they were being evaluated by their supervisors, Mr. Glenn pointed out that in the military this was not the case. The person affected would have the right to see the reports and to enter a protest if he wished. It was agreed that the initial grading would be by the supervisor with the conservation officer not present and that this would avoid pressure.

The resignation of Deane Inso, Jr., was accepted with regrets and the Secretary asked to write Mr. Inso a letter.

The Green Thumb program was discussed briefly and it was agreed that there was no need to invite an official down to explain it.

Mr. Elmeroth read a letter from the Corps of Engineers regarding many protests they had received regarding the recent loading of shed sets, saying that there was quite a bit of bad feeling and that it would probably be best to have a committee handle this in the future. He said that he would appoint a three-man committee to study the matter.

A letter from the Development Board was brought up suggesting that a cheaper and short-term license be established for out-of-state anglers but it was brought out this is handled by the General Assembly.



Mr. Webb said that he did not know how long it would be before the new badges would be ready and also that new commissions would have to be given.

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