

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JULY 19, 1968

Present were all Commissioners except Mr. Oliphant, Directors Webb and Lunz, Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, John Quillen, Fred Ramage, Ed Latimer, Gene Howell, Joe Logan and Kirk Stringfellow of the Advisory Committee.

Following an executive session, Dr. Lunz was called on. The first matter concerned the cancellation of Oyster Lease 43, for which William Baldwin, Steve Flowers and Ted Fontaine had applied. Mr. Flowers had completed his lease maps first and then advertised according to law. Mr. Baldwin has protested, this calling for a hearing under Section 28-815. Mr. Eltzroth said the matter would be heard by the Commission at its meeting August 16 at the West Virginia property near Bonneau, time 11 o'clock. Dr. Lunz was requested to advise the interested parties of the meeting.

At this point, Senator Goldberg and Mr. Thomas of the J. P. Stevens Company plant in Chesterfield county appeared in regard to a case that had been brought against the company for a fish kill on the Pee Dee river below the plant.

Director Webb gave the background for the case, saying that a report had been received that fish were dying in the river and an investigation revealed that the cause was apparently the outfall from the Wallace plant. A warrant had been issued against the company and the investigation was being continued, no further action having been taken to date.

Senator Goldberg said that he had met with Mr. Webb and Mr. Eltzroth shortly after the incident became known and told them that he and officials of the Stevens company would be glad to confer with the Commission at a later date. He mentioned other sources of pollution in the area and said the kill was apparently due to excessive low water in the river at the time a settling basin was being cleaned and drained into the river. He said that the basin had been cleaned in similar manner on previous occasions without any adverse effect on fish.

He said that the plant had a permit from the Pollution Control Authority to



release 10,000,000 gallons a day into the river and the release at the time blamed for the kill was between 5,000 and 6,000,000.

He said the settling pond was cut off as soon as the kill became known.

He said that since the fish kill occurred several things had happened. First the Pollution Control Authority was requiring that the plant take the necessary steps to clean up the situation; and the company had started the necessary corporate action to construct the necessary treatment facilities, but that such things take time. He said that he wanted to assure the Commission that the river level would be closely watched before any similar cleaning action was taken and the pond would not be drained without representatives of the Water Pollution Control Authority present. Representatives of the Wildlife Resources Department would also be welcome to observe. He added that construction of the necessary facilities would cost from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, and the operation would also be costly.

Senator Goldberg added that a cooperative effort would be tried, getting other agencies and companies that were dumping their pollution into the river to join the Stevens company. He said that the position and obligation of the Commission was appreciated but that it would be appreciated if the punitive action not be pushed.

Mr. Webb asked how long it would be before the new treatment facilities would be in operation. Mr. Goldberg said the corporate action was already under way but could not give a date.

Questions were asked by Mr. Mishoe, Dr. Jones and Mr. Glenn and it was agreed that the matter would be handed at the next meeting, by which time the present studies should have been completed. The warrant will be held in abeyance until the studies have been completed.

Dr. Lunz reported on the status of the fishing reefs and asked the Chairman to appoint a committee to determine to which counties funds should go during the coming year. Mr. Eltzroth said the same committee--Mr. Glenn, Mr. Mishoe and him-



self--would handle the matter.

A report was made on the Navy request for permission to maneuver across oyster beds in coming maneuvers and Dr. Lunz said the Navy had extended the time in which damage could be claimed to one year.

The Commission approved the renting of additional space for the Division of Commercial Fisheries.

Considerable discussion followed regarding the plan of the Trade Schools to operate a shrimp trawler out of Beaufort to teach navigation and the use of trawl boats and equipment. Dr. Lunz said the Division has the authority to issue special permits to recognized scientists and students but he was worried about the legality of issuing permits if the shrimp were sold.

Mr. Eltzroth said the question is, if there is any way the Commission can give blanket permit "we want to do it." He asked Dr. Lunz and Ed Latimer to get together and do whatever the Attorney General says.

A motion of Mr. Glenn was then adopted that the Commission authorize the operation of the training trawler as was wished, with no charge if approval is given by the Attorney General.

The Chairman appointed a sub-committee, the same as that handling the reef matter, to study the proposal of Charlie Bearden for a sport fishing study. Mr. Glenn said he would like the committee to meet at his home in Beaufort on July 26 if it could be arranged, and this was set as a tentative date.

In answer to a question from Mr. Glenn, Mr. Latimer and Dr. Lunz said they knew nothing definite of a report that the Berkshire plant at Dale was being served with papers for pollution.

Mr. Eltzroth asked about fish kills in the Ashley river and Dr. Lunz reported on what he knew of the matter. Mr. Eltzroth said the Commission has the responsibility to determine the causes of pollution and to initiate the necessary action.



Several conservation officer appointments were approved and two from Mr. Glenn's district were held in abeyance for a future meeting.

Dr. Jones asked how many officers were paid from county funds and Mr. Webb said six men are paid from county funds at present. He also said there was no difference in the control he had over the conservation officers paid from county funds and those on the regular payroll.

Mr. Webb said that R. M. Jefferies, Jr., had called and informed him that two lots adjoining the Department hatchery at Barnwell could be purchased and would add a great deal to the appearance and beautification of the area. He said he believed it might be good to acquire the lots, which would give highway frontage, but he did not believe the Department could justify purchasing this with state conservation funds. He said that he had suggested that funds credited to the county be used for this purpose.

Mr. Eltzroth then read a letter from Speaker Sol Blatt saying that county funds should not be used and suggesting that the Budget and Control Board be asked for the money. Mr. Webb recommended that the Department agree to pay up to 25 per cent of the cost from Game and Fish funds, if the rest can be secured from other sources. A motion of Mr. Cantey embodying this was then adopted, providing that not more than 25 per cent of Department state funds be used.

The schedule of management area hunts was presented by Mr. Nelson and was approved.

Mr. Eltzroth said that he was disturbed about the laxity in licensing for the hunts last year and Mr. Nelson said the plan for the coming year had not yet been definitely decided. It was agreed that the brochure should be printed with notice that "permit will be required" and the details should be worked out before the August meeting. Mr. Webb said consideration should be given to charging a fee for the hunts in the future.



The matter of dedicating the plaques to the late Commissioners Joseph Cox and J. D. Parler was discussed and Mr. Webb was instructed to contact Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Parler and handle the matter in whatever way they wished.

Mr. Eltzroth read a telegram from Charley Fraser of Hilton Head Island expressing appreciation for clearing up litter on the beaches.

Mr. Ryan then reported on the progress that had been made on setting up schedules for continuing education training for conservation officers with the Educational Television. He said another meeting was scheduled for next week with the ETV officials.

He said that two years ago a project had been worked up between ETV, SLED, and the Governor's office for training law enforcement personnel and that the Department might want to adopt part of this for its conservation officers. He added that 15 of the 22 proposed courses had been selected. Present plans call for these courses being presented bi-weekly, starting in September and running through March, each 45 minutes. He said he felt this would be something all conservation officers could use, and it would also condition them to ETV training.

There would be no cost to the Department, not even printing material, all these being borne by ETV. The only expense to the Department would be transportation, which could be pooled.

The Commission approved the suggested program.

Mr. Ryan also discussed a conservation officer training program, which would present the basics of conservation and better enable the officers to be conservation officers rather than strictly enforcement officers.

He said funding would have to be secured from some source, possibly as much as \$1,000,000.

Mr. Eltzroth discussed the scope of the proposed program and said somewhere between \$250,000 and \$500,000 would have to be donated to the Department as a state



agency.

Mr. Fuller reported on negotiations with the Seaboard and ACL regarding getting abandoned trestle sites over certain salt water streams to be used as fishing piers. It was finally agreed that the benefits would not be worth the trouble and expense, and the Corps of Engineers should be so informed. Mr. Webb suggested that efforts should be made to see whether title to the high land approaches could be secured, from the nearest road to the water line.

Mr. Mishoe said this would tie in with legislation regarding the building of boat ramps.

The Commission approved a suggestion of Mr. Webb that he be given authority to make appraisals of pistols of retiring conservation officers and sell them to the individuals at the appraised cost.

Action taken at the last meeting in regard to the Commission opposing anti-gun legislation was amended so that the word "federal" would be inserted before "laws abrogating the right of citizens to bear arms."

The Secretary was instructed to draft and send a letter to all South Carolina Senators and Representatives telling of this action, and to write the proper committee chairman.

Mr. Eltzroth read a letter from the Greenville Federation chapter praising the work of the Commission and the Secretary was instructed to write and thank the chapter.

Mr. Glenn asked how the deer season on Ladies and St. Helena Islands could be closed and it was agreed that legislative action would be necessary.

The Chairman appointed the same committee to work on the budget as had handled the salary schedules, this consisting of Commissioners Cantey, Jones and Glenn.

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Following the regular meeting, Mr. Webb got in contact with West Virginia of-



officials and reported that the schedule for the August meeting calls for the Commissioners to arrive the evening of Thursday, August 15. Hunts will be held Friday and on Saturday morning, the Commission meeting being held Friday morning. The oyster lease hearing mentioned on Page 1 is still scheduled for 11 o'clock, and I will notify the Commissioners if there is any change.

Mr. Webb also said West Virginia had told him they could accommodate only 15 guests, 12 of them in the main house and three in a cabin.

Mr. Webb also said that the annual meeting at Palmetto Bluff had been set for early in September, arriving the afternoon of Wednesday, September 4 and leaving after the hunt on Thursday, September 5.

Eddie Finlay

