

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JUNE 11, 1969

Present were all Commissioners, Jim Webb, Roger Seamans, Oscar Sullivan, Fred Ramage, Gene Howell, Jeff Fuller and Tommy Welch.

Following an executive session, Vice-Chairman Glenn, presiding, it was announced that a resolution had been adopted praising the efforts of Chairman Eltzroth to secure passage of the hunting and fishing license and his work in securing the license revisions in the General Appropriations Bill all of which had full support of all Commissioners. (A meeting of the Commission, except for the chairman, was held following the regular meeting and it was agreed that a resolution be drafted to be sent to the press).

Mr. Eltzroth then resumed the chair and congratulated Mr. Webb on his return to active duty after his brief incapacitation.

Mr. Welch was asked to check into the Department boat with the outfit in Florida and see how soon it could be delivered.

The appointment of one non-pay warden was approved.

Mr. Thompson brought up the possibility of commissioning two men of the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department who were working on public lakes in the Anderson area and the Commission voted that they be commissioned, subject to the approval of Mr. Webb and Mr. Thompson.

The question of commissions for Commissioners was also discussed.

The salary schedule drawn up and suggested by Mr. Webb was then presented for consideration, Mr. Webb explaining that it had been drawn up hurriedly and some adjustments might be made during the year to correct any inequities.

Mr. Webb pointed out that the starting salary for conservation officers had been changed from \$4,500 to \$5,283.

Mr. Glenn brought up the question of the amount of the raise for Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Webb explained that she was at the top of her classification bracket and could not be changed without her being placed in a new job classification with



the approval of Mr. Ellis, the State Personnel Director. He said the request would be made.

Mr. Mishoe moved that the schedule as presented by Mr. Webb be approved with the understanding that they be reevaluated in the near future with the possibility that certain positions may be corrected.

The Commission then approved changing a typographical error on Page 8 and a mislabeling error on Page 14.

Mr. Sullivan then presented a schedule for Commercial Fisheries personnel. In answer to questions by Mr. Eltzroth it was brought out that the salaries listed were those that had been presented to the Budget and Control Board in December and were less than those approved for personnel in the Division of Game, and he favored revision to bring them in line.

It was agreed that Mr. Webb work with Mr. Sullivan in working up a schedule for all employes of the Division of Commercial Fisheries, and also have the person at Bears Bluff Laboratories who was familiar with a tentative schedule that had been presented.

A motion of Mr. Mishoe was adopted that the Commission "commend the Chairman for his untiring efforts and excellent lobbying with the General Assembly for securing what has so far been gotten from the Legislature, even though he failed to get all that was asked for; and that although deeply hurt as he is in the matter he continue his efforts, for which we feel sure he will need no coaxing from the Commission; and that this resolution be made a part of the minutes of the meeting." Mr. Mishoe's motion was unanimously adopted.

He also asked the adoption of a resolution that "the Commission as a whole endorse the actions of the Chairman and draw up a resolution in support of the Chairman in all his efforts in behalf of the Wildlife Resources Department and



that a resolution expressing this support be drawn up and submitted to the news media and that the original of the resolution be presented to the Chairman." This was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Mishoe asked about a matter involving enforcement of the boating laws at Garden City and Mr. Eltzroth explained the situation.

Mr. Webb discussed the status and progress of the legislation that the Department and Commission had been seeking and expressed appreciation for the work and time spent by the Chairman. Mr. Mishoe also expressed the appreciation of the Commission.

Mr. Eltzroth brought up the memorandum of understanding between the Corps of Engineers and the Commission and said Mr. Webb and Mr. Sullivan would be hearing from Colonel Lee soon as the spoil areas that would be available for use by the Department. A copy of the understanding was given to the Secretary for filing.

Mr. Eltzroth then took up a letter from Director Lunz of the Division of Commercial Fisheries asking that he be relieved of his duties and on motion of Mr. Eppes his resignation was accepted with regrets. The Secretary was instructed to advise Dr. Lunz and to draw up a suitable resolution expressing the regrets of the Commission and thanking him for his services to the State, a copy going to each Commissioner. He was also instructed to furnish Mr. Sullivan with Dr. Lunz's letter of June 3 to be placed in the files, Mr. Sullivan to continue as acting director of the Division.

Mr. Eltzroth expressed thanks to the Commission and Department personnel for their confidence in his efforts and praised all the work they had done.

Asked by Mr. Rhame for the status of legislation affecting the Department, Mr. Eltzroth said there was a provision in the bill for an amount of approximately \$278,000 for use in construction of marine research facilities; also \$500,000 for



research facilities not all earmarked for marine research; and a line item for \$250,000 for operating marine laboratory facilities.

Mr. Eltzroth also explained the changes in the license fees, saying they would amount to around \$400,000 for hunting and \$600,000 from fishing license, making around \$1,000,000 available for fresh water fishing and hunting. He pointed out that the angler's license would be \$5.25 and the resident hunting license \$6.25, with all lake permits remaining the same. All of this must be concurred in by the House of Representatives. A conference committee is now considering the Bill.

Mr. Eltzroth also said that the salary increases had not been approved with the idea they would have to come out of increased Department revenue. If additional revenue is not provided cuts in Department operating cost will have to be made to take care of the difference.

Mr. Webb pointed out that under the provisions of the General Appropriations Bill as it now stands that the fishing license year will end January 1 and the hunting license year July 1.

Mr. Eltzroth said he hoped this could be changed so both licenses would expire on the same date.

Mr. Glenn reported on a meeting held in Charleston last week by a sub-committee to consider the pending bill pertaining to seasons, limits and areas for shrimping. He said that the committee had heard from the Shrimpers Association and it was agreed that instead of the many licenses required for a boat and crew that a \$75 license, covering everything, be imposed on state boats and a \$100 license on out-of-state boats. Some changes in penalties were also suggested.

Mr. Eltzroth suggested that the penalty for violation of certain laws be changed from taking the license of the boat away to taking away the license of the captain, who would face a jail sentence if he operated a boat without a license. The suggestion was made that the captain be required to have a \$10 license, in addition to the license for the boat.

Mr. Mishoe said that after the legislative session was ended he heard



law enforcement handbook, including new legislation, could be brought up to date. He added that the prices of recodifying the laws be studied and it was mentioned that there are two companies--the Mishie (?) company and the Equity Company--from which prices should be secured. He suggested that the work be completed by November 1 so the Commission could have a chance to adopt recommendations for change by the time the General Assembly convenes. Mr. Webb said that Tom Linton had offered to help.

Mr. Thompson invited all Commissioners to attend a meeting of the sub-committee with the Anderson delegation Monday night at Broadway Lake. Members of the sub-committee besides Mr. Thompson are Mr. Rhame and Mr. Eppes.

Mr. Eltzroth said he had received a letter from Mr. Broom of the Florida Commission requesting a member of each Commission of the Southeastern Association to attend a meeting of the Florida Commission July 17-18 at Tallahassee. Mr. Glenn agreed to attend.

Mr. Glenn brought up the fact that a number of oyster leases are coming up in July and his suggestion was adopted that Mr. Sullivan be authorized to employ any help that is necessary in getting the leases renewed.

Following the regular meeting, the Commission, with the exception of the Chairman, met to draft a resolution that would be sent to the press, expressing the support of the Commission for the actions of the Chairman. The Secretary was instructed to draw up a suitable resolution and send it to the members for their approval before sending it out.

Eddie Finlay

