

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT BELMONT JUNE 20, 1968

Present were Chairman Eltzroth, Commissioners Cantey, Glenn, Eppes and Jones, Director Webb, Dr. Lunz, Pat Ryan, Ed Latimer, Jeff Fuller, Gene Howell, Roger Seaman and Dr. Harry Freeman of the College of Charleston.

Following an executive session, Mr. Eltzroth read a letter from Carlisle C. Parler, brother of J. D. Parler, thanking the Commission for naming the St. George radio station after the late chairman. The Secretary was requested to write Mr. Parler expressing the appreciation of the Commission.

The invitation of the West Virginia Paper Company to hold the August meeting of the Commission at their headquarters in Berkeley county was accepted and the Secretary was instructed to write Coy Johnson and tell him that the Commission would have 15 men. (The third Friday in August is the 16th, one day after the opening of the deer season.)

Dr. Freeman then presented his request for help from the Commission in carrying out a study of the freshwater fishes of the state's waters. He mentioned a previous appearance before the Commission and cited his long efforts to get approval for the plan, mentioning the value of the ecological studies. He said there had been a misunderstanding about the availability of money for the project. He explained the salary and expense figures for the proposed study.

In answer to a question from Major Cantey he said that all types of fish would be included, around 125 species. He also said the study would be carried on throughout the year, although most of the work would be during the summer months.

Mr. Webb asked whether the Baruch Foundation had been approached and he said the foundation was only supporting work around the Baruch property.

Mr. Glenn asked the position of the College of Charleston in relation to the study and Dr. Freeman said it does not have sufficient funds but feels it will be of much benefit to the State.



In answer to a question from Dr. Jones, Mr. Fuller said there would be some duplication of the work of the Department but the study would have different objectives.

Mr. Eltzroth thanked Dr. Freeman for appearing and said the Commission would take the matter under advisement.

Dr. Lunz brought up an appealed ruling on a hearing involving oyster lands that are now in the large spoil area back of Morris Island, pointing out that both of the men who had appealed the ruling of the late Commissioner Cox were now dead. He said that Mr. Flowers, to whom the Commission had planned to issue the lease, had recently requested that the lease now be issued. He also said that it was the Division's position that the appeal is still active, but even if it is dropped the Division can not issue the lease since the lands have been taken over by the State Ports Authority.

After some discussion, the Commission voted to approve Dr. Lunz's position.

The question of continued employment of J. Lockwood Brown by the Division of Commercial Fisheries was brought up by Dr. Lunz. Mr. Brown will reach his 70th birthday in September and on motion of Mr. Eppes any decision was left up to Dr. Lunz' discretion.

Action on cancellation of Oyster Lease 138 in Battery Creek, which was begun by the Commission in 1962, was discussed and after Mr. Latimer said that he had a meeting set with Brantly Harvey he was instructed to move for dismissal of the appeal in the case by July 15.

Mr. Glenn asked about payment to Beaufort county for its fishing reef and Dr. Lunz told him that as soon as the county met certain requirements it will be paid.

The planned marine maneuvers in the coastal areas were discussed and the matter of reimbursements for possible damages to leases brought up. Dr. Lunz



said he had not had time to study the possibilities and Mr. Eltzroth said the Commission was not in a position to take any action until it received recommendation from Dr. Lunz. He said a special meeting could be called if necessary.

Mr. Ryan gave a report on the educational program for some of the conservation officers and said he was very pleased. He also mentioned the surveillance study which could be used for detection of hoof-and-mouth disease. He also gave a report on the hunter safety program, saying that 20 officers had been trained and were ready to instruct other officers, some of them having already started. Dr. Jones praised the recent rifle safety demonstration.

In answer to a question from Mr. Eltzroth, Mr. Ryan said it would probably be a year before the educational TV program would be ready. Mr. Eltzroth then asked Mr. Ryan to set up an appointment with Henry Cauthen for him, preferably next Thursday.

Mr. Webb reported that several conservation officers had completed their high school education.

Mr. Eltzroth thanked the members of the sub-committee that had been working up salary schedules.

The recent anti-gun propaganda program was discussed and a motion of Mr. Glenn was adopted that the Commission go on record as opposing "all the so-called gun registration laws and any laws abrogating the right of citizens to bear arms."

The question of surf-boarding at Garden City, where water skiing was prohibited, came up and it was agreed that a new rule and regulation be drawn up spelling out that the prohibition applied to surf-boarding. The action was taken on motion of Mr. Eppes.



A letter from Mr. Webb to all Conservation Officers was read instructing them to assist in enforcing drunken driving and reckless operation violations, particularly on secondary roads. This was following a request from the Governor. Mr. Webb said that he had written the Governor that the officers should have some training before undertaking this unfamiliar duty. Mr. Cantey recommended that there be some publicity on this and that a news release on it should be put out by the Director.

A number of appointments were approved, some of Mr. Mishoe's being held up until he could approve them.

Mr. Webb presented figures showing the percentage of expenditures going to salaries, which have remained about the same from year to year.

Mr. Eltzroth brought up the possibility of all personnel being paid every two weeks and a motion of Dr. Jones was adopted that all personnel be paid under the same schedule, effective as soon as possible.

A letter from Bob Yawkey to Mr. Webb, expressing thanks for the opportunity of working at the striped bass hatchery and for the attendant recognition, was read by Mr. Eltzroth.

Mr. Glenn brought up the honor paid Dr. Lunz in the dedication of the G. Robert Lunz Memorial Library and the Commission voted to commend Dr. Lunz for the splendid work he has done and to express pleasure over the well-deserved recognition he had received.

Mr. Webb proposed some change in the salaries and job classifications and the Commission voted that the new salary schedule as proposed should stand approved.

*Eddie Finlay*

