

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JUNE 22, 1966

(The first part of the meeting was devoted to a Commercial Fisheries matter-- the question of whether the lease of the Atlantic Shellfish Company should be cancelled for failure to fulfil requirements of the Coastal Fisheries Act. This was taken down by a regular court stenographer, T. Hardin Jewett, and should be ready within the next few days, at which time records will be distributed to the interested parties).

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Present for the meeting were Commissioners Parler, Cantey, Glenn, Hopkins, Mishoe, Jones and Oliphant. Also present were Directors Webb and Lunz, Assistant Attorney Generals J. C. Coleman and Ed Latimer, Allison Fickling and Lockwood Brown. Present for the Commercial Fisheries hearing were Brantley Harvey, Jr., Richard G. Politzer and James B. Huffman of Beaufort.

Chairman Parler called the meeting to order and said that Mr. Latimer had a matter to present to the Commission.

Mr. Latimer said that the Detyens Shipyard on the Wando river in Charleston county wished to dredge the river to obtain additional depth to facilitate the fulfillment of contracts with the Charleston Navy Yard. He said that the dredging, which would be done under the supervision of the Corps of Engineers, would destroy approximately 10,000 bushels of sub-tidal oysters valued at between \$12,000 and \$12,500. If these oysters could be removed ahead of the dredging they could be saved, if funds were available. He said the Detyens Shipyard has agreed to put up \$1,500 of the \$3,000 needed for the work and the Commission agreed to request the Budget and Control Board to furnish the additional needed funds.

After a discussion of the Toomer vs. Toomer matter, Dr. Lunz asked that something be done and it was decided that an order be prepared by Mr. Coleman ordering them to vacate the lease area. The Commission will then be able to re-lease the area.

Dr. Lunz brought up several matters for consideration by the Commission including: (1) the failure of some lease holders to comply with regulations regarding planting of shell to serve as a bed for seed oysters; (2) extensive drainage work being done on Johns Island with drains cutting through oyster leases, this being done by the Corps of



Engineers as well as private individuals; (3) a widespread kill of blue crabs and shrimp in the Charleston Harbor area; (4) land fills taking away state marshes from Beaufort to Little River.

Dr. Lunz said that restraining orders have been placed against a number of individuals engaged in these land filling operations but many are still continuing the practice. He added that personnel involved in reporting the land fill activities are becoming discouraged because of the lack of action. Chairman Parler then requested Dr. Lunz to present the facts to him in a letter and he would discuss the matter with the office of the Attorney General.

Paul W. Hair was approved as a Hampton county warden to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of William B. Johnson.

The employment of Charles Henry Eastman as Department Engineer was approved by the Commission after Director Webb has explained the necessity of the Department having a full time engineer. He said the engineer would make inspections on all projects undertaken by the Outdoor Recreation Division, check all engineering plans; and supervise the marking of channels from the engineering standpoint.

Mr. Glenn called the attention of the other Commissioners to the July 8-9 meeting with the Georgia Commission. The Commissioners will meet at Savannah and proceed by boat to Palmetto Bluff, returning to Savannah the following morning after breakfast.

Director Webb stated that a portion of the land assigned to the Department near the Styx Fish Hatchery was being transferred by the Budget and Control Board as the site for a school. He said the original plan would have placed the school in a position to interfere with the creek that furnishes water for the hatchery and he had proposed an alternate site for the school. He had also succeeded in having the 50 acres requested reduced to 40 acres. The Commission then instructed Mr. Webb to handle the situation at his discretion in a manner suitable to the best interests of the Department.

Mr. Hopkins mentioned the pollution problem in the Greenville area caused by the Donaldson Air Base property and said a number of court actions have been instituted.



Mr. Webb said that an investigation of the situation would be made.

Chairman Parler reminded the Commission of the pollution of portions of the Edisto and requested that wardens continue their efforts to observe and report all occurrences of pollution.

