

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA JUNE 8, 1961

Present were Commissioners Warren, Johnson, Cox, Cantey and Hopkins, Directors Webb and Lutz, Mr. Welch, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Latimer, Mr. Schley. Mr. Johnson presided.

Mr. James Moore of Georgetown, attorney for Mr. Vanderbilt, and Messrs. Buist Rivers, Sr., and Jr., of Charleston, attorneys for the Belle Baruch and Yawkey interests, appeared in opposition to granting an oyster lease on lands claimed by their clients to Mr. Edge, who had filed an application. They stated that their clients were willing for a lease to be granted to Mr. Bowen, since with his planned development of the beds they believed an oyster factory might be established at Georgetown. They stated that if Mr. Bowen were granted leases on parts of the area in question owned by the State he could also get rights from the above mentioned private owners, without their relinquishing any rights to titles in dispute.

Mr. Moore stated that he had asked Mr. Cox to reopen a hearing held May 9 but that the request was declined and he wished to appeal to the Commission on Mr. Cox's ruling.

Mr. Cox stated that Mr. Moore and Mr. Rivers had opposed the granting of a lease to Mr. Edge when his application was filed and that the hearing was set and notice sent to the parties concerned. Mr. Rivers attended the meeting but Mr. Moore did not.

Mr. Moore had then asked that the hearing be reopened and his request was turned down.

Mr. Johnson inquired of Mr. Moore how he would be hurt if the hearing were not reopened, since Mr. Cox had given no indication of how he would rule on the applications, and since his position paralleled that of Mr. Rivers, which had been presented at the hearing.

The question of the navigability of certain creeks was also discussed, and whether certain rights obtaining to the State when the streams were navigable had been lost when the streams were ruled non-navigable.



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Subsequently, a motion of Mr. Cantey was adopted that Mr. Cox's ruling be affirmed and that the whole matter be left to his discretion.

The salary schedule for the Administrative Division as set by the General Assembly was approved.

Mr. Webb said that with the mileage increase from seven to nine cents he would like to put the monthly travel allowance of wardens at \$125 instead of \$100. He then presented a salary schedule for wardens, recommending a starting salary of \$3,000 with the understanding that the new warden could have no outside interests that might interfere with his job, and asking that he be given authority to grant merit raises after one year of service to wardens making less than \$3,300.

On motion of Mr. Cox all of Mr. Webb's recommendations were approved, including salary schedule, travel allowance increase and authority to grant merit raises up to 10 per cent where justified.

A salary schedule for other personnel was then presented, with several Commissioners asking whether other raises could not be allowed. A motion of Mr. Cox was adopted that the schedule be revised with no raises in excess of \$300 at the discretion of the Director, and that after Mr. Fuller and Mr. Nelson received this amount they confer with Mr. Webb regarding personnel in their Divisions. The \$300 raises would also be granted to Mr. Webb and Mr. Welch.

Mr. Cox moved that the Commission go on record as asking legislative approval for salary increases in the Division of Commercial Fisheries and the Administrative Division.

Mr. Warren said that the State newspaper had omitted his mention of credit to Department personnel in a story he had written for a special edition of the paper.

Mr. Jerry Settle of Spartanburg said that he was concerned about a bill introduced in the General Assembly giving the Department right of condemnation on lands in Colleton county.



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The Commission approved deeding a nine-foot strip of the former Dorchester fish hatchery to the former owner before deeding the hatchery area to the county for recreational purposes.

Mr. Webb stated that Mr. Thomas Samworth of Georgetown had offered to turn his land--around 800 acres and a three-story house--over to the Department provided he and his wife have life tenure and that the Department acquire an approximately equal amount of land in the vicinity.

Mr. Webb said he had suggested a conveyance that would accept the land with the understanding that if an equal amount had not been acquired in 10 years the land revert to Mr. Samworth or his heirs, or that the Department buy it for \$50,000. He said that Mr. Samworth was agreeable to this.

On motion of Mr. Cox, Mr. Webb was authorized to accept the gift of land from Mr. Samworth and to attempt to secure the additional needed acreage within federal aid limits.

A number of appointments and reappointments for wardens were approved.

Dr. Lunz suggested that the Commission might consider the possibility of having the law changed under which certain county treasurers received five per cent of license fees where no work is involved.

He reported that revenue for the past year was over \$40,000 more than the average for the years before he took over as director of the Division of Commercial Fisheries and that for the first time revenue had exceeded appropriations, with a surplus in the Division. He was congratulated by the Commission for the exceptional progress that has been made.

Mr. Welch reported on revenue of the Boating Division, saying that it was operating on a safe financial basis. He also presented a report on accidents for the first four months of the year, stating that for some reason deaths and injuries were up from the comparable months of last year.

*Eddie Finlay*

