

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN OCONEE COUNTY JUNE 9, 1967

All Commissioners were present except Mr. Oliphant. Also present were Director Webb, Assistant Director Ryan, Frank Nelson, Tommy Welch and Gene Howell, as well as a group from Florence, represented by Rep. Peter Hyman and Mr. Askins.

Mr. Hyman outlined the situation regarding the canal behind Garden City, where several months ago the Commission adopted a regulation prohibiting water skiing and enforcing speed laws on boats. He said that he and Mr. Askins represented 55 landowners on the canal and asked the Commission to rescind its previous action. He said that rentals were being hurt and that although the persons he represented did not want unrestricted skiing they wanted the ban lifted so as to allow reasonable skiing.

Mr. Askins said that many of the property owners had bought their lots with the intention of using the canal for skiing.

There was a general discussion regarding the width of the canal at various stages of the tide; wakes of boats at various speeds; and the matter was taken under advisement, with the interested persons to be notified of the action taken by the Commission.

In answer to a question from Mr. Glenn, Mr. Hyman said that contrary opinions regarding skiing were held by some other of the landowners on the canal.

Mr. Eltzroth then went over matters that had been taken up earlier in executive session. He said that the Commission had raised the salary of Mr. Ryan to \$13,500 effective July 1.

Dr. Lunz was authorized to pay Oscar Sullivan \$240 for additional services during the past year and also to pay all other inspectors \$100 additional, provided this can be done under the framework of the Division's appropriation.

Mr. Eltzroth also said that Director Webb has been authorized to meet with and tentatively make contracts with Clemson University concerning various studies to be made by the Department in conjunction with Clemson and its plans to set up courses



in wildlife management.

Three salary adjustments recommended by Director Webb were approved, the salaries of two Clarendon wardens being raised from \$5,000 to \$5,200 and an additional \$100 for Mrs. Knox.

On motion of Dr. Jones, the salary of Warden Snider was increased by \$200.

The Commission approved Mr. Webb's suggestion that the Chamberlain House on Clark Hill be abandoned and turned back over to the Corps of Engineers.

A number of warden appointments were approved.

Dr. Jones suggested that wardens handling licenses be paid an additional \$240 a year, Mr. Mishoe seconding.

Mr. Webb explained the present system and said he did not think it was a good policy to change the present system, saying it would create jealousy and friction.

(At this point Mr. Eltzroth asked if the question of whether or not the Chairman could vote had ever been brought up at a Commission meeting. Mr. Webb said that in the past chairmen had voted and a motion was adopted that the Chairman could vote, whether or not there had been a tie.)

Mr. Glenn said that he agreed that the change might bring trouble and his motion that the matter be held over until the next meeting was adopted unanimously.

There was a general discussion of where to hold the July meeting, Mr. Glenn first suggesting Hunting Island if arrangements could be worked out. After further discussion it was agreed to hold the meeting at Wampee and if these arrangements could not be made to hold it in Columbia. Mr. Webb was asked to contact the Santee-Cooper authorities and was given discretion as to setting the date.

A list of recommendations for Safety and Rescue Unit Operation drawn up by Pat Ryan and Tommy Welch was then presented by Mr. Welch. A motion of Mr. Glenn was adopted that the program be adopted, after it was brought out that the cost would be



around \$15,000 to start.

The question of bringing the salaries of fisheries inspectors in line with those of wardens, since they will be in the same category as of July 1, was brought up. Mr. Webb was directed to compare salaries and set salaries of the fisheries men comparable to those of wardens with the same length of service. Mr. Webb suggested that one be named as Chief but that no man be employed to replace Allison Fickling.

The motion of Mr. Mishoe, seconded by Dr. Jones follows: "That the base salary of the transferred inspectors be in line with the wardens of comparable years of service; and that the vacated position of Allison Fickling not be filled."

Mr. Nelson then explained the land setup for the Horse Pasture Management Area and the cooperative agreement with Duke.

Mr. Eltzroth said that Mr. Webb and Pete Strom had worked out details for a command school for supervisors and were working out plans for a continuing police academy for wardens.

The matter of changing the official title from "warden" to "conservation officer" was discussed, Dr. Jones suggesting that it be "ranger."

Mr. Webb said that matters must be worked out with the Budget and Control board in transferring appropriations so that salaries of the fisheries inspectors could be paid without getting into Game Division money. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Director should see about obtaining the transfer so as not to have the inspectors salaries come from the Game funds.

The Garden City matter was brought up and a motion of Mr. Glenn was adopted that Mr. Eltzroth hold a hearing in regard to the use of the canal and report back; and that the Commission be polled as to the action to be taken. Meanwhile, no action will be taken until after the public hearings, which the Chairman will hold sometime after June 18. He said that he would notify the interested parties of the time and place.



Mr. Webb told the Commission that Gordon Brown was resigning as chief of education ~~information~~ July 1 and he was authorized to employ one or more persons as needed for the Information and Education Division.

Eddie Finlay



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