

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA, MARCH 12, 1964

Present were all Commissioners except Mr. Tison, Director Webb, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Pat Ryan and John Quillen.

In answer to Mr. Johnson's request about the license handling bill Mr. Webb said it had been recommitteed and there was little chance of passage this session. The bill will have to be reintroduced next year.

Mr. Fuller presented proposed weed control projects on Ashwood and Barnwell lakes in budget form, which called for slightly over \$9,000 a year, of which the Department's share would be \$2,286. The project is set up for ten years.

Mr. Johnson asked whether this cost could have been avoided by making the lakes deeper and Mr. Fuller said this would not have been practical, adding that the streams going through were too strong to allow fertilization.

After further discussion a motion of Mr. Hopkins was adopted that the project relating to Ashwood and Barnwell lakes be approved. The motion was then amended on motion of Mr. Cox to limit approval for this year only.

A number of non-pay wardens were approved without discussion.

The question of the appointment of a Berkeley county warden, recently released from the penitentiary on a liquor charge, then came up. After considerable discussion a motion of Mr. Cox was adopted that the man in question, "not be employed as a game warden."

Mr. Ryan then reported on the progress of two bills that had been introduced as a result of his appearance with Dr. Lunz before the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee. The bills are designed to solve a conflict between the laws for shad netting and the laws governing netting of non-game fish. The local bill affecting only the Savannah River has passed the House and is now in the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee.

Director Webb stated that the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee had been unable to meet this week but that he hoped to appear before it next week in regard to bills on night hunting, hunting turkey by bait and the shad and non-game fish measures.



Mr. Fuller then presented a tentative application form to be filled out by county delegations seeking the construction of public lakes, which had been requested by the Commission.

It was agreed that instead of leaving the percentage to be paid by the county blank that it read "not less than 25 per cent" and also that the county portion should determine priority.

Mr. Johnson then displayed a map of the Georgetown waterfowl area which showed the privately-owned 62 acres in the middle of the Department land, saying that he had talked with Senator Grimes about the possibility of condemnation to acquire it. It was agreed that legislation would be needed before condemnation proceedings were started and Mr. Webb was instructed to go ahead with this.

Mr. Johnson then brought up bills from the State Auditor for \$8,000 for work done by the Andersen company, saying that the Commission had understood the State was to pay, since the Commission had not ordered the audit. He added that the Governor wished to hold up release of the report until after the General Assembly adjourns. He added that he would talk with the Governor about the matter; and Mr. Webb said he would not pay the bills until the Commission authorized him.

The matter of a letter written Mr. Webb and members of the Commission by Dr. Harry Freeman of the College of Charleston was then discussed. Mr. Webb said he had talked with Doctor Freeman, at the Governor's request, some time before the last meeting of the Commission, at which Doctor Freeman appeared. The project was discussed at length and it was his understanding that the project could be redesigned to provide information that would be valuable in the future management of these streams. The changes were not embraced in the project submitted to the Commission.

After some more discussion a motion of Mr. Cox was adopted that the Commission "stand on the basis of the motion of the previous meeting that Doctor Freeman's suggestions be received as information."



A request from the Laurens delegation for spending up to \$1,000 from funds which the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department credited to Laurens county for public landings in the county was next presented. A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted authorizing this, the motion being amended on motion of Mr. Cox that it be authorized "Provided specifications and construction be such as are reasonably permanent and satisfactory." Mr. Webb said that specifications would come to the Columbia office for approval.

The matter of wardens' houses and landings on Lake Hartwell came up, Mr. Webb saying that wardens were having trouble getting their boats in the lake and that landings were at a premium. He suggested that there be three landings, one for wardens and two for the public. He asked permission to build ramps with permit funds credited to Hartwell Reservoir, which was approved.

Mr. Cox said it was important for the Department to get areas on the lake as soon as possible, one on each side of the lake. He moved that two sites be acquired, as large as possible, one on the Anderson and one on the Oconee sides. This motion was amended on motion of Mr. Hopkins to provide that houses be built as soon as possible.

Mr. Webb asked approval of the Commission to construct a house, boat house and launching ramps on Catawba-Wateree Lake in Kershaw county provided all delegations around Catawba-Wateree agree. They would be built with federal funds and funds credited to the counties. Land would be acquired from Duke Power Company and the rest of construction would be \$24,000. He suggested that half the money, exclusive of federal money, come from Kershaw and half from the other three counties, since the house and landing would be in Kershaw. This was approved.

The Santee-Cooper access projects were reported getting along satisfactorily.

Mr. Johnson cited good TV publicity on the trout stocking program and the new hatchery truck. He also mentioned life-saving and first aid talks by Art Buehler in his county and suggested that arrangements might be worked out for something similar



on the educational TV.

There was a general discussion of pending legislation affecting the setup and terms of office of the Commission.

Mr. Webb exhibited a S&W revolver and suggested that a similar revolver be provided wardens. He said the guns could be secured wholesale for around \$39. Holsters would make the total cost about \$50 per man.

At this point Mr. Johnson and Mr. Webb were excused for another appointment and Mr. Cox took over the chair.

Mr. Heyward moved and Mr. Oliphant seconded that purchase of the necessary number of pistols and holsters be approved.

Mr. Ryan mentioned that the Highway Department had a pistol range and gave shooting instructions and he thought something similar should be arranged for the wardens. Mr. Cantey and Mr. Heyward spoke in favor of this but no formal action was taken.

The Secretary reported that investigation showed landowners were taking little interest in getting government help for plantings for game, the red tape overbalancing the limited funds that could be secured. He said that publicity was planned on the bi-color plantings and distribution by the Department.

Mr. Nelson said that 29 public fields were proposed for next season, compared with 15 for the past season. It was moved and seconded that the program be continued for another year.

Mr. Heyward mentioned a letter he had received opposing the early dove season and other Commissioners said they had received similar letters.

The meeting then recessed for lunch.

Mr. Johnson mentioned the public relations value of the dove shoots and suggested that wardens and biologists be at the shoots.

He praised a suggested project for Kershaw county that would provide a shelter, stables and kennels for trials, and also said he was very pleased with a biologist



being moved to Belmont.

Mr. Ryan reported on a planned report on fishing conditions for the press and radio.

Mr. Fuller reported the striped bass hatchery was 90 per cent completed and should be ready within a week.

Department participation in the Conservation Camp was approved, provided a suitable site can be secured.

Mr. Webb brought up a project that might be worked out with convict help in removing timber and pulp wood from the Hampton lake project. He said he had also talked with Superintendent McDougall regarding a small convict crew and outfit that could be moved around to various projects. The Commission approved his continued negotiations on this matter.

Mr. Heyward asked about the exotic birds being raised at Belmont.

Mr. Ryan reported on the plane, saying it was being used considerably but would soon be laid up for some days for a required check.

In answer to a question from Mr. Cantey, Mr. Webb explained why fishing license sales had fallen off in some counties, saying the probable main reason was the decline in striped bass fishing. He said similar figures could be provided for hunting licenses.

The recent tularemia outbreak was discussed.

Eddie Finlay

