

MINUTES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING IN COLUMBIA MARCH 2, 1967

Major Cantey presided in the absence of Chairman Parler, other Commissioners present being Oliphant, Glenn, Jones, Hopkins, and Mishoe. Also present were W. T. Linton of the Water Pollution Control Authority, Directors Webb and Lunz, Assistant Director Ryan, and Johnny May, Fred Ramage, Tommy Welch and Gene Howell.

Mr. Cantey stated that the first order of business was the matter of the Huff Creek-Reedy River watershed in Greenville county, about which the Commission had adopted a resolution at a previous meeting. Mr. Cantey asked Mr. Linton to tell the status of plans for the area and the present status of industrial plans for the prevention of pollution.

Mr. Linton read parts of the resolution adopted by the Commission at its October meeting, in which the Commission had urged the Water Pollution Control Authority to prevent the further pollution of Reedy River, including the diversion from the Huff Creek Watershed of pollutants from the Donaldson Industrial Park; urged industrial and municipal officials to investigate the possibility of building disposal plants or lagoons; and to consult with the Wildlife Resources Commission or its authorized representatives on any matters that might increase pollution.

He said that the Authority has agreed in principle to approve the pretreatment plans of the two industries for handling of their waste materials, prior to being discharged into the Donaldson Center Waste treatment plant predicated upon the conditions now existing in Huff Creek. He said the plans of the industries were about as efficient as any known, provided they were operated satisfactorily.

He added that since there is now no law requiring the certification of treatment plant operators there was a possibility such operations might be entrusted to persons not particularly concerned with the results.

He asked the support of the Commission in recommendations that are to be made for the purpose of educating industrial interests in regards to treatment and handling of wastes. He said that if acid waste conditions continue the Authority



would have to ask that their entire operation be closed.

As to the transfer of treated waste from Huff Creek to Reedy River, the pollution ratio between the two is little different at present, he said. The Authority wishes, however, to prevent the destruction of natural resources and therefore has agreed to the transfer to Reedy river, which now has little natural life.

He then discussed the difference between soft and hard detergents, saying that the soft detergents could be treated if the treatment plants had sufficient capacity; and plans to outlaw hard detergents were under discussion.

Mr. Webb said that he understood the city of Greenville and Greenville county wished a withdrawal of the Commission resolution or changing the wording, since they fear being enjoined after they had started construction. He said that following an investigation, Chief of Fisheries Fuller had stated that the plans were to eliminate all waste going into Huff Creek and treat waste going into Reedy river. The health department has approved the plan.

After further discussion the suggestion of Mr. Webb was put in the form of a motion stating that the resolution be reworded. The resolution would state that there would be no objection to transfer from Huff Creek to Reedy River provided there was adequate treatment but that additional pollution of Reedy River would be opposed. The Secretary was instructed to confer with Mr. Webb in drawing up the new resolution.

Dr. Lunz said the Wando River matter, where it was planned to dredge out a canal, was about settled, although not to his complete satisfaction. He said the Ports Authority can allow the dredging to go ahead.

He also told of the moving to the new offices, which were most satisfactory.

He said that several oyster hearings were still hanging fire, although under the law the Commission must do something.

He then brought up H. R. 25, the resolution that would grant the Secretary of Interior the right to secure areas in the tidelands for natural estuarine areas.



He said there might be some objection to a provision giving the Secretary too much authority but the bill was generally good. He pointed out that in many of the northern states much money was being spent in buying back estuarine lands for the public, which might come in South Carolina in the future unless something is done now.

Dr. Lunz stated that he had talked with Governor McNair, as well as with Dean Figg of the University Law School, and that there was some difference in their views.

Mr. Glenn brought up the possibility of the Department hiring its own lawyer, citing lack of results through using the Attorney General's staff.

Major Cantey wondered whether a meeting might be arranged with the Governor, the Attorney General and members of the Budget and Control Board to discuss the matter of the tidelands, and how they were being taken away from the public by private individuals.

Mr. Mishoe brought up the question of how great is the State's authority in these matters and Dr. Lunz said it was much greater than most people realized, although seldom exercised. He then mentioned work being done on Hunting Island where oyster lands leased by the Commission were being destroyed by the Corps of Engineers to fill up a beach.

Mr. Webb said the Governor would probably be glad to attend a meeting away from the capital and Mr. Mishoe suggested that Mr. Webb find out a date that would be acceptable and set up a meeting. Dr. Lunz suggested some persons that should be included and a motion was adopted that he and Mr. Webb get together to make up a list.

Mr. Webb said that in regard to H. R. 25 although some features of the bill are desirable objectionable feature is giving the Secretary of the Interior complete authority and removing all states rights on marshlands.

Dr. Lunz said that this was not his interpretation of the Bill.

There was a general discussion and Mr. Webb said that he would have copies of the bill run off and sent to the Commissioners.



It was agreed that nothing be done at present in regard to the Commission hiring a lawyer but that the matter might be taken up at the meeting with the Governor.

Mr. Glenn mentioned the headaches in connection with Dr. Lunz' position and said the Commission should take firm action to support him.

A number of warden appointments were approved.

Mr. May gave a report on projects submitted by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, saying that 18 had been approved; five were pending; two had been withdrawn, and one rejected.

Mr. Ryan mentioned how much time was spent by wardens in searching for and recovering drowned persons, often without the Department getting credit. He said plans were being made for a search and rescue school, through the cooperation of Fort Jackson and the American Red Cross. Sixteen wardens, two from each district, and 16 men from the Fort would take a five-day course of intensive training in methods. The trained wardens would then be in position to give training to other wardens.

He said that not a great deal of money would be involved and that the Washington Red Cross was much interested, particularly since it was the first such course planned in the entire nation. He added that all equipment used would be marked as belonging to the Department and the wardens would also be identified.

Mr. Webb pointed out that the wardens would also be trained in how to deal with the families of drowned persons, who would feel better knowing the operation was in the hands of trained men.

Mr. Welch read a regulation drawn up by the Attorney General's office at the request of home owners along the Garden City canal. It would restrict the use of the canal, allow no water skiing and call for slow operation of boats passing through. The Commission approved the regulation.

*Eddie Finlay*

