

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT EUTAW SPRINGS MARCH 23, 1967

Present were all Commissioners, Directors Webb and Lunz and the Secretary.

Mr. Eltzroth said that he hoped to continue the good work done by the Commission, pointing out that there was now much more game and fish than when the Commission took over.

The question of how often and at what time the Commission should meet was discussed and it was agreed to hold meetings on the second Friday of each month at a place and time designated by the Chairman.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The question of a full time attorney being appointed by the Attorney General to handle Department matters was discussed and it was agreed that there would probably be enough work to justify this.

Mr. Mishoe said he had written the Governor and the Governor favors a meeting with the Commission some time in the future, at which several matters could be discussed and ironed out.

Mr. Eltzroth said the Governor had told him that he favored upgrading the law enforcement personnel and was pleased with the progress that has been made under the Commission.

Mr. Eltzroth said that he favored the appointment of several advisory boards to make suggestions to the Commission, and mentioned several fields in which such committees would be of value. He said that one of the most important tasks for the future was getting together a group of lawyers to rewrite a set of good sound laws governing hunting and fishing.

He also said another group could act as an advisory group for the dissemination of information about other parts of the State.

Mr. Mishoe said that several groups, such as the Wildlife Federation, were already active and it might be a good idea to educate these groups to bring suggestions and complaints, as there was a possibility of too many committees.



Mr. Oliphant asked Dr. Lunz about the history of the advisory committee that had been appointed for the Division of Commercial Fisheries and Dr. Lunz said that it had accomplished nothing, and the law setting it up had been repealed.

Mr. Eltzroth and Mr. Mishoe agreed that a workable set of game laws should be written but that there would be some trouble with the delegations. Mr. Mishoe said that Director Webb was familiar with local situations and could work with the delegations on what could be passed.

A member of the advisory committee for each member of the Commission was suggested.

Mr. Webb told how the laws had been rewritten by Commissioners and himself but with no success in having the new set enacted, and said it might be better to have the task handled by a legislative committee.

Mr. Glenn moved that a committee for the Commission be appointed to study the whole matter and, if possible, to report at the next meeting and this motion was adopted. The committee will consist of Commissioners Eltzroth, Cantey and Mishoe and Directors Webb and Lunz.

Mr. Eltzroth said one committee that might be appointed would be one from the coastal counties to study the offshore fishing possibilities, which would be of much value in the future. Dr. Lunz pointed out that much of this information would be of value right now in some fields and some areas.

The Commission then took up Senate Bill 261 and Dr. Lunz read parts of his letter of March 21 to the Commission, in which he said the worst feature of the bill was the part giving presumption of title to the individual. He then discussed other provisions of the bill, pointing out that the offshore fisheries depend upon the production of the marshes, which would be lost if the marshlands were given to private individuals for development.

Mr. Eltzroth said that the ultimate end would be the transfer of public land to private ownership.



The question of ownership of Cooper River ricefields was then discussed, including their present status, which apparently has never been settled by the courts.

It was agreed that the Governor should be asked for a joint meeting with the Commission, the Budget and Control Board and the Attorney General and a motion of Major Cantey was adopted that the Governor be asked for a speedy meeting to discuss S.261 and other matters.

It was also agreed that the Senate should be asked for a public hearing but that it might be best to meet with the Budget and Control Board first.

Mr. Webb asked whether the objectionable features of S.261 could be straightened out by amendment.

Dr. Lunz then brought up offshore fishing reefs, saying that the Bureau of Sports Fisheries was to build one four miles offshore and possibly others in the future. He said there were no fisheries resources on the area at the present time and that regular checks were to be made to determine how much the reefs improved fish populations. He said the BSF was planning to put in 300 old car bodies. Dr. Lunz said he had suggested using some of the "mothball fleet".

The Commission approved Dr. Lunz's suggestions to return the 40-foot research boat to the BSF.

Dr. Lunz said he was most pleased with the securing of a research biologist--H. A. Swingle--to carry on special shrimp culture studies at Bears Bluff.

Mr. Eltzroth said that he and Mr. Mishoe had inspected the new offices of the Division, as well as visiting Bears Bluff and the offices of the Division of Boating in Charleston.

The Commission approved Mr. Webb's request for the dropping of warden Marvin Bilton from the payroll April 1.

The appointment of John Branham as a Charleston warden to succeed his father, Gary Branham, when the latter is retired was approved.



Mr. Mishoe said that he favored some revision of the provision that new wardens have a high school diploma and after some discussion a motion of Mr. Mishoe was adopted that in the future wardens must have either a high school diploma or high school certificate.

The Commission approved a request of retiring Warden Williams of Aiken that he be allowed to keep his pistol as a memento.

Mr. Cantey then mentioned some excellent work that has been done by Mr. Webb.

A recommendation of Mr. Glenn on a fisheries matter was approved by the Commission.

*Eddie Finlay*

