

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA MARCH 7, 1963

All Commissioners were present, along with Directors Webb and Lunz, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Pat Ryan and Ed Latimer.

Mr. Johnson then took up a letter from Mr. Webb, dealing with several matters, including car ownership, insurance on the Department's plane and acquisition of duck lands. Mr. Webb said that the cost of operation of only five state-owned cars had been taken up as samples and based on these the costs of operation were much cheaper than those owned individually.

Regarding renewal of the plane insurance, Mr. Johnson said several points were unclear in the coverage. Mr. Johnson said that he would get in touch with Roger Milliken and J. P. Stevens to find out what kind of plane coverage they had.

Mr. Johnson suggested that it would be good to get a statement from Mr. Samworth as to satisfaction of the Department's obligations and place it on file. Mr. Webb said that the Department has satisfied all the conditions of the gift of Dirleton Plantation and asked Mr. Nelson to get a copy of the deed from Mr. Webb's office.

Mr. Cantey asked how much duck land had been secured in addition to Mr. Samworth's gift and Mr. Nelson said the Department had acquired about 1,200 acres in addition to the 800 acres of Dirleton. Mr. Johnson said he was opposed to the Department acquiring more duck land.

Mr. Webb discussed the pending introduction and probable progress of several pieces of legislation. He said the cane-pole license bill would probably be introduced next week, as would a bill providing for the killing of doe deer in Zones 6, 7, 8 where crop damage was bad.

Mr. Johnson said he thought that proposed legislation should be considered first by the Commission before being introduced.

Two proposed bills were then discussed, one providing for a change in the method of handling hunting and fishing licenses which Bob Lunz said would have to be changed so as not to apply to commercial fisheries.



The proposed bill would be similar to the plan placed in operation some years back by the Commission which was killed by the General Assembly. It provides for the bonding of agents and would free wardens from the duty of distributing and collecting for licenses. It was agreed that Mr. Ryan and Mr. Lunz confer on this.

Another proposed bill presented by Mr. Ryan would prohibit hunting from any mechanically propelled vehicle or water vessel and the handling of any kind of firearm from such vehicle or vessel would be prima facie evidence of hunting. He explained the bill was designed to prevent the shooting of deer and turkey on up-state areas where they had been stocked.

Mr. Heyward and Dr. Lunz said this would complicate things for the commercial fish operators who carry guns on their boats and Mr. Johnson suggested that Mr. Ryan come back with a more adaptable bill.

Mr. Webb said an extremely dangerous bill was being talked by some members of the General Assembly. The bill would give the delegation authority for the appointment and removal of wardens. He said several legislators had approached him and asked that changes be made where the legislators believed wardens had actively opposed them. There was a general discussion with all Commissioners agreed that this was a most dangerous piece of legislation and should be strongly opposed.

A motion of Mr. Cox was adopted that the Commission memorialize Congress to pass U. S. S. bill 627, which would get South Carolina an allotment of \$25,000 to be matched with State funds on a 1 to 3 basis, similar to P-R and D-J. This would be used for commercial fisheries work.

A motion was adopted that Mr. Cox draw up an appropriate resolution for the Commission asking passage.

Mr. Cox read the Samworth deed to Dirleton and it was agreed that the best policy would be to get a statement from Mr. Samworth stating that all conditions of the deed had been met by the Commission. Mr. Latimer and Mr. Nelson were instructed to see about recording the statement.



Mr. Cox related some dealings between the U. S. Engineers and the State in which Dr. Lunz had interested himself, the result being that the land will apparently be returned to the State.

Dr. Lunz said some amendments were planned for the commercial fishing laws and this legislation would be introduced soon.

A number of appointments and reappointments for regular and non-pay wardens were approved.

Mr. Cantey suggested physical examinations for warden applicants and a motion of Mr. Tison, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, was adopted that: "Commencing today all applicants be approved subject to a physical examination by a doctor selected by the Director and the Department pay the cost of the examination."

Mr. Webb brought up the apportionment for distressed areas and said \$215,000 was available on a 50-50 basis for approved projects in distressed area counties in the State and one of the best projects would be public landings where access can be secured. He added that one of the major problems would be time.

Mr. Fuller cited possible projects for which the money could be spent as including an experimental striped bass hatchery below the Pinopolis dam, residences for lake caretakers, and access areas on Santee-Cooper and possibly on Duke Company land and highway department crossings.

Mr. Nelson said it might be possible to build a superintendent's house at Bear Island under the program.

Mr. Webb said he was trying to get the Hampton lake approved under the program.

Mr. Tison asked the minimum size for deer and turkey sanctuaries and Mr. Webb suggested that he make application for one in which he was interested.

Mr. Johnson mentioned a request for display in the Greenville C&S bank and Mr. Ryan is investigating.

Mr. Webb explained the new federal communications regulation, which he said was making radio bands narrower and, in effect reduces the range of stations.



Mr. Johnson brought up the question of how the new radio stations were progressing and Mr. Webb said there were some problems but progress was being made.

Mr. Johnson also brought up the problem of how people can contact wardens in the field, saying this was quite a problem in Spartanburg.

Mr. Webb said there was no perfect solution but one might be the use of the teletype machine in the sheriff's office. One problem in setting up stations was that of privacy of communications and he cited the instance in Georgetown county where violators were warned by the persons having access to the radio station.

Mr. Hopkins inquired about quail season extensions and Mr. Webb said they could not be extended beyond March 1 constitutionally but it was impossible to get convictions in such cases.

The Commission then went into executive session.

The matter of state-owned cars was brought up again and Mr. Hopkins suggested that a report be made at the next meeting on car ownership by wardens.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Ryan to check with the Highway Department regarding insurance coverage.

Mr. Hopkins asked the possibility of handling boat licenses like auto licenses and Mr. Webb stated the present system seemed to be working all right.

Mr. Webb and Mr. Ryan were asked to make suggestions about the use of decals at the next meeting.

Eddie Finlay

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