

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MAY 7, 1964

Present were all Commissioners except Mr. Oliphant, Directors Webb and Lunz, Jeff Fuller, Frank Nelson, Pat Ryan, Tommy Welch, Allison Fickling, John Quillen and Gordon Brown.

Rep. Brantley Harvey, Jr., of Beaufort appeared before the Commission regarding a Mr. Graves, who holds some oyster leases around Beaufort and who has been stricken extremely ill, and is now in a coma. Mr. Harvey said that two sons and a brother worked with Mr. Graves but the leases were in Mr. Graves' name and he was not in physical condition to transfer them.

Mr. Harvey said there was a question as to how the leases could be transferred, in view of Mr. Graves condition, but he took the position the leases were heritable. He said that efforts were being made to have the leases assigned but in event Mr. Graves was not physically able to do this he asked the Commission to allow the leases to pass on to his heirs.

Mr. Heyward suggested that in the future leases be considered inheritable but it was later agreed that leases should be ruled on one at a time.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Commission should take the matter under advisement, Mr. Harvey saying that he will make application through the customary channels if it is impossible to secure Mr. Graves assignment from him.

Dr. Lunz said his Division was losing around \$8,000 a year because the Health Department has stopped the shipping of seed oysters from certain areas.

He also said there was a general improvement in relations to the Department's rights to tidelands and the Department was now getting valuable consideration. He added, however, that he could get no answer in regard to land in the proposed spoil area near Charleston which the Budget and Control Board had told him not to lease, although the land was not to be used for a spoil area.

He also discussed the salary schedule, pointing out that salaries were set up by law under the Appropriations Act and nothing could be done to correct some



situations. For instance, he cited an assistant holding an important position who was not making as much as a laborer at the Navy Yard.

A motion of Commissioner Heyward was adopted that Mr. Heyward be given the five per cent raise going to all employees.

The question of a check of a Mr. Mitchell that has been held by Dr. Lunz was discussed and Dr. Lunz was instructed to cash the check.

Dr. Lunz also said if it were possible he would have to liberalize the rules governing mileage on cars by inspectors. He also said some \$6,000 to \$7,000 could be saved by using state cars. The Commission agreed that Dr. Lunz should "set his sights on" obtaining state autos for this Division at the earliest possible date.

He said the shrimp prospects for June and July were the same as for previous years but fall prospects were uncertain. He said studies were being made on climatological changes that might be affecting shrimp, and also that pesticides might be responsible for the decline in fisheries in the Charleston area.

Mr. Ryan said progress was being made in preparing the regulations manual and that Mr. Fuller and Mr. Nelson were working with him.

Mr. Cox reported on his visit to Hartwell Reservoir, saying that around 20 acres on a nice point seemed to be available. He said he thought a house and ramp should be placed on one of the points and the other two might be used for the benefit of the public, but under Department control. He said it might be difficult to justify the necessary expenditures for a house and ramp without some provision for the public.

Mr. Nelson said a proposal for taking over the 20-acre tract had been sent to the Corps of Engineers but no word had been received as yet. It was suggested that Mr. Cox's report be received as information.

Mr. Johnson brought up the replacement problem that will arise when supervisors retire, saying it would get worse the longer a solution was delayed. After some discussion it was agreed that Mr. Webb study the question of assistants and come up with a definite plan at the next meeting.



A general discussion ensued over construction plans for the equipment shed at Moncks Corner, Mr. Johnson stating that he thought \$27,000 was much too much to put into the building--which as presently designed would not only have space for six autos but also living accommodations. The plans received were \$7,000 over the available funds.

After discussion Mr. Webb was authorized to construct the building within the framework of the money approved under a new design.

Mr. Johnson said that when the nine-man committee set up by the General Assembly to study the setup and operation of the Commission goes into operation the Department should have whatever figures and facts that the committee might want.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that Major Cantey head up a committee to get up a record of accomplishments for providing to the committee and to make progress reports. Other members would be Mr. Cox, Mr. Webb and Mr. Johnson, the last as ex-officio.

The feasibility of setting up a postage meter in the Department for mailing was brought up, Gordon Brown reporting on an investigation he had made of costs of a Pitney-Bowes machine. A motion of Mr. Cox was adopted that Mr. Webb go into the matter and report at the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson read a letter from some Spartanburg county beaglers, asking that they be allowed to run beagles out of season under certain conditions and restrictions. The matter was referred to Mr. Webb.

Mr. Johnson then brought up a letter from Mr. Fuller in regard to a Spartanburg pond stocked by the Department, where sunfish and warmouth were showing up, although only bass and bream had been stocked. Mr. Fuller explained the federal hatchery program, which he said might prevent similar occurrences but was very expensive.

Mr. Nelson then presented a proposal for the combination of several federal aid projects under Lloyd Webb at Clemson. He said the Clemson project would be expanded



to include additional research projects. He said present spending on the project was \$12,000 annually which would be increased to \$18,000, the greater part from federal aid and Clemson funds.

Some discussion followed before a motion of Mr. Cox was adopted that the project as presented be approved.

Similar action was taken on all the game and fish projects that were presented by Mr. Nelson and Mr. Fuller.

After adjournment for lunch the meeting resumed.

A motion of Mr. Heyward was adopted that all non-pay wardens whose names had been sent out by Mr. Webb be approved.

The Commission then took up proposed salary schedules. Mr. Johnson said Art Buehler needed and deserved a raise and a motion of Major Cantey was adopted that raises of \$1,000 for Mr. Buehler and \$500 for Mr. Brown be approved by the Commission with the understanding that Mr. Webb would see how this could best be achieved.

After some discussion the salary sheets as presented by Mr. Webb were approved, on motion of Mr. Heyward.

Mr. Webb reported on the matter of the suspension and subsequent reinstatement of Warden Ellison.

The Commission then adjourned, after which it went into executive session.

Eddie Finley

